

Second Sunday Before Advent

from Saltash Area Ministry

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

In God's presence we have gathered together as his family, and we have come to give him praise.

Help us, Lord, to praise you.

To hear what he wants to teach us through the Bible.

Help us, Lord, to learn from you.

To pray to him about the needs of the world.

Help us, Lord, to pray to you.

To ask him to forgive our sins.

Help us, Lord, to be truly sorry.

And to enjoy the friendship of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Help us, Lord, to love each other.

Let us shout for joy to the Lord who loves us.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

Hymn: God of grace and God of glory

PENITENCE AND ABSOLUTION

Now is the time to turn to God and seek his mercy, for we have strayed from his ways like lost sheep, but like a good shepherd he has sought us and saved us, and longs to forgive our sins.

For the actions, which have angered you, we are truly sorry,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us.

For the words, which have wounded you, we are truly sorry,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us.

For the thoughts, which have betrayed you, we are truly sorry,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us.

For the failures, which have let you down, we are truly sorry,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAISE

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good.

His love endures forever.

Sing a new song to the Lord

He has done wonderful things.

Hymn: All nations of the world

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

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.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

BIBLE READINGS

FIRST READING ZEPHANIAH 1:7. 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

SECOND READING MATTHEW 25:14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your

master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Hymn: Immortal invisible, God only wise

SERMON

Hymn: I bind unto myself today

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These include the response:

Lord, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but

deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest.

And peace to his people on earth.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, we will.