



S T. J U D E ' S  
B O W R A L

22 March 2020  
Morning Service

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

## Drawing Near to God

### *Organ Prelude*

Hymn Improvisation "Amazing Grace" . . . Frederick Swann

### *The Exhortation*

Dear friends, the Scriptures urge us to acknowledge our many sins, and not to conceal them in the presence of God our heavenly Father, but to confess them with a penitent and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

We ought always humbly to admit our sins before God, but chiefly when we meet together to give thanks for the benefits we have received at his hands, to offer the praise that is due to him, to hear his holy word, and to ask what is necessary for the body as well as the soul.

Therefore, let us draw near to the throne of our gracious God, and say together:

### *The General Confession*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have left undone what we ought to have done.  
and we have done what we ought not to have done.  
We have followed our own ways and the desires of our own hearts.  
We have broken your holy laws.  
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us; restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises declared to mankind in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a godly and obedient  
life, to the glory of your name. Amen.

## ***The Assurance of God's Forgiveness***

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to his will we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen**

# **The Ministry of God's Word**

## ***The First Reading***

A reading from Isaiah, chapter fifty-three beginning at the first verse.

Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
<sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.  
<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;

for the transgression of my people he was punished.

<sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## ***The Second Reading***

A reading from Luke chapter eighteen beginning at the thirty-first verse.

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, 'We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.

<sup>32</sup> He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; <sup>33</sup> they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.'

<sup>34</sup> The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

<sup>35</sup> As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

<sup>36</sup> When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup> They told him, 'Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.'

<sup>38</sup> He called out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'

<sup>39</sup> Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'

<sup>40</sup> Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, <sup>41</sup> 'What do you want me to do for you?'

'Lord, I want to see,' he replied.

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.' <sup>43</sup> Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it,

they also praised God.

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

## ***The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,  
from there 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 Sermon***

*Jesus Opens Blind Eyes*

## ***Hymn***

Words: *Jon Newton (1725-1807)*

Music "*Amazing Grace*" *American Traditional*

1. Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

# **The Prayers**

## ***The collects for the day and for Lent***

**Almighty God, grant that we, who justly deserve to be punished for our sinful deeds, may in your mercy and kindness be pardoned and restored; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### ***The collect for peace***

O God, the author and lover of peace, in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us your servants in all assaults of our enemies, that, surely trusting in your defence, we may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Further Prayers***

#### ***The general thanksgiving***

**Almighty God and merciful Father, we give you humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people. We praise you for creating and sustaining us and for all the blessings of this life; but above all for your amazing love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, giving us grace and the hope of glory. Give us such a sense of all your goodness, that we may be truly thankful, and may praise you not only with our lips, but in our lives, by serving you in holy and righteous ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### ***The Grace***

**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** 2 Corinthians 13:14

# Hymn

Words: Based on Carl Gustaf Boberg 1859-1940  
tr. From a Russian version Stuart Wesley Keene Hine 1899-1989 alt.  
Music "O Store Gud" Swedish Folk Melody harm. Philip Begbie Watson (1936-)

1. O Lord my God,  
when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works  
thy hand has made,  
I see the stars,  
I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout  
the universe displayed:  
*Then sings my soul,  
my saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art,  
how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul,  
my saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art,  
how great thou art!*
2. When through the woods  
and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds  
sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down  
from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook,  
and feel the gentle breeze.  
*Then sings my soul, . . .*
3. But when I think  
that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die –  
I scarce can take it in  
that on the cross,  
our burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died  
to take away our sin:  
*Then sings my soul, . . .*
4. When Christ shall come  
with shout of acclamation  
and take me home –  
what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow  
in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim:  
My God, how great thou art!  
*Then sings my soul, . . .*

## The Blessing

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 amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

## Organ Postlude

Hymn Improvisation "O Store Gud" . . . Frederick Swann

## **Prayers for this week 22 March 2020**

### **Jack and Lill Harradine in Broken Hill**

- Please give thanks and praise for the life and ministry that God has given them at Broken Hill and for the blessings that He has given them.
- Give thanks for the gift of His son Jesus, who has forgiven us our sins and delivered us from darkness. Give thanks for the Holy Spirit and for His wisdom, knowledge and power.
- Praise and thank God for all of His protection and blessings.
- Please pray for our great grandson. He has had to leave Broken Hill with his parents and return to South Australia because he has elevated lead levels in his blood. He is eighteen months old. His name is Jack.
- Pray for our church community. Pray that we will remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.
- Pray that we may see the fruit of our labour. Not that it's really important. Pray that God will add to the number of believers in our church and in Broken Hill and everywhere.
- Pray for Ailsa who is sick. She's the lady that I do Prison ministry with. Pray for the prisoners who I minister to.
- Pray for wisdom, guidance and power. Thanks and God bless you all.

### **Pray for those in Need**

*Pray for* Philip and June Graham, John Livingstone, Rick Morse, Nan Lovett, Avis Madden, Marg Brown, Jean Burrells, Neville Street, Denise Venturini, Hedi Schulz, Stan Clark, Emily Hunt, Margaret & Barry Edwards, Judith Baxter, Gladys Davids, Catherine Job, Brian Flower, Jo Kinniburgh, Tom May and Mark Davies (Lynn & Warren Davies' son) and Geoff & Marg Lansdown.

*Pray for the families of* Elaine Noakes, Susan Vicars, Vickie Lee Hart, Roger Coleman, Elaine Swan, George Owen, Malcolm Burrells, Phyllis Neich, Jack Tonkin, Betty Dawes and John Cooper.