

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Fareham

Lenten Vespers

St. Francis, Funtley

15 March 2012

7.30 pm

PSALM 132:8–18 (antiphon: v. 13)



- L** The LORD has chosen | Zion;*
he has desired it for his | dwelling place.
- C** Arise, O LORD, and go to your | resting
place,*
you and the ark | of your might.
- L** Let your priests be clothed
with | righteousness,*
and let your saints | shout for joy.
- C** For the sake of your servant | David,*
do not turn away the face of your
a- | nointed one.
- L** The LORD swore to David a sure oath from
which he will | not turn back:*
“One of the sons of your body I will
set | on your throne.
- C** If your sons keep my covenant and my
testimonies that I shall | teach them,*
their sons also forever shall sit | on your
throne.”
- L** For the LORD has chosen | Zion;*
he has desired it for his | dwelling place:
- C** “This is my resting place for- | ever;*
here I will dwell, for I have de- | sired it.
- L** I will abundantly bless her pro- | visions,*
I will satisfy her | poor with bread.
- C** Her priests I will clothe with sal- | vation,*
and her saints will | shout for joy.
- L** There I will make a horn to sprout for | David;*
I have prepared a lamp for my a- | nointed.
- C** His enemies I will | clothe with shame,*
but on him his | crown will shine.”
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now and will be forever. | Amen.
- L** The LORD has chosen | Zion;*
he has desired it for his | dwelling place.

OFFICE HYMN: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



1. God's own child, I glad - ly say it:
2. Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er:
3. Sat - an, hear this pro - clam - a - tion:



I am bap - tised in - to Christ!
I am bap - tised in - to Christ!
I am bap - tised in - to Christ!



He, be - cause I could not pay it,
I have com - fort ev - en strong - er:
Drop your ug - ly ac - cus - a - tion,



Gave my full re - demp - tion price.
Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice.
I am not so soon en - ticed.



Do I need earth's treas - ures ma - ny?
Should a guilt - y con - science seize me
Now that to the font I've trav - elled,



I have one worth more than a - ny
Since my Bap - tism did re - lease me
All your might has come un - rav - elled,



That brought me sal - va - tion free
In a dear for - giv - ing flood,
And, a - gainst your ty - ran - ny,



Last - ing to e - tern - i - ty!
Sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood!
God, my Lord, u - nites with me!

4. Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptised into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.

5. There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptised into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Erdmann Neumeister (1671–1756)

FIRST READING: Genesis 21:1–14

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ²And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” ⁷And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

⁸And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” ¹¹And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. ¹³And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:21–31

²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written, “Rejoice, O bar-

ren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.”²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.²⁹ But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.”³¹ So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

COLLECT

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CLOSING HYMN: Saviour, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

1. Saviour, again to Thy dear Name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease;
Then, lowly kneeling, wait Thy word of peace.
2. Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from
shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy Name.
3. Grant us Thy peace, through this approaching
night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
4. Grant us Thy peace—the peace Thou didst
bestow
On Thine Apostles in Thine hour of woe;
The peace Thou broughtest, when at eventide
They saw Thy piercèd hands, Thy wounded side.
5. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life;
Peace to Thy church from error and from strife;
Peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love;
Peace in each heart, Thy Spirit from above.
6. Thy peace in life, the balm of every pain;
Thy peace in death, the hope to rise again;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict
cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

John Ellerton (1826–93)