



A Liturgy of the Word Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

30 January 2022



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Margaret Place



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The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Author: Timothy Rees (1922)

Call to Worship

Come! Hear the call of God: "Speak of me to my people."
But we are just ordinary folks. Who will listen?

"I will give you the words. I will always be with you as you speak my words of truth and justice and love."
We gather here to worship you, to praise you for your loving presence, and to be strengthened for the calling you have given us.



Introductory Rite

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Praise the Lord:

Praise God, you servants of the Lord.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God's Name, now and forever.

The Gloria

**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 for Purity

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
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**



The Kyrie

Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Empty broken here I stand, Kyrie eleison,
Touch me with Your healing hand, Kyrie eleison,
Take my arrogance and pride, Kyrie eleison,
wash me in Your mercy's tide, Kyrie eleison.

*Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison,*

When my faith is all but gone, Kyrie eleison,
Give me strength to carry on, Kyrie eleison,
when my dreams have turned to dust, Kyrie eleison,
In You O Lord I put my trust, Kyrie eleison.

Repeat Chorus

When my heart is cold as ice, Kyrie eleison,
Your love speaks of sacrifice, Kyrie eleison,
Love that sets the captives free, Kyrie eleison,
O pour compassion down on me, Kyrie eleison.

Repeat Chorus

You're the voice that calms my fears, Kyrie eleison,
You're the laughter dries my tears, Kyrie eleison,
You're the music, my refrain, Kyrie eleison,
Help me sing my song again, Kyrie eleison.

Repeat Chorus

Humble heart of holiness, Kyrie eleison,
Kiss me with Your tenderness, Kyrie eleison,
Jesus, faithful Friend and true, Kyrie eleison,
All I am I give to You, Kyrie eleison.

Repeat Chorus

The Penitence

*God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
In penitence we confess
That we have sinned against you
Through our own fault
In thought, word and deed
And in what we have left undone.**





**For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
Forgive us all that is past
And grant that we may serve you
In newness of life
To the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution

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

The Collect

**O God the strength and refuge of all who serve you:
when we are brought to the time of trial,
stand with us in the conflict
and strengthen our resolve
to bear with joy the cost of our discipleship;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever Amen.**



The Word of God

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel Acclamation

sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Lord you are the Spirit and life

Alleluia, Alleluia

You have the words of lasting life

Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:21-30



The Sermon

By Ven Moses Thabethe

Affirmation of 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 of Intercession

Loving God, we rely on your mercy to embrace this world with your inclusive judgement and mercy. We pray for humanity with all its fear and division, self-deceit and injustice. Hear the prayers we offer:

For those who may feel so sure of themselves that they exclude from their fellowship all other groups, races, cultures and religions; and for those who are so unsure of themselves that they are constantly pulled this way and that without any security or peace. Lead them to a life of abundance and understanding.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

For those churches that have turned in on themselves, shutting out all other opinions and behaviour that is different from their own. And for those churches that in trying to be open to the world are in danger of losing their basic integrity of faith. Renew their faith and strengthen their resolve in revealing Christ to the world.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

For those in the rural, countryside and far flung areas, experiencing disorientation and the loss of basic services, and now flocking to the cities to seek employment and stability. We also pray for urban communities who have



been hit by the closure of industries, and the collapse of companies. We pray that God may restore faith and hope to turn our economies around in order to provide for a better life for all.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

For arrogant and powerful nations who seek to manipulate, dominate and ruthlessly exploit other countries. We also pray for smaller nations that have much to offer the world community but are too restricted and are overlooked by the more powerful nations. Be present to them and lead them into your marvellous light.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for workplace situations where cliques and power groups manipulate or bully others for their own personal prestige and profit. We also pray for those workplaces where employers and employees work together in harmony for the common good. Inspire the workforce to contribute meaningfully to the economies of our different countries.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

For those fortunate people who, though ill or injured, have swift access to the best doctors, clinics, hospitals and surgery. And for those less fortunate who remain on waiting lists, or spend long, painful hours in casualty wards. Restore wholeness and healing to those in need.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

For any in this congregation and those abroad who have found their faith strengthened, their hope uplifted, and their love deepened. And for any who may still be feeling barren of soul, or anxious and depressed about the future. God of love, be with them in their difficulties and make their burdens lighter.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

God of our salvation, draw all your children closer into your inclusive arms and draw us to one another, that we may experience the healing of Christ and enjoy the freedom of the Spirit.

For your love's sake. **Amen.**

Prayer for Offering

Gracious God, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving to you. You are infinitely good to us. Your creation is so magnificent – it gives us pleasure and supplies our needs for food and water and light and warmth. And you have supplied salvation through Jesus, your Son. You supply our spiritual needs through communion with You, through our spiritual armor, our spiritual gifts, and your indwelling Holy Spirit. Accept these tithes and offerings we give you today as a “thank offering” for your immeasurable blessings. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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 them that 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.**



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Because God loves Gentiles as much as Jews, and sinners as much as the saints, you and I will never walk alone. There is no fault in our lives that is beyond God's power to remedy, nor any gift that is too small for God to celebrate and use.

God is in the business transforming plain or warped things into a beauty exceeding our holiest expectations. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you

And also with you

May God, Jesus and the Spirit bless your ways;
God bless the ground beneath your feet,
God bless the road on which you travel,
God bless the friends with whom you stay,
Each day and night, each night and day.

And the blessing of God almighty
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Author: Augustus Toplady in 1776