



SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 29th January
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Almighty God,
you know that we are placed in the midst of such great dangers
that we cannot stand upright because of our human frailty.
Make us whole in mind and body. Support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations. We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCE: MICAH 6:8

*He lord has t old you what he wants from you: to do what is right to other
people, love being kind to others, and live humbly, obeying your god*

**He lord has t old you what he wants from you: to do what is right to other
people, love being kind to others, and live humbly, obeying your god**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

GLORIOUS THINGS

**Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken Formed thee for His own abode.
On the rock of ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.**

**See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters, And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace which, like the Lord the giver, Never fails from age to age?**

**Saviour, since of Zion's city I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure, All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure None but Zion's children know.**

John Newton
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CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved.

Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

PSALM 15

¹ *LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?*
The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

² *The one whose way of life is blameless,
who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;
³ whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbour, and casts no slur on others;
⁴ who despises a vile person but honours those who fear the LORD;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;
⁵ who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.*

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

*Whoever does these things
will never be shaken.*

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray for trust in God.

[silence]

**Thank you, God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for showing us your power
in the weakness of the cross.
Teach us to rely on you alone
and to live by the power of the Holy Spirit.
We ask this through your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8 The Lord's case against Israel (NIVUK)

⁶ Listen to what the LORD says: 'Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. ² 'Hear, you mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. ³ 'My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. ⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. ⁵ My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.' ⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 God chooses the weak (NIVUK)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."^[a] ²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the

foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”^[b]

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12 The beatitudes- life in God’s kingdom (NIVUK)

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

⁵ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

**Thank you, Lord Jesus, for becoming poor for our sakes.
Bless us who are poor in spirit,
and make us children of your kingdom.
Amen.**

APOSTLE’S 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.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYER OF PEACE

May the Father of love stir you deep in your heart.

May the Son bring His tears to your crying.

**May the Spirit of love rise anew ev'ry day,
and compassion flare up in your soul.**

May you live day by day and for those whom you meet.

May you care, though your heart will be broken.

**May your voice be as one with the cry of the poor,
and the hungry be filled with your food.**

**May your love in your deeds work for peace on this earth,
for our God dwells within those who suffer.**

**May you ache for the time war will pass from your life,
and your freedom frustrate Caesar's pow'r.**

May the Father of love stir you deep in your heart.

May the Son bring His tears to your crying.

**May the Spirit of love rise anew ev'ry day,
and compassion flare up in your soul.**

Leigh Newton

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SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

JESUS, STRONG AND KIND

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.**

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him**

**For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.**

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

**For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.**

**Rich Thompson, Colin Buchanan, Michael Ray Farren, Jonny Robinson
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OFFERING PRAYER

*Wise and merciful God,
thank you for choosing us to be your people.
Teach us to yearn for what is right
and to do what you want us to do.
Use us and our possessions
for your wise and good purposes.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Paul reminds us that God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. We come before our Father in our weakness, acknowledging that we are totally dependent on him, seeking his strength and wisdom.

Gracious Father – praise be to your blessed name for your mercy and kindness to us. You have come to us, full of grace and truth. Before the foundation of the world you chose us as your own, to be holy and blameless in your sight. You predestined us to be adopted as your children through Jesus Christ. This was your pleasure and will, and we in turn thank and praise you.

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

How wondrous is your holy church – composed of redeemed sinners like us. Bless your church, that she may shine with your Son’s light in this world. Revive and refresh us by your Holy Spirit so that we can confess your name before others, pray fervently for our neighbour, and demonstrate your love through good works. Be with all pastors and church workers in every congregation in this land, that they can speak your word in truth and power and care for the flock entrusted to them. Be with the leaders of the LCA - in particular our Bishop Paul Smith and our District Bishop Mark Vainikka. Guide them, protect them, and help them to work together in your name.

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

How blessed we are to enjoy the freedoms and prosperity of this country. Bless this land, all who live in it, all who visit it, and all who lead our nation’s affairs, in particular our Prime Minister, our Premiers, our elected politicians, and our leaders in business and society. Give us a love of truth and justice. Help all citizens to serve their neighbour through their vocation. Help those who are unemployed or whose work is difficult or dangerous or stressful. Strengthen all families and the bond of marriage. Give all children and young people a renewed respect for their parents, and guide all parents in raising their children.

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

How great is your power that you guide the nations of the world. Continue to curb evil and bring oppression to an end. Show mercy and give relief to those who are suffering as a result of natural disasters. Help them to rebuild in the wake of destruction. Comfort them with the consolation of your Word. We pray for the modern state of Israel, and all who live in Palestine. You came to what was your own, but your own people did not receive you. Turn the hearts of the Jewish people to your Son, their Messiah, and help all Gentiles to bear witness to you in love.

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

Almighty Father, hear our prayer. Since we can do nothing good without you, send us your Spirit so that your purposes may be fulfilled in us, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May God make your life a great blessing to others.

May God make your life a great blessing to others.

WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace,
for Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God*
In the name of Christ. Amen.

O BRING TO THE LORD YOUR TRIBUTE OF PRAISE

**O bring to the Lord your tribute of praise,
the guard of our life, the guide of our ways;
the king of creation, He sits on the throne,
the gold and the silver He claims as His own.**

**Whatever we have, all comes from His love,
His gifts from beneath, His gifts from above;
He gave us our treasures, the corn, oil, and wine,
the pearl of the ocean, the gem of the mine.**

**But high above all He gave us His Son
to die in our stead, for sin to atone;
no mine's golden treasure, no pearl of the sea,
from bondage redeemed us: His blood set us free.**

**Then what can we give, with naught to bestow,
but what to His goodness and bounty we owe?
His cross and His sorrows He calls us to bear:
the wants of His people He bids us to share.**

**Then yield to the Lord the gifts of His hand,
all His to dispense, and His to command;
to His poor and needy your treasures impart,
and give to your Saviour the love of your heart.**

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Micah 6:1-8

LHS

356 Lord of glory, who hast bought us*

G3

359 Thee will I love, my strength, my

treasure* (esp vv 4,5) G6

362 What shall I give to God my

Saviour* G4

367 O bring to the Lord your tribute of
praise* G6

789 My Lord, you wore no royal crown

G6

AT

301 Prayer of peace

446 Mercy

788 Lord, who left the highest heaven

G8

857 Low, the way is low GS

858 Make me a channel of your peace

G5

AT

95 Prayer of St Francis

190 Low, the way is low

300 Practise love

436 Amen, amen, it shall be so

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

LHS

54 When I survey the wondrous cross

G5

153 One thing needful: this one

treasure G9

171 In the cross of Christ I glory G4

187 Glorious things of thee are spoken

G9

807 Lift high the cross GS

AT

465 How deep is the love

466 I am aware

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

LHS

148 Jesus, the very thought of Thee G6

398 Lord Jesus, think on me G5

402 Rejoice, my heart, be glad and
sing* G6

403 Lord Jesus Christ, my Saviour

blest* G5