

HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



Thursday, December 28th, 2023

The Holy Innocents

خوش آمدی

Welcome to Holy Innocents on our patronal festival: the feast day of the small children who were killed by Herod in his hunt for the infant Jesus after the visit of the wise men. Please be still and quiet as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist. The president today is the Revd Richard Young. When the bell rings, please stand to sing:

HYMN 37 "Then let us adore him and praise his great love."

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

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The president introduces the celebration:

Because they were found to be like the son of God, now these children can be found like the Lamb in eternal glory. Today we keep their feast day, remembering the innocents of the world and the gift of God himself to be amongst us. So, as we prepare to celebrate these holy mysteries, let us call to mind our own weakness and remember God's unfailing love.

After a time of silent prayer, the choir sings the Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy).

At the end, the president says the absolution.

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly 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 *A prayer for Holy Innocents Day*

Let us pray.

After a moment of silent prayer the president says the Collect.

At the end: Amen.

Please sit down for the Ministry of the Word.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31: 15-17

At the end: This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124

*If the Lord had not been on our side,
if the Lord had not been on our side -
if the Lord had not been on our side:
Alleluia! Sing praises to God.*

**Foes attacked us and their hatred could have swallowed us live;
Raging torrents could have swept us away;
Angry waters overwhelmed us, could have ended our days,
if the Lord had not been on our side. R/**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord who has spared us our lives,
Who has snatched us from our enemy!
Who has freed us from the snare like a bird set free:
Alleluia! Sing praises to God. R/**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

At the end: This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing:

HYMN 22 "Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.."

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2: 13-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit down for the sermon. After the sermon there will be a time of silence. We hear a setting of The Coventry Carol.

Lullay lulla, thou little tiny child, bye bye lullay lulla.

O sisters too, what may we do for to preserve this day,

This poor youngling, for whom we now sing:

Bye bye lullay lullay.

Herod the King, in his raging chargèd he hath this day

His men of might, in his own sight all young children to slay.

Then woe is me, poor child for thee,

And ever mourn and pray -

For thy parting neither say nor sing: bye bye lullay lullay.

Then all please stand for Prayer of the Faithful. After each section:

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

After the final section (for the departed) there will be a time of silent prayer. At the end:

Merciful Father,

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

The president introduces the Peace.

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All exchange a sign of peace and then join in:

HYMN 19*"No more shall night extinguish day"**The bread and wine are brought to the altar.**The President says a prayer over the gifts to which we all respond:***Blessed be God for ever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER follows.

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.*THE PRESIDENT continues the prayer, thanking God for his saving works, and then invites the people to join their praises with the whole company of heaven:*

....forever praising you and singing:

**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.***The president asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, and then repeats the Lord's own words over the bread and cup.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.*The president continues, joining our offering with Christ's sacrifice of himself. At the end of the prayer the president says:*.....all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever: **Amen.***The President introduces the Lord's Prayer and all say together:***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.**

We SIT or KNEEL as the president breaks the consecrated bread in pieces for all to share:

*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.**

The president addresses those who wish to come to Holy Communion:

*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**Blessed are those who are called to his supper.***Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,****but only say the word and I shall be healed.***Those who wish draw near to the altar. Those who are baptized, as well as communicant members of other Christian churches, are invited to receive Holy Communion. Others are asked to fold their arms for a blessing. When all have received Holy Communion, what remains of the consecrated bread will be placed in the tabernacle and a time of silence follows. Then all please STAND with the President.*

Let us pray:

Lord our God, in your humility

you stooped to share our human life

with the most defenceless of your children:

may we who have received these gifts of your passion,**rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents****to your son Jesus Christ,****who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,****one God, now and for ever. Amen.***Please join in:***Puer nobis nascitur rector angelorum;****In hoc mundo pascitur dominus dominorum....****In præsepe ponitur sub fœno asinorum.****Cognoverunt dominum Christum regem cœlorum...****Hinc Herodes timuit - magno cum dolore,****Et pueros occidit, infantes cum livore...****Qui natus est ex Marie - die hodierna****Ducat nos cum gratia ad gaudia superna...****O et A et A et O cum cantibus in choro,****Cum canticis et organo, benedicamus domino...***Please sit for the announcements and then stand for the blessing and dismissal.*

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son

from before the foundation of the world,

shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one

things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace;

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing

Mary became the Godbearer,

give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

The blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Hope is
being able to see
that there is light,
despite the darkness.

Desmond Tutu, 1931-2021