

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE SECOND SUNDAY before LENT: CREATION SUNDAY



Hymn 1: Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,

- 1 Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,  
cleave the skies with shouts of praise;  
sing to him who found the ransom,  
Ancient of eternal Days,  
God of God, the Word incarnate,  
whom the heaven of heaven obeys.
- 2 Ere he raised the lofty mountains,  
formed the seas, or built the sky,  
love eternal, free, and boundless,  
moved the Lord of life to die,  
fore-ordained the Prince of princes  
for the throne of Calvary.
- 3 There, for us and our redemption,  
see him all his life-blood pour!  
There he wins our full salvation,  
dies that we may die no more;  
then, arising, lives for ever,  
reigning where he was before.
- 4 High on yon celestial mountains  
stands his sapphire throne, all bright,  
midst unending alleluias  
bursting from the saints in light;  
Zion's people tell his praises,  
victor after hard-won fight.

- 5 Bring your harps, and bring your incense,  
sweep the string and pour the lay;  
let the earth proclaim his wonders,  
King of that celestial day;  
he the Lamb once slain is worthy,  
who was dead, and lives for ay.
- 6 Laud and honour to the Father,  
laud and honour to the Son,  
laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One,  
consubstantial, co-eternal,  
while unending ages run.

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, mighty God and Prince of Peace. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, Word made flesh and splendour of the Father. **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:** Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

**1.1 - 2.3**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle

and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 136. 1-9 Response: For his steadfast love endures for ever.**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.  
O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures for ever.  
O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures for ever; **(R)**

who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever; the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures for ever; the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures for ever; **(R)**

## **A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans**

**8. 18-25**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew**

**6. 25-34**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

'This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ***Meditation:***

Today is not only the second Sunday before Lent but also Creation Sunday where we hear of all that God has made. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us not to worry about life – what we will eat, drink or wear but asks "Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" He responds to the question through comparison with the birds of the air who neither sow nor reap and of the lilies of the field who grow yet neither toil nor spin. But where do worry and anxiety fit into a living faith? We are so easily distracted from what really matters. Society encourages us to be distracted – we only need to look at the advertisements in the streets which inform us about things we may not need to know about or be given a sense of how our lives should be. It takes a degree of courage and insight to stand back from this pressure and sales psychology and hear Jesus saying, "Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing" and telling us to strive not for material items but for the kingdom of God and his righteousness. There are many things that worry us such as ill health and even though we have experts to treat us, the fear and worry can still remain. In the face of illness, we realise that whatever we may have achieved in terms of status, relationship or others, we may have no control over what happens to us. And Jesus still says, "Do not worry about your life. Your heavenly Father knows what you need but strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Jesus reminds his disciples that the God who takes so much care over making a flower beautiful and giving a bird wings will take much more care over each human being because we are worth so much more than flowers or birds. The simplicity of the lifespan of a flower will follow the pattern decreed for it, putting all its energy into growing and becoming what it is designed to be. Unlike flowers, we can choose how to grow and what path to follow. But we too will find our lives most fulfilled when we can grow to become the people God wants us to be. Today, Jesus is telling us not to get sidetracked nor waste our time worrying about all the things we need. Instead we are to strive for God's kingdom and his righteousness which means allowing God to rule in our lives rather than anyone or anything else. It means regularly asking ourselves, "What am I trying to achieve in the situation? Am I trying to please the world or am I trying to please God? If it is the former, we may as well return to worrying about how we are doing and what we need next. If it is God we want to please, we need to remember that he looks at us as unique individuals and that he knows and understands everything about us, we do not need to worry. Jesus has a planned way ahead for us that will bring real peace, a peace that is unshakable irrespective of what changes may come our way and in the world around us and as we seek God's will and God's way we will find that we are naturally working with him in bringing God's kingdom to the whole earth. 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:**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **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.**

### **Hymn 2. We have a gospel to proclaim.**

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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