

The Sunday after The Epiphany | Early Communion | 8 January 2023 8:30 am

With Bishop Alan Abernethy

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.

Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

OR

Penitential Sentences

Father, we have wandered from your way to serve our own purposes
Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, you showed us the way of salvation by which alone we may return to God
Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

Holy Spirit, you counsel us us to seek the Saviour.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis *please stand*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Let us pray

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
Grant to us, who are born of water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Epistle

Acts 10:34–43 (NIVUK)

Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Alleluia.

The Gospel Matthew 3:13–17

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:13–17 (NIVUK)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?'

Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.' Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

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, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Or

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

in your mercy hear us.

Or

Father, by your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Baptism of Christ

H4

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Washed clean by the waters of baptism,

let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word,

proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner,

hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word ...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and with fire,

strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith ...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent,
teach your Church dependence on your grace ...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old,
give hope to all who suffer or are ignored ...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father,
anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit ...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,
share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life ...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father makes us and all things new.

Transform the poverty of our nature

by the riches of your grace,

and in the renewal of our lives

make known your heavenly glory. **Amen.**

The Peace *please stand*

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

We belong to him through faith,

heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

God of power and love,

by your Holy Spirit,

draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity

and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Taking the Bread & Wine

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

therefore let us celebrate the feast.

Great Thanksgiving 1

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.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

And now we give you thanks

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

whose willing submission to the way of righteousness

is the pattern of our calling

to be his people and live in his way.

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name,

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!**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:

he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying,

Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup 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.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit

that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

Invitation

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Remember that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Receiving Communion

Please come forward to receive the Bread and Wine.

Prayers after Communion

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord
Refreshed by these holy gifts, Lord God,
we seek your mercy:
that by listening faithfully to your only Son,
and being obedient to the prompting of the Spirit,
we may be your children in name and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

...

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

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling
up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

...

Let us go out in God's light to love and serve our Lord
in the name of Christ. Amen.