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## **Smethwick Old Church**



**Service of the Word for Lent**

## Preparation

Let us Greet those close, and those who are at a distance from us,  
with the words

The Lord our redeemer be with you

And let us respond  
and also with you.

We pray  
God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives reflect your glory. Amen.

## The Beatitudes

Let us read God's blessing on those who follow the way of Christ:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after  
righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.

1.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who suffer persecution for  
righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5: 1-12

## Prayer of Preparation

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.

## Confession and Forgiveness

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

2.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'  
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the  
prophets.  
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

### **A time for personal confession...**

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.

Pause...

We travel through Lent  
as forgiven people,  
Let us walk together  
in hope and in faith. Amen

3.

## **The Word of God in Scripture**

**First Reading** (see list of readings for the day)

### **Psalm 130**

This psalm is used between the readings  
Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord.  
Let your ears be open to hear my voice.  
My hope is in God's word.

If you recorded all our sins  
who could come before you?  
My hope is in God's word.

There is forgiveness with you:  
therefore you shall be feared.  
My hope is in God's word.

My soul is longing for the Lord,  
more than those who watch for daybreak.  
My hope is in God's word.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy.  
My hope is in God's word.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit. My hope is in God's word.

4.

## **Gospel Reading** (see list of readings for the day)

Five minutes silent reflection on the readings...

## **Prayers**

For the world, the church, those who are ill, those who face death and those who are grieving.

*This response may be used between biddings*

Lord, meet us in the silence and hear our prayer

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
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 for ever. Amen.

5.

## **The Collect** (see list of readings for the day)

## **Conclusion**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.  
Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **Closing Prayer**

God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you have reconciled your people to yourself.  
As we follow his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we hold one another in holy love. Amen.

6.

