



A Liturgy of the Word Fourth Sunday in Lent

Date : 14 March 2021



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Allie Josseph



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

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

Processional Hymn



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.

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.

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.

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 (1776)

Call to Worship



And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.
Praise be to God Most High, whose promise never fails.



The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself.

Let us keep God's commandments and thereby find peace.

The free gift is not like the trespass.

For many died through the trespass, many more have been made alive through Christ.

Let us take refuge in God's great mercy.

Praise to God whose mercy endures forever.

Introductory Rite



The Lord be with you

And also with you

Collect for Purity



Let us pray.

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



The Kyrie - Setswana



Morena re utlwele bohloko

Morena re utlwele bohloko

Kriste o re utlwele bohloko

Kriste o re utlwele bohloko

Morena re utlwele bohloko

Morena re utlwele bohloko

The Penitence



Those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

Let us confess together.

Most merciful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

we confess that we have sinned



in thought, word and deed.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart.
 We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
 In your mercy
 forgive what we have been,
 help us to amend what we are,
 and direct what we shall be;
 that we may do justly,
 love mercy,
 and walk humbly with you, our God.
 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 

God of judgement,
 you reach out to us in mercy even when we rebel:
 soften our hearts with the warmth of your love,
 that we will know your Son alive in us;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.
 Amen.



The Word of God 

Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel Acclamation 

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ
 King of endless glory
 If today you hear his voice
 Harden not your hearts
 Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ
 King of endless glory



Gospel Reading



John 3:14-21

The Sermon



by Revd Allie Josseph

Creed for Lent



**We believe in God the Father,
who always welcomes us
with lavish grace
and longs to be close to us
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who was lifted up
so that salvation and abundant life
are available to the whole world.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who leads us into the
wilderness where our sin is revealed
and our call to true holiness is renewed.**



This is the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

Prayers of Intercession



Lord of light and peace you sent your Son into the world to show us your love and mercy. We continue to pray for your church and its leaders. May our faith communities become beacons of love and mercy, showing the world your compassion and love. Bless our bishops, priests, and church leaders. Renew within all of us the spirit of servant leadership and the call to compassion and love.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly father, during this period of lent we bring before you our individual acts of prayer, penitence and works of charity. May we be inspired and directed by your son's example of sacrifice and love. May these sentiments permeate our lives and reach every aspect of our being. May your church grow in holiness through the sacrifice of those who follow Jesus on the way of the cross. May we become better at being human, being kind and gentle, loving and forgiving.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**



We pray for the leaders of the world. For organisations and movements charged with the health and wellness of your people all over the world. May we always remember why your son came into the world. We pray for our own government officials and those in positions of authority over us. May we remember that we are your beloved children and that we should strive to spread this love wherever we find ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Jesus you teach us to be kind and gentle in the way we relate to those in need. Bless us with hearts that put others first, may we use our gifts and talents for the benefit of our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate than ourselves. May your Holy Spirit raise up those who are bowed down. Be with all those who are persecuted against in this world. We particularly remember the plight of those suffering gender-based violence in our country. Lead us into a new way of understanding how we should love one another and carry one another's burdens.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We approach your throne of mercy on behalf of our children and young people Lord. Bless our children and young people as they grow up in these uncertain times of the COVID19 pandemic. Bless them with your divine inspiration and give unto the parents the insight and foresight that only you can bring. Bless our young people in all levels of the education system and to those looking for employment, be with them every step of the way Lord.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We express our gratitude for all the blessings you brought into our lives Lord. We continue to pray for our world, trying to make sense of the corona virus. Give unto those who have died, eternal rest and peace in your kingdom Lord. Unto those who are sick and those infected with the virus, may your hand of healing and protection be upon them. For those who care for the sick, may your Holy Spirit always be with them. To all of us called by your name, may peace and love reign and may your kingdom come.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we make these prayers in the name of your Son, who came into the world to show us your tender love and mercy.

Amen

Prayer for Offering 

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you. We recognize that everything we have belongs to you. We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you. We now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer - Caribbean 

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowéd be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,

hallowéd be Thy name,

Hallowéd be Thy name.

On earth as it is in heaven, hallowéd be Thy name.

Give us this day our daily bread,

hallowéd be Thy name,

Hallowéd be Thy name.



Forgive us our trespasses, hallowéd be Thy name,
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
hallowéd be Thy name,
Hallowéd be Thy name.

Lead us not into temptation, hallowéd be Thy name,
But deliver us from all that is evil,
hallowéd be Thy name,
Hallowéd be Thy name.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, hallowéd be Thy name.
For ever and for ever and ever,
hallowéd be Thy name,
Hallowéd be Thy name.

Amen, amen, it shall be so, hallowéd be Thy name.
Amen, amen, it shall be so,
hallowéd be Thy name,
Hallowéd be Thy name.



Lyrics Traditional, author anonymous. Public Domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for your amazing power and work in our lives. We thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you, Lord, for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left us here on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, both the evil we have done and the good we have not yet done; and strengthen us to follow in the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to the fulness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

And may the blessing of God, Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, all the days of your life. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.





Recessional Hymn



To God be the glory, great things he hath done:
so loved he the world that he gave us his son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

O, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to ev'ry believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.*



Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

Giving



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Weekly Worship: The Church of Scotland

<http://www.jubilate.co.uk/> www.connectusfund.org

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