



Sunday 19th March 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Sophie May Kenny

THE GREETING

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn 350 For the beauty of the Earth

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

PENITENCE

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy and confess that we need forgiveness.

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.

Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

GLORIA

Glory to God,

Glory to God in excelsis Deo!

Glory to God,

Peace on earth in excelsis Deo!

THE COLLECT

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: Strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

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Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

First Reading: Exodus 2: 1-10

After the reading

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 34 v 11-20

¹¹Come, my children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

¹² **Whoever of you loves life**

and desires to see many good days,

¹³ keep your tongue from evil

and your lips from telling lies.

¹⁴ **Turn from evil and do good;**

seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are attentive to their cry;

¹⁶ **but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,**

to blot out their name from the earth.

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

he delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ **The Lord is close to the brokenhearted**

and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,

but the Lord delivers him from them all;

²⁰ **he protects all his bones,**

not one of them will be broken.

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Luke

Chapter 2, beginning at the 33rd verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE ADDRESS

Hymn 658 One more step along the World I go

The Presentation

We welcome Sophie May who has been brought to be baptised.

I invite her parents and godparents to present her now.

We present Sophie May to be baptised.

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Sophie May for baptism and answer on her behalf? By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage her in the life and faith of the Christian community?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism Sophie May begins her journey in faith.

You speak for her today. Will you care for her and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The minister says to the sponsors.

In baptism, God calls us from darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore, I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

The minister says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ. Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will support them.

The Baptism

Water is poured into the font.

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your Kingdom.

Thanks be to God.

And now we give you thanks that you have called Sophie May to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that she who is baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.

May she die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The minister shall ask the following questions of the parents and Godparents

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which Sophie May is to be baptised?

I do.

The minister addresses the congregation.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with the parents and Godparents, the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

Sophie May I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the child saying:

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of the cross.

Live as a disciple of Christ,
fight the good fight,
finish the race, keep the faith.
**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

The minister continues.

God has called you into his church.

The congregation joins the minister, saying

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

We are the body of Christ.
By one spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life together.

The minister says

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

The Prayers

Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mother's Union

as they seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship,

and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus name. **Amen**

Merciful God, in your infinite love you have made a new covenant with us in your son Jesus Christ, promising to be our God and the God of our children. Enable all who are baptised in your name to live as covenant people. Fulfil your promises for Sophie May we pray and grant that she may grow in your faith and service until her life's end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, bless the home of Sophie May and give such grace and wisdom to all who care for her that by their word and good example, they may teach her to know and love you, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray -

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing

May the Word of God- guide your footsteps,

May the Power of God – equip you for service,

May the Grace of God- constantly renew you

& May the Love of God- surround you always.

Hymn 611 Christ be beside me

The Dismissal.

The newly baptised Sophie May and the congregation are sent out with these words

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Material in this service from The Book of Common Prayer © RCB 2004

Readings

Exodus 2: 1-10

²Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, * ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out* of the water.’

Luke 2: 33-35

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’