

SHARED MINISTRY IN EXNING AND NORTH NEWMARKET

MASS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020



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Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy ✕ Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you;

and also with you.

Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

cf John 1:23

God, through Jesus Christ,
will judge the secret thoughts of all:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Let anyone who has an ear

listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the
Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold
fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and
soul and body be kept sound^[1] and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

²⁵ Beloved, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers and sisters^[2] with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I solemnly command
you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

This is the word of the LORD

All: Thanks be to God

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Gradual Psalm

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

¹ When the LORD brought back his exiles to Jerusalem,^[a]
it was like a dream!

² We were filled with laughter,
and we sang for joy.

And the other nations said,

“What amazing things the LORD has done for them.”

³ Yes, the LORD has done amazing things for us!
What joy!

⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD,
as streams renew the desert.

⁵ Those who plant in tears
will harvest with shouts of joy.

⁶ They weep as they go to plant their seed,
but they sing as they return with the harvest.

Psalm 126

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3–5

The Lord be with you;

Hear the ✠ Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹ This is the

testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”^[a] ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,^[b] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

John 1:6-8,19-28

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

A short address is given.

Creed

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 from the Holy Spirit and 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.**

Intercessions

Prayers of intercession are offered.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your **S**on,
our **S**aviour, **J**esus **C**hrist.
Amen.

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you;
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. 

All may express a sign of peace.

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts:
we lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:
it is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory

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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; 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 gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Agnes, St Etheldreda, St Martin, St Nicholas, St Philip and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, ...

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The Holy Communion at this time is received in the form of the bread only.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;

kindle in us the fire of your Spirit

that when your Christ comes again

we may shine as lights before his face;

who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord be with you;

and also with you.

May God himself, the God of peace,

make you perfect and holy,

and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,

for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

and the blessing ...

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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