

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH IRISHTOWN



4TH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
30TH OCTOBER 2022

Irishtown and Donnybrook Union of Parishes

THE GREETING

Praise our God, all you his servants
and all who fear him, small and great.

(Rev. 19:5)

Hymn No. 532: Who are we who stand and sing?

Who are we who stand and sing?
We are God's people.
What this bread and wine we bring?
Food for God's people.
As once with twelve Christ spake,
poured wine, and bread did break;
he now of us will make
a faithful people.

What command does Christ impart
to us his people?
Soul and strength and mind and heart;
serve me, my people.
As he in love came low,
our world and work to know;
to life he bids us go, to be his people.

Who are we who say one creed?
We are God's people.
What the word we hear and read?
Word of God's people.

Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,

who also do not wrong,
but walk in his ways. (Ps. 119:1-3)

PRAYER

God, our Father in heaven, we thank you for your grace, which has changed ordinary people into saints, and servants of your Kingdom.

Help us, like them, to reflect your light and to bear witness to your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PENITENCE

The lives of the saints encourage us to persevere as Christ's followers, even when we stumble and falter: 'Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.'

(Heb. 12:1)

Let us confess our sins and failings to Almighty God

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
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.

Absolution

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ...

Almighty and eternal God, you have kindled the flame of love in the hearts of the saints: grant to us the same faith and power of love, that, as we rejoice in their triumphs, we may be sustained by their example and fellowship; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn No. 365: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth;
hast thou not seen, how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee;
ponder anew, what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen, sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him.

SECOND READING Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.'

⁹ Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We affirm our faith in God:

***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 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.***

***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.

(The Apostles' Creed)

Hymn No. 683: All people that on earth do dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with joy, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good,
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

INTERCESSIONS

Our Father in heaven, we give thanks for the church and for all that we receive through its worship, teaching and fellowship.

We pray for Archbishop Michael and the life of this diocese ...

For each other here and all who minister among us ... For our fellow Christians in other places ... Renew us by the Holy Spirit that we may grow as disciples of Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for this our nation and for those in authority that they may serve the people with integrity and dedication. We pray for our President and government ... For all who shape our culture, especially those working in the media ... For people anywhere suffering from disaster, war or oppression ... Bring justice to all, and the opportunity to make the most of their lives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our parish and for our community, and for those who cherish us. Strengthen the bonds of trust between husbands and wives, parents and children, friends, neighbours and parishioners.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the health we have, and for the skills of those who attend to us when we are in need. Bring healing and encouragement to those suffering from ill-health, depression or frailty ...

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those whose memory we treasure ... Grant us with them, and with all the saints the joy of eternal life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Offertory Hymn

(It is now possible to support the parish financially by using your phone to scan the QR code below).



Hymn No. 634: Love Divine all loves excelling.

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art,
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every waiting heart,

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

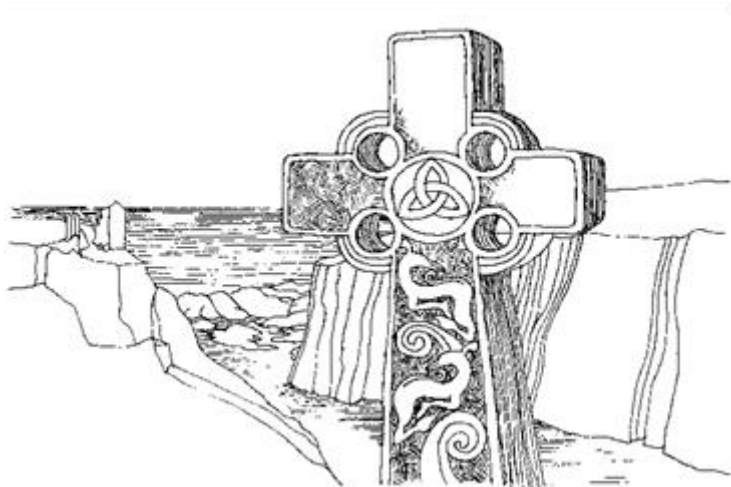
CONCLUDING PRAYER

***May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favour,
rest upon us from above.***

***Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.***

(J. Newton)

The Blessing





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