

Liturgy on the Eve of St Patrick's Day – Wed 16th March 2022

Tomorrow, we remember Saint Patrick who came to Ireland a long time ago to bring people to God. Saint Patrick taught us that there are three persons in One God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He taught us using the symbol of a shamrock. As we remember Saint Patrick we pray together -

**Saint Patrick of Ireland, we thank you for bringing the Gospel to the people of Ireland.
We thank you for your witness and faithfulness in serving the Lord.
May we never cease to proclaim Jesus by our way of living.
We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

Collect of St Patrick

Almighty God, in your providence you chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of your Word: Grant that walking in that light we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen.

Psalm 105 verses 1 – 15

¹ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

² **Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.**

³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ **Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.**

⁵ Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

⁶ **you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.**

⁷ He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸ **He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations,**

⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

¹⁰ **He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant:**

¹¹ "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit."

¹² **When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it,**

¹³ they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another.

¹⁴ **He allowed no one to oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings:**

¹⁵ "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever, Amen.

Reading – Luke 13 verses 22 -31 - The Narrow Door

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, ²⁴ “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’

“But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’

²⁶ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’

²⁷ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’

²⁸ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

Few thoughts

Hymn of St. Patrick

Christ be with me and within me, Christ behind me and before,

Christ beside me and to win me, Christ to comfort and restore,

Christ beneath me and above me, Christ in quiet and in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Christ in every heart that broken, Christ in every joy and pain,

Christ in every word that's spoken, Christ in sun, moon and rain,
Christ in resting and in rising, Christ the Lord of all my life,
Christ to guide me and to shield me, Christ protecting me, in strife.

Christ be with me and within me, Christ behind me and before,
Christ beside me and to win me, Christ to comfort and restore,
Christ beneath me and above me, Christ in quiet and in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

PRAYERS

Because God's love for us is strong, we can present our needs with confidence.

That the leaders of the Church in Ireland and the rulers of the countries in our world may have the courage and wisdom of Saint Patrick.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

That peace and friendship may grow among people of all faiths, cultures and nationalities.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

That the civic leaders of Ireland and those in positions of authority may bear witness to Christian values: honesty, generosity and compassion.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

That Irish emigrants abroad may have the help they need, particularly those who feel lonely and lost.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

That the people who enter Ireland as refugees and particularly the Ukrainian People may experience a warm Irish welcome, friendship and the support they need at this time,

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

That young men and women may hear the call of God as Saint Patrick did in his teenage years, we think particularly of the young people in our parishes, our children and grandchildren,

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

That our loved one who have gone before us, may find rest in the loving arms of Jesus in the promised land of heaven.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We take a few moments now, to bring to God the people and situations that are on our hearts and in our minds.

Pause for Silence

United as a family, we bring all our prayers together in the prayer that Jesus himself taught us

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and 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.

God of all nations, you are faithful to your people: Hear the prayers we bring on the eve of the feast of Saint Patrick and grant them, we implore you, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Closing Prayer

O God you gave Saint Patrick to the people of Ireland so that we might come to know you and love you. Grant that we will continue to follow you and proclaim your deeds to all, by our thoughts, words and actions and the way we live our lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the Strength of God pilot us. May the Power of God preserve us.

May the Wisdom of God instruct us. May the Hand of God protect us.

May the Way of God direct us. May the Shield of God defend us.

Amen.