

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

Gathering Hymn: "Immortal, invisible"

Hymn #423

Words: Walter C. Smith (1824 - 1908); Music: St. Denio, Welsh hymn, adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877)

**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small,
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.**

**4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

The Confession & Absolution

Officiant

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth God's praise, to hear the holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind for worship, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

A substantial silence for reflection is kept.

Officiant You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant May the almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, renewal of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Officiant Rise, O shine, for your light has come! For, look, darkness covers the earth, and gloom enshrouds the peoples; but the glory of the LORD has dawned upon us.

Song of Faith: Psalm 147:1-12

Alleluia! How good it is to sing praises to you, O God; *
how pleasant it is to honor you with praise!

For you rebuild Jerusalem *
and gather the exiles of Israel.

You heal the broken- hearted *
and bind up their wounds.

You count the number of the stars *
and call them all by their names.

Great are you and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to your wisdom.

You lift up the lowly, *
but cast the wicked to the ground.

We sing to you, Most High, with thanksgiving; *
we make music to you upon the harp,

For you cover the heavens with clouds *
and prepare rain for the earth;

You make grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve humankind.

You provide food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

You are not impressed by the might of a horse; *
you have no pleasure in human strength;

But you have pleasure in those who fear you, *
in those who await your gracious favor.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle N: A Song of God's Love (1 John 4:7-12)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent God's only Son into the world

so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

Beloved, since God loved us so much,

we also ought to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us,

And God's love will be perfected in us.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;

As it was in the beginning,

is now and will be forever. Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Miranda Hassett

The Prayers

Officiant We now continue in prayer. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**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.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Send prayer requests to to prayers@stdunstans.com.

Officiant Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are able, please hold others' prayer requests before God in your heart as well.

Officiant Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.
The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all those in authority.
The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all nations and peoples.
The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for our local communities.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list: You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant

Let us pray. Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Officiant may read one of the following Collects as well:

A Collect for Peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting One, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance

Loving Creator, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sharing of Blessings

Officiant Does anyone have any blessings or celebrations to share with the assembly today?

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you!

All **And also with you!**

Officiant Let us speak Christ's peace to one another. ...

Announcements

The Blessing & Dismissal

Officiant May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen!**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**