

# Epiphany 4

## Sunday 31 January 2021

### Welcome

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
for he has come to his people and set them free.

*Luke 1:68*

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

We meet in the name of God;  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

### Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins...

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## Receiving Forgiveness

May Christ who came into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and his peace,  
now and forever.

**Amen**

## Collect for the third Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness; we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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.**

## Song – Sing We of the Blessed Mother

- 1 Sing we of the blessed Mother  
who received the angel's word,  
and obedient to his summons  
bore in love the infant Lord;  
sing we of the joys of Mary  
at whose breast that child was fed,  
who is Son of God eternal  
and the everlasting Bread.
- 2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
of the sword that pierced her through,  
when beneath the cross of Jesus  
she his weight of suff'ring knew,  
looked upon her Son and Saviour  
reigning high on Calv'ry's tree,  
saw the price of our redemption  
paid to set the sinner free.
- 3 Sing again the joys of Mary  
when she saw the risen Lord,  
and, in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
waited on his promised word:  
from on high the blazing glory  
of the Spirit's presence came,  
heav'nly breath of God's own being,  
manifest through wind and flame.
- 4 Sing the greatest joy of Mary  
when on earth her work was done,  
and the Lord of all creation  
brought her to his heav'nly home:  
virgin mother, Mary blessed,  
raised on high and crowned with grace,  
may your Son, the world's redeemer,  
grant us all to see his face.

## Readings

### Isaiah 42:1-7

**42** Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

## Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## Talk – Edward Hine, Churchwarden

### Song – Refiner's fire

1 Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold and precious silver.  
Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold,  
pure gold.

*Chorus Refiner's fire,  
my heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for you Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for you, my master,  
ready to do your will.*

2 Purify my heart,  
cleanse me from within and make me holy.  
Purify my heart,  
cleanse me from my sin,  
deep within.

## **Affirming our faith**

**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.**

## Prayers

*After each prayer:*

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

Merciful Father

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour 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.**

## Song – King of Glory, King of Peace

- 1 King of glory, King of peace,  
I will love thee;  
and, that love may never cease,  
I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request,  
thou hast heard me;  
thou didst not my working breast,  
thou hast spared me.
- 2 Wherefore with my utmost art,  
I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all heart  
I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried,  
thou didst clear me,  
and alone, when they replied,  
thou didst hear me.
- 3 Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n,  
I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heav'n,  
I can raise thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort  
to enrol thee:  
e'en eternity's too short  
to extol thee.

## Final Prayers

May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins,  
that we may bear in our lives the love and joy and peace  
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples;

**Amen.**

## The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.**

**Amen.**

## Ending

We are called and loved by God the Father  
and kept safe by Jesus Christ.

May mercy, peace and love be ours in abundance,  
from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**