

## Sunday 3rd February 2019: the PRESENTATION of CHRIST

### Collect

Almighty and everliving God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### *A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi*

Malachi 3. 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 24(vv.7-10)**

7 Lift up your heads O ye gates; and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors:  
that the King of glory may come in.

8 'Who is the King of glory?':

It is the Lord strong and mighty,  
even the Lord mighty in battle.'

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors:  
that the King of glory may come in.

10 'Who is the King of glory?':

'Even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

## ***A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews***

Hebrews 2. 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.*

Luke 2. 22-40

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), 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.’

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

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

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday 10th February 2019: the **FOURTH SUNDAY** before **LENT**

### **Collect**

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***A reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah***

Isaiah 6. 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 138**

- 1 I will give thanks unto thee O Lord with my whole heart  
even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.
- 2 I will worship toward thy holy temple and praise your name,  
because of thy loving-kindness and truth.  
for thou hast magnified thy name and thy word above all things.
- 3 When I called upon thee, thou heardest me:  
and gavest me increase of strength.
- 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise thee O Lord:  
when they have heard the words of thy mouth.
- 5 Yea they shall sing of the ways of the Lord:  
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 6 For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly:  
as for the proud, he humbleth them from afar.
- 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou preserve me:  
thou shalt stretch forth thy hand against the wrath of mine  
enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.
- 8 The Lord shall fulfil his purpose for me: thy mercy O Lord endureth for ever;  
Leave not unfinished the work of thine own hands.

***A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians***

1 Cor 15. 1-11

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.*

Luke 5. 1-11

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019: the THIRD SUNDAY before LENT

### Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through 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.**

### *A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah*

Jeremiah 17. 5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly,  
nor followed the way of sinners:  
and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord:  
and on his law doth he ponder day and night.
- 3 He shall be like a tree planted by the water-side:  
that will bring forth its fruit in due season.
- 4 Its leaf also shall not wither :  
and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.
- 5 As for the ungodly it is not so with them :  
but they are like the chaff, which the wind scattereth away from the face of the earth.
- 6 Therefore the ungodly shall not be able to stand when they are judged:  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 7 For the Lord preserveth the way of the righteous:  
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

***A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

1 Cor 15. 12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.*

Luke 6. 17-26

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ‘Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. ‘Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ‘But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. ‘Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019: the SECOND SUNDAY before LENT

### Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *A reading from the Book of Genesis*

Genesis 2. 4b-9, 15-25

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up - for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground - then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 65

1 Thou O God art to be praised in Zion:

thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall men perform their vows.

2 To thee shall all flesh come to confess their sins:

when our misdeeds prevail against us, in thy mercy do thou blot them out.

3 Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth and receivest unto thee:

he shall dwell in thy courts:

4 May we be filled with the pleasures of thy house:

- even of thy holy temple.
- 5 With terrible deeds hast thou answered us for our deliverance,  
O God of our salvation:  
thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of the isles that are far away,
- 6 Who in thy strength settest fast the mountains:  
and art girded about with power,
- 7 Who stillest the raging of the seas and the noise of their waves:  
and the tumult of the peoples.
- 8 They that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth are afraid at thy wonders:  
Thou that makest the morning and the evening to come forth with shouts of joy.
- 9 Thou visitest the earth and waterest it:  
thou makest it very plenteous.
- 10 The river of God is full of water:  
thou hast prepared their corn, for so thou providest for the earth.
- 11 Thou waterest the land, pressing down its furrows:  
making it soft with drops of rain, and blessing the increase of it.
- 12 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness:  
and thy paths overflow with plenty.
- 13 The fields of the wilderness are rich in pasture:  
and the hills are girded about with joy;
- 14 The mountains clothe themselves with flocks of sheep:  
the valleys all stand thick with corn they shout for joy and sing.

### ***A reading from the Book of Revelation***

Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.’ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ‘You are

worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.*

Luke 8. 22-25

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**