**Sunday 7th March 2021**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

 **Zoom Service of the Word**



**Welcome & notices**

Jesus goes to the temple and makes it plain that he is angry. We need to remember just how important the temple was then we can start to understand how people would not be happy when he used language about raising it to the ground.

The event can only be understood against the background of the understanding Jesus had about who he was and what he was about to do. Jesus sees Judaism with its Passovers and sacrifices to be at an end.

Instead it was his death which would end all death, his body which would represent the visible image of God being with his people. There would be no more need of the religious trappings, that was the old order and now a new order had come.

When Jesus attacked the exploitations which had grown up in the Temple he was prepared to face unpopularity and the dangers of confronting the powerful. Jesus was willing to stand up in order to bring about this change.

Are we as Christians prepared to stand up and be as courageous?

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**and also, with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God’s holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

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

**Lord God,**

**we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight.**

**we are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Blessed is the Lord,

**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**and in our song will we praise our God.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

***[Silence is kept]***

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever Amen.

**Collect**

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,

and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,

may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever Amen

**A Song of Humility (Lent)**

**1    Come, let us return to the Lord**

**who has torn us and will heal us.**

**2    God has stricken us**

**and will bind up our wounds.**

**3    After two days, he will revive us,**

**and on the third day will raise us up,**

**that we may live in his presence.**

**4    Let us strive to know the Lord;**

**his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.**

**5    He will come to us like the showers,**

**like the spring rains that water the earth.**

**6    ‘O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you?**

**How shall I deal with you, O Judah?**

**7    ‘Your love for me is like the morning mist,**

**like the dew that goes early away.**

**8    ‘Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets,**

**and my judgement goes forth as the light.**

**9    ‘For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice,**

**and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.’**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Psalm 19: 7 – 14**

7    The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**8    The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;**

**the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.**

9    The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;

the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**10  More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,**

**sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.**

11  By them also is your servant taught and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12  Who can tell how often they offend?**

**O cleanse me from my secret faults!**

13  Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over

me; so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.

**14  Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable**

**in your sight,**

**O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever Amen**

**Epistle - 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25**

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

**And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.

**And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.**

**Gospel Reading:**

**John 2: 13-22**

**Sermon**

**Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen**

**Intercessory prayers**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever Amen.**

**Birthdays and Celebrations**

**Closing Prayer**

**Lord Jesus there is within each one of us a reluctance to accept healing, a fear which stops us from changing. Sometimes Lord we are afraid to move away from what we have known even if it is hurtful to us. Give us the strength to leave our brokenness behind and to be willing to accept your gift of wholeness and healing Amen**

**Hymn**

1. All my hope on God is founded
who does still my trust renew;
through all change and chance God guides me,
only good and only true.
Love unknown, God's alone,
calls my heart to be God's own.

2. Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown, betray all trust;
what our care and toil establish,
tower and temple, fall to dust,
but God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.
3. God's great goodness reigns eternal,
deep in wisdom, passing thought;
light and life are all God's splendour
bringing beauty out of naught.
Evermore from God's store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

4. Daily does Almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow,
God's desire our soul delighting,
pleasure leading where we go.
Love will stand at God's hand;
joy will wait on God's command.
5. Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, the Son.
Hear Christ call one and all:
you that follow shall not fall.

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,

to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,**

**and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.**

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ Amen**