

First Reading

Read by

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

4 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymns for Today

595 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

249 Holy Spirit, living breath of God

264 The Spirit lives to set us free

Gospel Acclamation

"Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!"
"Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!"

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

"Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!"
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to John

Glory to You O Lord

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

The Prayers

Those for who prayers have been asked:

For those on active service in places of danger

Dick and Caroline Seed our CMS Missionaries

The Migrant and Refugee Crisis

Visitors to the Top Up Shop and Family First

3. Linda Best, Eileen, Becki and Denis Cook, Tanya, Jeanette Budinger, Sue Doe, June Abbott.
2. Debbie Shaves, Jayne Versey, Malcolm Starsmoore, Gwen Wall, Kara Perrio, Diane Giddons.
1. Sheila Page, Jats Gosal, Julie Eves.

Those who have died recently

Kay Clifford

Veronica Clarke (Blossom)

Trevor Read

We remember the anniversary of death of

Trevor Parnell March 1 2020

Molly Hall March 3 2003

Les Smith March 3 2009

Margaret Starsmoore March 5 2025

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt
the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please remember to pray for the following friends of our
Parish who are not able to worship with us at this time.

Vera Emeny, Rita Appleton.