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Please put a note in the 'reference' box for online banking so treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.

February 2, 2022

Dear friends of St Clement and St Nicolas,

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the request for assistance with the five Lent Lunches - every Thursday in March. We have leaders for each week and to add to the existing offers of soup, cheese and helping please let me know if you can help with soup or ingredients for the lunches or helping on a day. On Sunday I offered the thought that the number one priority for Lent Lunches was meeting with people, the second is raising funds and whilst the third for some might be having a frugal Lenten lunch I suspect that the more tasty it is, the better for most of us. We already have the best soup in Jersey together with cheese and fruit and this year we will take the radical step of offering cake with the tea and coffee - and anyone not indulging will feel even more holy! I have two offers of chocolate cake and more would be welcome.

Greetings again to the 'swallows' in foreign parts, the list has expanded to include the Canary Islands and Dubai.

The church, churchyard and crematorium seem at their busiest in several years. To help the Sexton please remove any Christmas wreaths. In the unlikely event that anyone feels inspired to help us livestream the service for funerals, so relatives and friends can watch the funeral service anywhere around the world, please let me know.

At the moment as our Sunday operators are at work we can only really offer that I will switch the system on and people get a refund if it stops working. Tim and Jenny are very happy to provide a simple tutorial and instruction sheet.

We hope you are keeping well and warm,
David

David

The Parish of St Clement, Service of Holy Communion February 5th, 2023

CA 684

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 day
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
O now to humankind
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 earths darkest place
Let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the earth far and wide
Let there be light.

The Greeting The Lord be with you. **and also with you.**

Prayer of Preparation Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom 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.

Prayer of Penitence Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

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.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you. Pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, Heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect for the third Sunday before Lent: Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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**

The Readings:

The First Reading is taken from Isaiah Chapter 58, beginning to read at the first verse (Isaiah 58 1-9)

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. ² For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ³ ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. ⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. ⁵ Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness^[a] will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

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

THE GRADUAL HYMN

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the word.**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew-fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!**

The Gospel Reading:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord (Matthew 5 13-20)

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you O Christ**

Reflection David: The people Isaiah is speaking to are at first sight a very religious community. They fast. They humble themselves bowing their heads and wear sackcloth and ashes. Day after day they seem eager to know God's ways and ask for God's help. But, and this really is a very big 'but', their supposedly religious and spiritual lives are not reflected in their behavior. They exploit workers, quarrel and fight. Not only that but they are criticized for what they are clearly not doing - sharing food with the hungry, providing clothes and shelter. Maybe this passage was in Jesus's mind when he told the story of the man beaten up, ignored by religious people and finally bandaged, clothed and provided with food and shelter by the Samaritan.

There is excellent work done by Grace Trust, Salvation Army, Women's Refuge and a long list beyond, so thousands of years later the need is still there and the church, religious people (whatever that may mean) and wider society are judged not on words, intentions and reports but on action. Do make a special effort to bring food items to both churches for us to put in the Grace Trust basket or drop by St Clement during the week and leave things at the back of church. There are a lot of requests for help and you can trust that they will make the best use of any gifts we pass on.

The Creed: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: We sit or kneel Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Peace We stand to share the Peace: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

All: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Preparation of the Table:

THE OFFERTORY HYMN (when the offertory would have been taken)

A&M 427

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
And we drink of his sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this bread of life,
And we drink of his sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in

To receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life,
And we drink of his sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As his Body here on earth.
As we share in his suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **and also with you** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:
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.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story. **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest**
The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father for the food; he took bread; gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story: **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world. This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

Prayer before the Distribution:

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,. Eat in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayers after Communion We stand; Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Dismissal: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

THE FINAL HYMN A&M 379

**God has spoken – by his prophets,
Spoken his unchanging word;
Each from age to age proclaiming
God the one, the righteous Lord;
In the world's despair and turmoil
One firm anchor holds us fast:
God eternal reigns for ever,
God the first and God the last.**

**God has spoken – by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son;
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the father ever one:
Spoken by the Word incarnate
Life, before all time began,
Light of Light, to earth descending,
God, revealed as Son of Man.**

**God is speaking – by his Spirit
Speaking in our hearts again
In the ageless Word declaring
God’s own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith is holding fast:
God abides, his word unchanging
God the first and God the last.**

The Grace: May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**