

Welcome

Collects

(Please stand)

**All: Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Collect for the third Sunday of Epiphany

**All: Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

(Please be seated)

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever;
and the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that
he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: Romans 9:30-10:4

(Please be seated)

³⁰ What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

^{10:1} Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:5-13

After the reader announces the reading (the people all standing up), all shall say

Glory to Christ our Saviour

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” ⁷ And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸ But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marvelled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

At the end of the reading the reader shall say

This is the Gospel of Christ

All shall respond

Praise to Christ our Lord

Sermon: A Gentile Centurion Shows True Faith!

Matthew 8:5-13

Introduction

'Fulfilment' is a central theme of Matthew's gospel – we need to understand who Jesus is and what he came to do.

We need to ask ourselves, “Why has Matthew selected these particular healing miracle stories regarding

(a) living rightly in God's Kingdom and

(b) the connection with God's law?”

Point 1 – The Centurion Comes Despite the Gulf Between Jew and Gentile (v5-7)

Jesus committed a huge cultural *'faux pas'*.

The compassion of Jesus for those separated from God's Kingdom is striking – but this is why he came!

The Centurion also demonstrates compassion towards his own kind – a trait which was severely lacking among the OT Israelites!

Point 2 – The Centurion Comes Recognizing Jesus’ Authority Through His Word (v8-10)

The Centurion calls Jesus “Lord” thus acknowledging Jesus’ authority – Jesus is able to do something which is humanly impossible!

Therefore, to the Centurion, when Jesus speaks, God speaks!!!

Point 3 – Jesus Warns Those who are Presumptuous about Attending the Kingdom Banquet (v11-13)

This Gentile Centurion is a type or even prototype of those attending the Kingdom Banquet.

The message now is crystal clear - those who qualify to attend, only do so by faith not by ethnicity!

Conclusion

The Nicene Creed

(Please stand)

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
one in being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfilment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified,
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

(Please kneel or be seated)

Prayers for the nations of the world and our own nation:

Leader: O God, our creator and preserver, we pray for people of every race, and in every kind of need: make your ways known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

(Especially we pray for ...)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: **hear our prayer.**

Prayers for the church throughout the world and our own church:

Leader: We pray for your Church throughout the world: guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

(Especially we pray for ...)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: **hear our prayer.**

Prayer for the sick, the suffering and those who mourn the death of loved ones:

Leader: We commend to your fatherly goodness all who are anxious or distressed in mind or body; comfort and relieve them in their need; give them patience in their sufferings and bring good out of their troubles.

(Especially we pray for ...)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: **hear our prayer.**

Prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer:

All: **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.**

Prayer of Confession

(Please remain kneeling or seated)

The minister may use this or another call to confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all people.

***All:* Almighty God, our Heavenly Father
We admit that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
and deserve your just punishment.
We truly repent and are sorry
for what we have done.
Have mercy on us, merciful Father.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The minister declares God's forgiveness

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

This Prayer of Humble Access may be said by all

**All: We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him
and he in us.
Amen.**

The Eucharist

(Please remain kneeling or seated)

Minister: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them to the Lord**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

The Minister prays

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
We thank you that in your love and mercy,
you gave your only Son Jesus Christ
to die on the cross for our redemption.

We thank you that by offering himself once for all,
he made a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for sin
and completely satisfied your holiness,
justice and love.

And he instructed us to remember his death together
until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father,
and grant that by your Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink this bread and wine,
according to our Lord's command
may remember his death for us with faith,
trusting in him alone for our salvation
and so share in his body and blood.

For on the night he was betrayed, he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them saying, “Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

All: **Amen.**

The Distribution

Minister:

Eat and drink this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Hymn: Psalm 107:1-4, 17-22

The Scottish Psalter

Praise God, for he is good: for still
his mercies lasting be.

Let God's redeem'd say so, whom he
from th' en'my's hand did free;

And gathered them out of the lands,
from north, south, east, and west.
They strayed in desert's pathless way,
no city found to rest.

Fools, for their sin, and their offence,
do sore affliction bear;
All kind of meat their soul abhors;
they to death's gates draw near.

In grief they cry to God; he saves
them from their miseries.
He sends his word, them heals, and them
from their destructions frees.

O that men to the Lord would give
praise for his goodness then,
And for his works of wonder done
unto the sons of men!

And let them sacrifice to him
off 'rings of thankfulness;
And let them shew abroad his works
in songs of joyfulness.

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Hymn: In Christ There Is No East Or West

John Oxenham, 1852-1941

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord,
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christlike souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

Hymn: My Faith Looks Up To Thee

Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!
Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then in love
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul.

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Hymn: My Faith Has Found A Resting Place

Lidie H. Edmunds, 1851-1920; arr. William J. Kirkpatrick

My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device nor creed;
I trust the Ever-living One,
His wounds for me shall plead.

*I need no other argument,
I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.*

Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to Him,
He'll never cast me out.

My heart is leaning on the Word,
The written Word of God,
Salvation by my Saviour's name,
Salvation through His blood.

My great Physician heals the sick,
The lost He came to save;
For me His precious blood He shed,
For me His life He gave.

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Prayers of Response

(Please kneel or be seated)

**All: Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out into the world
in the power of your Spirit,
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Announcements

Dismissal

The gathering ends with a blessing.

Minister: 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 among you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Connect with us

Thank you for joining our service. If you would like for us to get in touch with you, or have any feedback for us, please fill in our Connection Card at stmarys.my/connect

Giving

Online transfer

Bank name: **Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd**

Account name: **St Mary's Cathedral**

Account number: **312 142 334 691**

Recipient reference: If giving a pledge, enter ***your 3-digit pledge number.***

Otherwise, enter **Online Service**

For one-off giving, please email the bank-in slip or online transfer receipt to: **collections@stmaryscathedral.org.my**

Boost e-wallet

Scan the following QR code using the Boost App. Be sure to confirm "St Mary's Cathedral" is listed as the payee.



St Mary's Cathedral

Note: This method of giving is analogous to putting cash into the offertory bag/box. Your donation will go to the General Fund. You will not be given a receipt. Do not use this to give a pledge.

Details on our webpage: stmarys.my/give

Onsite & Online Services

Here are the details of our English onsite services on Sundays:

- Liturgical Service – 8.00 am
(All who attend this service are required to take an RTK test before coming, and unvaccinated children are not allowed at this service as it is designated an extra-safe service).

For the following services, children who can't be vaccinated are allowed to come with their fully vaccinated parents, on the condition that the children get an RTK test before coming.

- Liturgical Service – 10.00 am
- Contemporary (SMACC) Service – 11.30 am
- Contemporary (SMACC) Service – 5.00 pm

If you would like to book to come, you can do so at stmarys.my/booking. Bookings will open at 2.00 pm on Sunday and will close at noon on Friday or when all the seats are taken, whichever comes first. If you find it hard to book online, you can call the Cathedral Office on 011 5760 3484 during office hours and Mrs Nesamani will help with the booking. **You will need to have a confirmed booking before you can come on Sunday.**

If you are joining us online on Sundays, the Liturgical service will be livestreamed at 10.00 am, and the SMACC service at 11.30 am.

More information about our services can be found here: stmarys.my/services

Onsite Service Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help out at our onsite services. If you are a regular at St Mary's Cathedral and would like to volunteer, please fill in the form at stmarys.my/volunteer

Small Groups

We will be officially launching our small groups for the year in a few weeks' time. (Some groups are already meeting informally to give people the opportunity to try out various groups before committing to a particular one when they officially launch.)

If you are not already in a small group, we would like to encourage you to join one this year. This is one of the important ways we grow together as a community of God's people as we gather under His Word and seek to encourage one another to persevere in following Jesus.

If you would like to join a small group this year, please fill in a form at stmarys.my/smallgroups and we'd be happy to help find you one. Alternatively, you can talk to your congregational pastor, a small group leader, or someone you know who is already part of a group.

Banns of Marriage

I publish the banns of marriage between Doulos Paul Lee and Lee Yin Yin, both of St Mary's Cathedral Kuala Lumpur.

This is the FIRST TIME of asking. If any of you know any reason in law why these persons may not marry each other, you are to declare to me.

Dean,
Very Rev Dr Andrew Cheah

The Licensing Service of Archdeacons

There will be a Licensing Service of Archdeacons at the Cathedral on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 at 4.00 pm.

Please pray for:

- Rev Soong Hoe Pin who will be licensed as a new Archdeacon
- Ven Edward M. John and Ven Charles Fraser who will be renewing their licences as Archdeacons

If you would like to follow the service that will be streamed from the Cathedral, you are welcome to do so here: stmarys.my/archdeacons

SPM Bible Knowledge

The Federation of Christian Mission Schools, Malaysia (FCMSM) has been making efforts to encourage students to take Bible Knowledge as an SPM subject. FCMSM has produced video lessons as a resource to facilitate in the teaching-learning of this important subject. They are currently looking for facilitators to enable these video lessons to take place.

If you would like to find out more about how you can be involved in this, you can do so at stmarys.my/spmbibleknowledge

The Daily Office

We invite you to join us for the Daily Office - a short daily service with systematic Bible readings and set prayers. This will take place every day at 7.30 am by Zoom (except Sunday).

If you think this would be a helpful part of your daily routine, please join us by simply going to stmarys.my/dailyoffice at about 7.25 am each day for a 7.30 am start. That will take you directly to the Zoom room where the service takes place. The service will finish before 8.00 am.

Pastoral ‘Clinics’

In addition to whatever ways of contacting the pastoral team that are already available, Rev Gordon Kong and Rev Lee Kon Yim are also available on Thursdays at the following times if you would like to talk to a pastor:

- Rev Gordon Kong – 9.00 am – 12.00 pm
- Rev Lee Kon Yim – 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

If you are a regular at St Mary’s Cathedral and would like to book a half hour appointment slot with anyone of them, please call the Cathedral Office on 011 5760 3484 by the previous day.

If you are a woman and there are pastoral matters you need to talk about with another woman, you can contact Dss Yit Ching Li, Mrs Christine Rajaratnam or Miss Danielle Cheng. If you would like one of them to

contact you, please fill in a Connection Card at stmarys.my/connect or call the Cathedral Office to arrange an appointment.

Kids' Church

Kids' Church meets online every week at the following times:

- 3-4 year olds on Sunday at 10.20 am
- 5-6 year olds on Sunday at 9.00 am
- 7-9 year olds on Saturday at 2.00 pm
- 10-12 year olds on Sunday at 2.00 pm

If you would like to enrol your child or find out more about Kids' Church, please visit stmarys.my/kids

Youth Fellowship

Our Youth Fellowship (ages 13-18) meets on Sundays at 2.00 pm. If you would like to join us, please sign up at stmarys.my/youth

Youth Confirmation Programme

If you would like to indicate interest in our Youth Confirmation Programme for your teenager aged 13-17, please let us know at stmarys.my/youthconfirmation and we will inform you when the next one starts.

Subscribe to our Mailing List

To receive emails about latest updates and important news about the Cathedral, fill in the form at stmarys.my/subscribe

Work Care Panel

We have a panel to help our Cathedral community look for work or advise about work and training opportunities. If you're looking for work and wouldn't mind a helping hand, fill in our Connection Card at stmarys.my/connect, indicating that you would like someone from the Work Care Panel to contact you.

Pastoral Emergencies

If you or someone you know is finding this time a particularly challenging one, or would like someone to pray with you, please do call one of your leaders or congregational pastors. Please also remember that you can use our Emergency Pastoral Care Hotline on 011 5762 8524.