**Early Communion | Lent 4 | 27 March 2022 | 8.30 am**

**Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all: **and also with you.**

**Collect for Purity**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Penitence.**

**Lord, have mercy on us,**
**and write these your laws in our hearts.**

**Kyrie Confession**

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin:
Lord, have mercy.
**Lord, have mercy.**
Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight:
Christ, have mercy.
**Christ, have mercy.**
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me:
Lord, have mercy.
**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

**Collect of the Day**

**Epistle 2 Corinthians 5: 16–21**

So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**Acclamations and Gospel**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 15 beginning at verse 1 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**
Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.’

Then Jesus told them this parable:
‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, “Father, give me my share of the estate.” So he divided his property between them.

‘Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no-one gave him anything.

‘When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.” So he got up and went to his father.

‘But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him. ‘The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

‘But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” So they began to celebrate.

‘Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. “Your brother has come,” he replied, “and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.”

‘The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”

‘ “My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” ’
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Nicene Creed *page 205***

Let us affirm our Faith in God

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**
**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man**
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures**;
**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Lord of compassion,
**in your mercy hear us.**

**The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you**

**Taking the Bread & Wine**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

**Great Thanksgiving (1) page 209**

The Lord is here
**His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

. . . for ever praising you and saying:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

. . . we do as Christ your Son commanded:
**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

. . . in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever & ever. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking Bread**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**Blessing and Dismissal**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**