

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 10.30am Morning Worship The fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 4 : 14 - 30

Welcome and introduction Prayer

## Song : What kind of man is this?

Young people leave for their groups

Confession

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults or wrongdoings, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in His abundant Grace. Therefore, I ask you to join me in saying the following words in bold type;

Gracious God, we confess that we have often failed to recognize your presence in our lives. We have been too busy with our own concerns to see the needs of others around us. We have been too focused on our own desires to hear your voice calling us to serve. We have been too quick to judge others and too slow to forgive. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to turn our hearts and minds to you. May we be open to your leading and willing to follow wherever you may lead us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Songs : A thousand times Everyone needs compassion

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

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. Bible Reading Luke 4 : 14 - 30

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. 'Isn't this Joseph's son?' they asked.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Surely you will quote this proverb to me: "Physician, heal yourself!" And you will tell me, "Do here in your home town what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.""

<sup>24</sup> 'Truly I tell you,' he continued, 'no prophet is accepted in his home town. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed – only Naaman the Syrian.'

<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Talk : The challenge of Grace

Songs : Over all the earth

## Affirmation of faith

We believe that God is always with us, even in the midst of difficult times.

We affirm that God is present in our lives, guiding us and protecting us from harm.

We trust in God's plan for our lives, even when we don't understand it.

We believe that God's love is stronger than any evil in the world, and that God will always be with us, no matter what happens.

We affirm that God is our refuge and strength, and that we can always turn to God for help and comfort. Amen.

Final prayer

Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.