

In the name of God Father Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION

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. **(All:) Lord God, we have done wrong in your sight; we are sorry, and ask for your forgiveness. Wash away our wrongdoings, and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Zephaniah chapter 1 verses 7, 12 - 18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests..... At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vine-yards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

For the word of the Lord, thank be to God

SECOND READING

A reading from the St Matthew's Gospel chapter 25 verses 14 to 30

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

For the word of the Lord, thank be to God

HYMN 423

CHILDREN'S TALK

If any children are present

PRAYERS WITH CHILDREN

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 for ever. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand to declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with his power. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PEACE

God has called us to live in peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **All: And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S HYMN

Jesus loves me, this I know,
and the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
the bible tells me so

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
saying, 'let them come to me.' R..

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. R..

(The children leave for "Sunday Club")

INTERCESSIONS

SERMON

HYMN 549

During which a collection is taken

NOTICES

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary
(Henry Heron 18th Century)