



Jesus Christ is the Fulfilment of the Law !

*“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law
or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them
but to fulfil them.” (Matt 5:17)*

Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those
who seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

Psalms 105:1-4

Let us pray.

**May the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in your sight,
our Rock and our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Psalms 19:14

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand,
our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

J. M. Neale (1851)

Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn 1:8-9)*

Let us therefore confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done; and we have done
those things that we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a disciplined,
righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:5-6)

Psalm 13

O Lord, how long?
How long will you forget me?
O Lord, how long
will you conceal your face?
O Lord, how long
will sorrows rise within me
And will my heart
know anguish all the day?
O Lord, how long?
Give ear to hear my cry
I look to you,
or Lord I surely die

Light up my eyes
when all around is darkness
Turn back your face,
and hear me when I call
Consider me,
incline your ear and answer

Or will my foes
rejoice to see my fall
Light up my eyes!
For you O Lord I wait
I look to you,
O Lord do not delay

But I will trust
in your unfailing mercy
I will delight
in your unending grace
My soul will sing
as I await the morning
I will rejoice,
though sorrow fills my days
Yes I will trust
in you my gracious Lord
You have been good,
and shall be evermore

Matt Searles

God's Word

First Reading: Isa 51:1-16, p. 611

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of
Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with
laughter, and our tongue
with shouts of joy;**

then they said among the nations, "The
Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!

**Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!**

He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age.**

Amen

Second Reading: Matt 5:17-20, p. 810

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Jesus Christ is the Fulfilment of the Law ! (Mark Payne)

Psalm 119 part 12

Eternal is your word, O LORD;
In heav'n it stands for ever sure.
Your faithfulness will never fail;
The earth you founded to endure.
Your laws continue to this day;
Your sovereign will all things obey.

Had not your law been my delight,
I would have died in misery.
I never will forget your laws,

For by them you have rescued me.
LORD, I am yours—save me, I pray,
For I have sought your precepts' way.

The wicked lie in wait for me;
Destruction threatens at their hands,
But yet in spite of all their threats
I will reflect on your commands.
Perfection's limits I have found,
But your commandments have no bound

The Apostles Creed

**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 power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**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 those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy,

Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.

Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine, you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are members of his body. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for ev'ry sinner slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Charles Wesley (1758)

Benediction

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

Notes & Notices

The Gospel of Matthew

- 1:1 - 4:16 The Person of Jesus, the Christ
- 4:17 - 16:20 The Public Ministry of Jesus (Galilee)
 - 4:17-25 Proclamation of the Kingdom
 - 5:1-7:29 Life in the Kingdom: Righteousness
 1. Introduction (5:3-16, Beatitudes)
 2. Argument (5:17-20)
 3. Application (5:21-7:12)
 4. Conclusion (7:13-29)
- 16:21 - 25:46 The Public Ministry of Jesus (Judea)
- 26:1 - 28:20 The Passion, Resurrection & Commission of Jesus

Please diarise and pray for the following:

Sun 17th Dec	Carol Service	5pm
Thu 21st Dec	Open-Air Mission	11:30am
Sun 24th Dec	Lord's Day Worship (John 1:1-18)	10am
Mon 25th Dec	Christmas Day Service (John 1:1-18)	9:30am