

# The Order of Service for Home Worship



## THE SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

Hymn: Just as I am, without one plea.

Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears, within, without, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down,  
now to be thine and thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above, O Lamb of God, I come.

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.

**Heavenly Father, all hearts are open to you. No secrets are hidden from you. Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit that we may love and worship you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 is our hearts.

Lord Jesus, you reconcile us to one another and to the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Collect:** Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant that all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, may reject those things that are contrary to their baptism, and follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A reading from the book of Genesis.

**15. 1-12, 17, 18**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalms 27**

**Response: The Lord is the strong-hold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (R)

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh - my adversaries and foes - they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. (R)

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. (R)

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock. (R)

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord. (R)

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!  
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!' Your face, Lord, do I seek.  
Do not hide your face from me. (R)

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up. (R)

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. (R)

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (R)

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

**3.17 - 4.1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**13. 31-35**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation:**

As we think of today's Gospel, we notice that it begins with a warning from the Pharisees for Jesus about Herod's plan to kill him. When we read through the verses, we realise that it becomes a reflection on the nature of Jesus' life and mission followed by the tragic role of Jerusalem in the life of Jesus and other prophets. It is possible that these verses are an invitation for all Christians to reflect on the meaning of both the life and death of Jesus and also the role we play in his continuing ministry. When we read the gospels, we notice that the Pharisees are opposed to Jesus and also Jesus towards them. Irrespective of the purposes of the Pharisees and Herod, Jesus uses the threat to make clear the nature of his upcoming death as a part of his mission. Even though Jesus is going to die, it will have nothing to do with the threat of Herod, rather, his death is the completion of his present ministry, a ministry which he sees as "casting out demons and performing cures" with both being an important part of this ministry. Jesus adds that he will be doing these things "today and tomorrow" to reinforce that Herod has no control over him. When Jesus follows this statement about "today and tomorrow" by saying that "on the third day I finish my work" While the reference to "the third day" could refer to the resurrection the following verse makes it clear that it is his death that Jesus primarily has in mind through him saying: "Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem" Immediately following this statement describing Jerusalem as "the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to Jerusalem," we have the compassionate and agonized plea of Jesus longing to shelter the children of Israel in the same way a mother hen does for her brood Jesus ends with a recognition that Jerusalem will, at least for a moment, recognize him a reference to his triumphal entry on Palm Sunday. Throughout the season of Lent we are preparing ourselves to experience Jesus' suffering. Today's gospel calls us to do so by considering whether our lives lead appropriately to the cross. Moreover, if Jesus were to speak prophetically to us, what would his message be? How have we resisted God's messages and kingdom or have we recognized God's messages and kingdom, and how can we continue to do so? 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 ministry area; May your glory shine through your church to the dark places of the world.

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 glory Jesus enlighten the nations and bring peace where there is division and conflict.

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 the light of God's love shine through us into the lives of all we meet.

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 intercession books; relieve them according to their need, strengthen them with your Holy Spirit and console them 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; welcome them and all the departed into the eternal joy and peace of your heavenly kingdom.

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:

**Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for these holy mysteries given us by our Lord Jesus Christ, by which we receive your grace and are assured of your love, 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.**

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

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to him in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit.  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
**We should never be discouraged:**  
**take it to the Lord in prayer!**  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness –  
**take it to the Lord in prayer!**

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Jesus only is our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,  
thou wilt find a solace there.