

A Service of the Word for Grandparents' Sunday

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

The Lord is my strength and my song:

He has become my salvation

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things:

Let it be known in all the world.

The Lord is our light and our life:

Come, let us worship.

Hymn 108: Praise to the Holiest in the Height (omit vs. 5&6)

1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

2 O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

4 And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Penitence

As we recall our disobedience to God's commandments and our failure to do his will; let us kneel and confess our sins to God our Father:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Prayer for Pardon:

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Acclamations

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, our God and Father, for you have created us and you sustain us.

Through your only Son Jesus Christ you have revealed your love and your care for all your people in every generation; you are ready to forgive and to save in time of need; so we proclaim your glory, saying

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Collect of the Day

Creator God, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: We pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Micah 6: 1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ‘O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.’ ‘With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? ♦
Who may rest upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life ♦
and does the thing that is right;
- 3 Who speaks the truth from the heart ♦
and bears no deceit on the tongue;
- 4 Who does no evil to a friend ♦
and pours no scorn on a neighbour;
- 5 In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, ♦
but who honours those who fear the Lord.
- 6 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour ♦
and never goes back on that word;
- 7 Who does not lend money in hope of gain, ♦
nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

8 Whoever does these things ♦
shall never fall.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

Hymn 562: Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Thought for the Day

Hymn 350: For The Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

*Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

2. For the wonder of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,

4. For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled,

5. For each perfect gift of thine.
To the world so freely given,
graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of Heaven.

6. For thy Church, that evermore
Lifting holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

The Prayers

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the gift of grandparents: for their love and wisdom, for the fun we enjoy with them and the care we receive from them. We thank you for all we can learn from listening to their stories and experiences, and for the many ways our lives are enriched by their lives. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our Prayer

We ask you to bless our Grandparents with health and vitality of body, mind and spirit. We pray for any who are troubled by pain or infirmity, that you would bring relief from their suffering and grant them rest. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our Prayer

We pray for the different generations represented within our families, at this service, and in this parish: that the gifts of faith, hope and love would continue be passed down to generations yet unborn so that your kingdom would be built up in this place.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our Prayer

And we remember with gratitude and thanksgiving, all our grandparents whose mortal lives are over and who now rejoice in your nearer presence in Heaven. We pray for grace so to live our lives that we will one day be reunited with them where every tear is wiped away and all things are made new.

In a few moments of silence we lift up our own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving to our Father in Heaven...

Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A General Collect

Eternal God and Father, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love: Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us sum up our prayers and praises in the words of the family prayer of the Church:

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 712: Tell Out My Soul

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

Closing Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that as we leave this house we may not leave your presence: Be ever near us and keep us close to you now and for ever. Amen.

The Grace

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen