
Sunday next before Lent (11th February)

Ordinary Time (Mission)

During this time, we focus on the ways in which Christ empowers us by his grace to share the Gospel with others and join in with his on-going mission in the world. It allows a time of reflection between the celebrations surrounding Jesus' birth and the challenging themes of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Opening Sentence

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you so that you may go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.'

John 15:16a

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

Opening Responses

O Lord, open our lips:

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God make speed to save us:

O Lord make haste to help us.

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

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Opening Hymn

Prayer of Preparation

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy. Let us call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept.

Confession

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who were once dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

May the Lord enrich us with his grace, and nourish us with his blessing: may the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil; may the Lord accept our prayers and absolve us from our offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Collect for the Sunday next before Lent

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 7

Bible Reading: Mark 9:2-9

Address

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray for our own needs and for the needs of others:

At the conclusion:

O Lord, to be turned from you is to fall, to turn to you is to rise, and to stand in your presence is to live for ever. Grant us in all our duties your help, in all our perplexities your guidance, in all our dangers your protection, and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Seeking the salvation of the world, as our Saviour 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.

A Song of the Anointing of the Spirit (*Isaiah 61:1-4, 11*)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me:

because the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor:

and to bind up the broken-hearted.

To proclaim liberty to the captives:

and the recovery of sight to the blind.

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour:

a day of recompense from our God.

To comfort all who mourn:

to give them the oil of gladness instead of mourning.

They shall be called oaks of righteousness:

planted by God for his glory.

They shall rebuild the ancient ruins:

and restore what has long laid waste.

For as the earth brings forth shoots and makes new things grow:

the Lord will make integrity and praise spring up before all nations.

Prayer

Eternal God, giver of life and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

Blessing

May the Father whose glory fills the heavens, cleanse us by his holiness and send us to proclaim his word. **Amen.**

May the Son, who has ascended to the heights, pour upon us the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, equip us and strengthen us in our ministry. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ, Amen.
