

The Order of Service for Home Worship

PETER, APOSTLE



Hymn: Let saints on earth in concert sing.

1. Let saints on earth in concert sing
With those whose work is done;
For all the servants of our King
In heaven and earth are one.
2. One family, we dwell with him,
One Church, above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.
3. The people of the living God,
To his command we bow:
Part of the host have crossed the flood,
And part are crossing now.
4. E'en now to their eternal home
There pass some spirit's blessed;
While others to the margin come,
Waiting their call to rest.
5. Jesu, be thou our constant guide;
Then, when the word is giv'n.
Bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
And bring us safe to heaven.

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: Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Saint Peter to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God: build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

3. 22-27

Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you. So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people; and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD'; let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 125.

Response: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion that abides for ever.

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides for ever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time on and for evermore. (R)

For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous may not stretch out
their hands to do wrong. (R)

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts.
But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel! (R)

A reading from Book of Acts. 12. 1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Speak to us, O Lord, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew

16. 13-19

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: Today we celebrate the Feast of S. Peter the Apostle. During our Lent group this year we spent an evening discussing our thoughts of S. Peter who is one of the major and most interesting of characters in the Gospels. Peter was a complex man. From the moment that Jesus called Peter to follow him he was constantly at Jesus side. He was present on the Mount of Transfiguration where he, with James and John, witnessed the glory of God in Christ Jesus. He was present with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was arrested. Peter was impulsive, he often spoke without thinking. He was the first to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah as we read in today's Gospel, but at times, when his faith was tested, Peter faltered. Three times, following Jesus' arrest Peter denied even knowing Jesus – an action he immediately regretted bitterly. It might seem surprising to us, then, that Jesus chose Peter to lead the Church following his ascension, his return in glory to take his seat at the right hand of the Father in heaven. In the Gospel reading today, on the road to Caesarea Philippi Jesus is talking with his disciples. He is curious and he asks them, "Who do people say that I am?" Then he asks them, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter is the first to reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus then appoints Peter to lead the apostles telling Peter, "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." Jesus goes further telling Peter, "I will give you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven," and giving Peter the authority to forgive sins in his name, telling him, "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed

in heaven. After the events of Pentecost Peter is the first to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the crowds. He is recognised as first among the apostles and he leads the efforts to share the good news and to build the infant church. He is, with Paul, one of the leading figures of the Church throughout the Acts of the Apostles, eventually becoming the first Bishop of Rome, the first Pope. Peter was eventually martyred in Rome during the persecution of Christians under the Emperor Nero, when he was crucified, head down. This man, chosen by Jesus, to lead his Church, is a man with whom we can easily identify. He can recognise and empathise with his shortcomings, in many ways he is a man no different from us, impulsive at times, entirely undependable at other times. Yet we can draw great encouragement and inspiration from the strength of his faith, his ultimate courage leading the apostles in the great mission to make the name of Jesus known throughout the world to the point of following Jesus to death on the cross. In choosing Peter to lead his Church, Jesus shows us that he can call anyone into his service. In our day he has called us and so whenever anyone asks us about faith, or asks us "Who is Jesus?" let us answer without hesitation as Peter answered them on the road to Caesarea Philippi, "He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 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 they follow the example of Peter in bringing the Good News of Christ to all the world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression among them the people of the Ukraine and of Israel, Gaza and Iran, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; May the leaders of the nations be led by the Spirit to bring peace and hope where there is conflict and despair.

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; following the example of Peter may we bring the love of God to all in need among whom we live.

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:

We are all citizens with the saints and belong to the family of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who came and preached peace to those who were far away and to those who were near.

The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water; refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

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

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Jerusalem the golden.

1. **Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest.
Beneath thy contemplation sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O, I know not what joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.**
2. **They stand, those halls of Sion, all jubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel, and all the martyr throng;
The Prince is ever with them, the daylight is serene,
The pastures of the blessed are decked in glorious sheen.**
3. **There is the throne of David; and there from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast;
And they, who with their Leader have conquered in the fight,
For ever and for ever are clad in robes of white.**
4. **O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect!
Jesu, in mercy bring us to that dear land of rest;
Who art, with God the Father and Spirit, ever blest.**