

The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE FOURTH SUNDAY after Trinity



Hymn 1: Take my life, and let it be

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us now in power and mercy. May your strength overcome our weakness, your radiance transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw us to that love shown and offered to us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you have given us knowledge of your truth. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd leading us to life. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high;
Alleluia, to the Saviour who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.**

Collect: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Jeremiah

28. 5-9

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfil the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient

times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 89. 1-4, 15-18

Response: I will sing for ever of your steadfast love, O Lord.

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. (R)

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
"I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations." ' (R)

Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;
they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness. (R)

For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favour our horn is exalted.
For our shield belongs to the Lord,
our king to the Holy One of Israel. (R)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

6. 12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which

leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Speak to us, O Lord, You have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew

10. 40-42

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation:

When we look at today's gospel from Matthew, there appears to be something of a relay race. Whereas in a relay, runners pass the baton to each other, we hear today that Jesus is handing his baton on. He is sending his closest disciples to continue his own mission to both proclaim and put into practice the good news of the Kingdom of God. What a responsibility.

In this final passage of this chapter, Jesus sums up the whole purpose of their mission. The people who listen, those who welcome the good news, will receive a reward. Here is the main purpose of the mission, that those who are listening will know that the words spoken by the disciples come from God and that they too will be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven. Here we see a sequence almost like the handing on of a baton in a relay race. God reveals his word of love in Jesus, who passes the word to the disciples and the disciples pass it on to those who listen to them and welcome them into their lives.

Of course there are differences, between the model of the relay race and the reality of mission and evangelism. When we hand on the baton of God's love, we do not lose touch with it ourselves. Love, especially the love of God is something which can be kept and passed on. God's love flows through Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, the Church and through us as Christians and the lives of those who hear about it for the first time....and back to God in our worship.

In today's world, we are both disciples and runners. The baton passed to us is so special that we want all people to have a chance, no matter how small, to grasp it. As the original disciples were called to spread the good news of the kingdom of God and his love, we too are called to do the same. This is both a real privilege and also a responsibility. Talking is not enough – we need to be put it into practice. As we put good works into practice, we should also remember that nothing goes unseen by God. Jesus also desires for His followers to know that anything we do for others, we are doing it for Him. We are to see Jesus in each person we meet. Jesus cares deeply for every person and we are to do likewise. Kindness shown is valued by Christ not according to the cost of the gift but by the motivation of love and affection of the giver. Today we remember that Jesus did not only preach about the kingdom of heaven, he opened the door to it. Here in Jesus is the Word of God, his love in action so now we need to pass it on. Amen.

Intercessions:

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own churches; that the Church may be a beacon of light leading people to Christ. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; May the light which is Christ shine on the darkest places of the world transforming them with his love.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; may Christ be the star who leads us through life.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our parish intercession books; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled with the love of Christ.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace:

Jesus said, "Peace, I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The peace of God which is beyond all understanding guard your hearts in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 2. We have a gospel to proclaim.

**We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

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**Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suff'ring on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free;
He broke the pow'r of death and hell
that we might share his victory.**

**Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.**

**He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.**

**This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth**

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