

The Second Sunday before Lent YEAR B February 8, 2015

INTRODUCTIONS

For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines

Proverbs 8 : 1, 22-31

John's Gospel says that in the beginning was the Word. In this collection of ancient proverbs, we hear that in the beginning God created Wisdom, to be his companion, his joy and delight, and to work with him in the creation of this world.

Colossians 1 : 15-20

To ancient thinkers, wisdom was a person of God, present in creation, Paul applies this to Jesus. All that is, seen and unseen, was created through Christ, and now his resurrection life reconciles everything to God.

John 1 : 1-14

As a prologue to his story of Jesus, John sets out for us its background in eternity. When God's Word came to his world it was to bring us light and life.

Click here to view the readings

http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2040:%2021-31%0Acw%20Psalm%20147:%201-12,%2021c%0A1%20Corinthians%209:%2016-23%0AMark%201:%2029-39

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

O Lord God,
who seest that we put not our trust
in any thing that we do;
Mercifully grant that by thy power
we may be defended against all adversity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

Let us pray for all peoples in the church and the world who need mercy, justice, and peace.

Deacon or other leader

For the church of God, and for all who witness to the glory of God.

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Lord, have mercy.

For this world and for the sharing of health and healing.

Lord, have mercy.

For those stigmatized as unclean, and for those who touch and heal them.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who practice the medical arts, and for physicians of the spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who are sick and in need of prayer, and for the dying and the dead.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering *N*, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

Presider

God, who sends us to wash in the river of healing, hear the prayers we offer you this day and enable us to proclaim your good news and spread the word of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

Let us pray.

For the peace that comes from God alone,
for the unity of all peoples,
and for the good of our souls:

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the whole Church of Christ,
in its diversity and confusion,
as well as in its sense of mission and vision,
that its worship may be true, and its service and sacrifice genuine:

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For people in need:

those for whom life is a bitter struggle;
those whose lives are clouded by death or loss, pain or disability, discouragement or fear,
shame or rejection.

that they may know the warmth, the comfort and the assurance of your love.

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the nations of the world, especially those countries where there is strife and uncertainty, and where those who claim authority and power do so without their people's consent;

for the people of New Zealand, as still coming to terms with the upheaval caused by the earthquake a year ago;

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

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For all who mourn the loss of loved ones, whatever the circumstances;
for those whose lives have been turned upside down by tragedy or illness;
for those who are anxious about what tomorrow may bring;
Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. We remember today Names

You turn our darkness into light and in your light shall we see light.

Merciful Father :

accept these prayer for the sake of your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart
of the earthly paradise,
and the Bread of life at the heart of your Church.
May we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's Cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

O God,
you spoke your word
and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.
Fill all creation with that word again,
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,
we may become one living body,
your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

God of every land and nation,
you have created all people
and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ.
Listen to the cries of those who pray to you,
and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name,
all people will know the power of love at work in the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Holy God, you gather the whole universe
into your radiant presence
and continually reveal your Son as our Savior.
Bring healing to all wounds,
make whole all that is broken,
speak truth to all illusion,
and shed light in every darkness,
that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. Amen.

Divine Physician,
healer of bodies and souls,
stretch out your hand and touch us.
Cleanse our hearts from the sin
that separates us from you and one another.
Recreate us in your own image,
and restore us in Christ,
so that we may run the race
and receive the prize of everlasting life. Amen.

Holy One, you have come among us
to lead us in paths of righteousness.
Guide our feet through the wilderness
toward the living water of your grace,
following in the steps of our Saviour:
Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

PROVERBS 8

Magdalene's Musings - Creating God - a sermon on Chapter 8.

<http://magdalenesmusings.blogspot.com/2010/05/creating-god-sermon-on-proverbs-8.html>

Congregational source - useful summary of what Wisdom literature is in this sermon.

<http://unioncongregationalucc.wordpress.com/2010/05/28/sermon-wisdom/>

COLOSSIANS 1 : 15-20

The Child who was God - Get past the first paragraphs on various US historical figures and you are in to useful material in this sermon.

<http://www.gty.org/resources/Sermons/80-127>

JOHN 1 : 1-14

It is difficult to find sermons which are not scripted for preaching for Christmas Day.

Day 1 - A permanent glimpse of God. "In this man Jesus, we saw, and see, the face of God. That had never happened before and has never needed to happen in that way again. It would come as no surprise to the religious community of Jesus' time that God was showing up in some manner to influence people and events. The Jewish people were marinated in a God-haunted history."

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[http://day1.org/1187-a permanent glimpse of god](http://day1.org/1187-a_permanent_glimpse_of_god)

What is truth? - a sermon by Paul Tillich. Although this is based more so on Chapter 8 of John, there is enough meat to infuse a sermon on truth from Chapter 1!

<http://www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=375&C=21>

CHILDREN

Sermons4kids - Two talks on offer.

Refecting the light at:

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/light.html>

Jesus and the 3 R's at:

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/three-rs.html>