Christian communities in the heart of Hastings

# Order of Service for the Second Sunday in Lent 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Eucharistic Liturgy - Thanksgiving of the People of God commencing on page **404** ANZPB/HKMOA

Presider: Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

Opening Hymn: **Deep in the shadows of the past** 

The Presbyterian Hymnal #330

Words: Brian Wren © Hope Publishing

Tune: KINGSFOLD

Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands, some nomads travelled with their God across the desert sands. The dawning hope of humankind was glimpsed by them alone: a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.

While others bowed to changeless gods they met a mystery: God with an uncompleted name, "I am what I will be"; and by their tents, around their fires, in story, song and law they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.

- Trom Abraham to Nazareth
  the promise changed and grew,
  while some, remembering the past,
  recorded what they knew,
  and some, in letters or laments,
  in prophecy and praise,
  recovered, held, and re-expressed
  new hope for changing days.
- 4 For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago, who sifted, chose, and then preserved the Bible that we know, give thanks, and find its promise yet our comfort, strength and call, the working model of our faith, alive with hope for all.

The Presider may greet the people informally before continuing

Page **405**: Almighty God ...

(note 'The Gloria' is omitted during the Lenten season)

Page **406:** Hear the teaching of Christ ...

Page 407: Hear God's word to all ...

Page **408:** The peace of Christ ...

Collect: Gentle God,

shows us our sins as they really are so that we may truly renounce them

and know the depth and richness of your mercy.

This we ask through Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

## Reading: **Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church **Thanks be to God.** 

#### Psalm 27 (ANZPB)

- The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?: the Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid?
- When the wicked close in on me to devour me: it is they, my enemies and my foes who stumble and fall.
- If an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid: if war should arise against me, even then I will not be dismayed.
- One thing I have asked of the Lord, which I long for: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
- to gaze on your beauty O Lord: and to seek you in your temple.
- For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter: you will hide me under the cover of your tent, and set me high upon a rock.
- And now you have raised my head: above my enemies round about me.
- Therefore I will offer in your dwelling
   a sacrifice with great gladness:
   I will sing and give praise to you O Lord.
- Hear my voice O Lord when I call: have mercy on me and answer me.
- Of you my heart has said, 'Seek God's face': your face Lord I will seek.

- Do not hide your face from me: or reject your servant in anger.
- You have been my helper: do not cast me off, or forsake me O God my saviour.
- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me: the Lord will take me up.
- Teach me your way O Lord:
   and lead me by a level path,
   safe from those who lie in wait for me.
- Do not give me up to the will of my enemies: for liars, and those who breathe out malice, have risen up to witness against me.
- I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord: in the land of the living.
- Wait for the Lord,
   be strong and let your heart take courage:
   yes, wait I say for the Lord.

# Reading: Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

# Gospel Hymn: God is my strong salvation

TiS15 – Words: James Montgomery - from Psalm 27
Tune: **THORNBURY** Alt. tune: **AURELIA** 

God is my strong salvation,
what foe have I to fear?
in darkness and temptation
my light, my help, is near;
though hosts encamp around me,
firm at my post I stand;
what terror can confound me,
with God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance,
my soul with courage wait;
his truth my reassurance
when faint and desolate;
his might my heart shall strengthen,
his love my joy increase;
mercy my days shall lengthen,
the Lord will give me peace.

Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 31-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 13, beginning at the 31<sup>st</sup> verse

Praise and glory to God.

After the reading: This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

Page **410** The Nicene Creed

**Prayers of the People** 

Page **413** Heavenly Father, you have promised ...

The Ministry of the Sacrament

Page **419** The peace of Christ ...

We may share a sign of Christ's peace with those around us by shaking hands (or appropriate alternative) and/or by saying "Peace be with you".

As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar; our offerings for the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission are collected and presented also.

## Offertory Hymn: Great God, your love has called us here

Words: Brian Wren  $\, \odot \,$  1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company Alt. tune: **Melita** 

- Great God, your love has called us here as we, by love, for love were made.
  Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
  We come, with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
- We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong, half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along, by powers and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for humankind.
- Great God, in Christ you call our name and then receive us as your own, not through some merit, right or claim, but by your gracious love alone. We strain to glimpse your mercy seat and find you kneeling at our feet.
- Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and call us friends. Suffer and serve till all are fed, and show how grandly love intends to work till all creation sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
- Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share. Give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair and offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.

## The Preparation of the Gifts

Page **420** Blessed are you ...

# The Great Thanksgiving

Page **420** The Lord is here ...

## The Lord's Prayer

Page 424 Our Father in heaven ...

#### The Invitation

Page 427 Draw near and receive ...

Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.

If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.

# **Prayer after Communion**

God of our pilgrimage, we have found the living water. Refresh and sustain us as we go forth on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Page 428 Almighty God, ...

# The Blessing

Lenten wreath: today the first two candles are extinguished as we count down

towards Good Friday

We share any notices and news

## **Closing Hymn:** Praise God today: his glories never end

Words: Christopher Idle from Isaiah 12 - © Christopher Idle/Jubilate Hymns Ltd Tune: **CRUCIFER** 

Praise God today: his glories never end; our judge becomes in Christ our greatest friend.

- God brings us comfort where his anger burned, so judgement and fear to peace and trust are turned:

  Praise God today: his mercies never end;
  our judge becomes in Christ our greatest friend.
- Wells of salvation streams of life will bring; with joy we shall draw from this refreshing spring. Praise God today: his blessings never end; our judge becomes in Christ our greatest friend.
- Songs shall be his for this victorious day: give thanks to his name, and teach the world to say, Praise God today: his triumphs never end; our judge becomes in Christ our greatest friend.
- Love lives among us, Israel's holy One who comes to the rescue see what God has done! Praise God today: his wonders never end; our judge becomes in Christ our greatest friend.

#### The Dismissal

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.** 

#### Acknowledgements:

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# The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

(encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings, St Peter's, Riverslea, & St Martin's, Mayfair)

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