

# THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. MARK

First Sunday of Christmas, 10:00am, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## The Holy EUCHARIST

*Please sit in designated pews, maintaining 6 feet distance in all directions. Households may sit together. Children are invited to remain with their parents or guardians.*

*The service is being filmed "live" on Facebook and then on the St Mark's Web page. By attending this morning, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear in that live stream.*

**Celebrant:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Almighty God,  
**All** to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse 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. Amen.

**Collect of the Day:** Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Deacon** The Lord be with you  
**People** And also with you

**Deacon** The Holy Gospel is written in the 2nd chapter of the Gospel  
according to Luke (verses 22-40)

**People** **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

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 turtledoves 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 seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped 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 favor of God was upon him.

**Deacon**                      This is the Gospel of Christ;  
**People**                              **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**Sermon**                              **The Rev Canon Elizabeth Northcott**

### **Statement of Faith**

**I believe in God, creator of the universe, dwelling forever beyond time and space.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ who came to live among us and let us see what God is like.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, sent from God through Jesus to be our guide and comforter.**

**Therefore, I believe in love, in hope, compassion, joy and faith, and forgiveness, and eternal life. Amen.**

*(Words: Francis Sommerville, wife of Bishop Sommerville)*

**Prayers -**                      *Please stand, or sit or kneel as is your tradition.*

### **Confession and Absolution**

**Celebrant**                      Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

**Celebrant**                      Most merciful God,  
**All**                                      **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Celebrant** Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People** **Amen.**

**Peace**

**Celebrant** May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All** **And also with you.**

*(remaining in our pews we stand and turn to greet our neighbours in the name of Christ)*

## **Communion**

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Celebrant** We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature.

He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair.

By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Celebrant** Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup, saying,

"This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me." Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

**Celebrant** As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All** **Our Father.....**

**Celebrant** We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.  
**All** **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

**Celebrant** Loving God of all,  
**All** **The child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen.**

**Glory to God, whose power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Final Blessing**

**Deacon** Go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit to proclaim good news of great joy to all the world.  
**All** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

*At this time the sacrament will be administered under the form of bread only.*

*The Church has always taught that receiving in one kind (bread or wine) conveys the fullness of Christ's sacramental presence.*

*Please wait for directions to proceed to receive communion – this will ensure that there is the required distancing between congregants.*