

¶ *The Presentation of the Four Texts*

4 **The Beatitudes – Blessings of the Gospel**

One of the following or other readings may be used

Isaiah 2.2-4; Isaiah 11.1-10; Ephesians 3.7-13; 2 Corinthians 8.9;
1 John 3.1-3; Revelation 21.22-27; Mark 4.30-32;

One of the following psalms may be used

Psalm 72.1-14; 87; 122

The minister addresses those who are disciples on the Way of faith

Brothers and sisters, listen carefully to these words from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In them he declares the blessings of God's kingdom. He gives us a vision of a world redeemed by love, and the qualities of discipleship which will bring about that transformation.

The Beatitudes are read from either Luke 6.20-23 or Matthew 5.3-10

Matthew 5.3-10

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.

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.

(or)

Luke 6.20-23

Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude you, revile you,
and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,
for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

The minister says

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**