

Diocese of Northampton

**Cathedral Church of Our Lady Immaculate
and St Thomas**



Sunday of the Word of God

22 January 2023

BIBLE SERVICE

Presider – Monsignor Kevin McGinnell

Homilist – Sister Anne Morris dhs

Processional

During the hymn the Book of the Gospels is enthroned and honoured with incense

Word that formed creation, earth and sea and sky
Word that brings salvation, Word that will not die;
Speak now in us that we might hear your call;
Living Word of Jesus, sound within us all.

Love that formed and named us, filled the clay with breath;
Love that seeks and claims us, Love beyond all death;
Come now and fire the life that flows from you;
Love that raised up Jesus raise us up anew.

Song of joy and wonder, sound so wild and free
Voice of wind and thunder, boundless as the sea;
Music of God, the love that casts out fear;
Song that sang in Jesus, sing within us here

God of all creation, form our hearts anew,
God of our salvation, lead us home to you;
Spirit, inspire our hearts to hear your call;
Living God of Jesus, come renew us all.

Greeting and Introduction

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

The Lord be with you - AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

ENTHRONEMENT

The Book of the Gospels is carried in procession from the altar to its throne in procession, where it is placed, opened and incensed.

The book containing the Word of God is solemnly carried and placed on the throne. It is a symbolic gesture. Through it, we not only exalt the Sacred Scripture in the midst of this praying community of ours, but also manifest our willingness to place it first in our lives. Thus, the Word of God becomes the beacon of our existence that illuminates our decisions and inspires our actions according to God's will.

Opening Prayer

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

WORD of GOD

from the book of the prophet Isaiah

[8:23-9:3]

In days past
the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
but in days to come he will confer glory
on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.
The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor –
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord – THANKS BE TO GOD

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26(27):1,4,13-14

The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

from the first letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians

1:10-13,17

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to make up the differences between you,
and instead of disagreeing among yourselves,
to be united again in your belief and practice.
From what Chloe's people have been telling me,
my dear brothers and sisters,
it is clear that there are serious differences among you.
What I mean are all these slogans that you have,
like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ.'
Has Christ been parcelled out?
Was it Paul that was crucified for you?
Were you baptised in the name of Paul?
For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News,
and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy
in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.
The word of the Lord – THANKS BE TO GOD

Prayerful silence follows

Processing the Gospel

Word of Justice, ALLELUIA ...come to dwell here, MARANATHA
Word of mercy, ALLELUIA ...live among us , MARANATHA
Word of power, ALLELUIA ...live within us, MARANATHA
Word of freedom, ALLELUIA ... save your people, MARANATHA

Word of healing, ALLELUIA ..., heal our sorrow, MARANATHA
Word of comfort, ALLELUIA ...bring us hope now, MARANATHA
Word of gladness, ALLELUIA ...fill our hearts now, MARANATHA
Word of wisdom, ALLELUIA ...come renew us, MARANATHA

Gospel

[4:12-17]

The Lord be with you - AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew - GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Hearing that John had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali.

In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.'

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message,

'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

The Gospel of the Lord - PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

Enthroning the Gospel

Word we long for, ALLELUIA ... Word we thirst for, MARANATHA

Key of David, ALLELUIA ... Son of Mary, MARANTHA

Promised Saviour ALLELUIA ... True Messiah, MARANATHA

Cry of prophets ALLELUIA ... Hope of ages MARANATHA

Light of nations, ALLELUIA ... Light in darkness

Risen Saviour, ALLELUIA ... Lord of Glory, MARANATHA

You we long for, ALLELUIA ... You we thirst for MARANATHA

Here among us, ALLELUIA ... Living in us MARANATHA

Homily

Sister Anne Morris, dhs, leads us in prayerful reflection.

Prayerful silence follows

Blessing of Readers

The Word of God, proclaimed in sacred scripture, enlightens our minds and hearts.

When the Scriptures are read in the liturgical assembly,

God speaks to us and calls us to respond in faith and love.

The ministry of reader, then, is important to the life of the Church, for the reader proclaims God's living word.

We ask God to bless these readers and all of us who listen to the Word of God.

addressing readers the presider asks these questions:

Are you resolved to prepare diligently to proclaim the Word of God to the people and to lead them in intercession? *Reader: I am*

Are you resolved to pattern your life on the Word of God that you proclaim and so serve to build up the Church? *Reader: I am*

Everlasting God, when he read in the synagogue at Nazareth, your Son proclaimed the good news of salvation for which he would give up his life.

Bless ✠ these readers.

As they proclaim your words of life, strengthen their faith that they may read with conviction and boldness and put into practice what they read.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

The Presider gives the Lectionary to a reader saying

May the word of God always be heard in this place, as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before you and achieves your salvation within the Church. AMEN

Universal Prayer

C. Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ the Holy Scriptures are fulfilled and our lives find their completeness.

Let us present our intentions to God the Father, so that we may fully live out his Word.

Let us pray together with our response:

May your Word be fulfilled in us, O Father!

1. "The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light."

May the Holy Father, bishops, priests, and deacons courageously support all those who live in situations of spiritual and material slavery.

We pray to the Lord...

2. Jesus turns to the first disciples and says to them

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men and women".

May all the baptised, guided by the Holy Spirit, become heralds of the Good News

to the people they encounter in their daily lives, especially those most in need.

We pray to the Lord...

3. "Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues".
May lectors, catechists and those who spread the Word of God in communities
share faith, hope and love
with all those who are lonely, desperate, sick
and crushed by the burden of life.
We pray to the Lord...

4. "Jesus went round proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom".
May each of us open our hearts to the divine presence that enlightens us
through his Word and guides us to the springs of eternal life.
We pray to the Lord...

C. We thank you, O Father, for your Son whom you sent among us.
Grant that with the grace of the Holy Spirit
we may welcome him into our hearts,
you who live and reign forever and ever.
R. Amen.

Let us open our hearts to you, Father,
so that you can come and dwell among us, Our Father

BLESSING

May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,
make you always holy and pure in his sight,
pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory,
and teach you with the words of truth;
may he instruct you in the Gospel of salvation,
and ever endow you with fraternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, ✠
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit ,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

HYMN

Thou whose almighty Word
chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the Gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,
ah! now to all mankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life giving, holy dove, speed forth thy flight!
Move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity, wisdom, love, might;
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light.



Acknowledgements

Word that formed creation – Marty Haugen [Tune: Now the Green Blade riseth]

Psalm - Richard Lloyd & Alan Rees

Thou whose almighty Word – J Marriott [1780-1825]

Blessing of Readers – cf Book of Blessings

At the giving of the Lectionary – Rite of Dedication of a Church

Opening Prayer – Prayer for Openness to the Word of God -

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle/AdventCP.shtml>

Icon, Blessing – Liturgical and Pastoral Resource 2021, Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation

Scripture passages from Jerusalem Bible DLT 1966

