

The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE FIFTH SUNDAY *of* EASTER



Hymn: The Lord has Risen Indeed.

1. The Lord is risen indeed:
Now is his work performed;
Now is the mighty captive freed,
And death's strong castle stormed.
2. The Lord is risen indeed:
Then hell has lost his prey;
With him is risen the ransomed seed
To reign in endless day.
3. The Lord is risen indeed:
He lives, to die no more;
He lives, the sinners cause to plead,
Whose curse and shame he bore.
4. The Lord is risen indeed:
Attending angels, hear!
Up to the courts of heaven with speed
The joyful tidings bear.
5. Then take your golden lyres
And strike each cheerful chord;
Join, all ye bright celestial choirs,
To sing our risen Lord.

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 raise the dead to life in the Spirit. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you give light to those who live in darkness. **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 through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, 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 Acts of the Apostles.

11. 1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea,

arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 1-6

Response: Praise the Lord for his glory is above all heav'n and earth.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host! (R)

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens! (R)

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. (R)

A reading from the book of Revelation.

21. 1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said,

'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"I give you a new commandment," says the Lord. "That you love one another."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.

13. 31-35

Glory to you, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: In our Gospel reading today we are taken back to the Last Supper. At the meal in the upper room Jesus warns his friends that he will be with them only a little longer. Judas has just left the room to go and betray him and Jesus knows what lies ahead. Speaking to his friends he says, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified" Jesus knows that the Father will glory him, the Son of Man, in his death on the cross and in his resurrection which will follow three days later. As the disciples sat with Jesus around the table he prepares them for the time when he will no longer be with them. He calls on them to remain faithful to him and to the ways of God which he has taught them. He gives them a new commandment. "Love one another," he tells them. "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Jesus is reminding us that the source of all love is God, for God is love. The love we share with our loved ones, our families and friends, the love we share as brothers and sisters in Christ, worshipping together as one fellowship, is itself a share in the love which God our Father has for us, divine love revealed to us in the life, death and resurrection of his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is when we show love for one another that we witness to the love of God to those around us. "By this," says Jesus "everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Here Jesus reveals the fundamental truth of what is the calling of the Christian disciple. The vocation of

every Christian, the vocation that each of us, at our baptism and confirmation, pledged to make the foundation of our lives is the vocation to love. The good news is that Jesus has chosen us to continue his work of bringing the love of God to a world in need of the healing, hope and peace that only God can give. Throughout his life Jesus welcomed all with the love of God. He demonstrated time and time again that there is no hierarchy to love, no-one deserves love more than another. We are called to live our lives with open and generous hearts, to always look for the good in everyone we meet. We are called to welcome everyone in love, to love the stranger, the refugee, and those in desperate need overseas as much as we love our own families, friends and neighbours closer to home. This is the lesson of the parable of the Good Samaritan. We are not to judge who is “worthy” of help because all, the world over, are our neighbours. At the basic level the only failure facing any Christian in life is the failure to love. In the Gospel Jesus invites us to look deep into our hearts and examine how we are answering this call to love in our daily lives and within our families. The real test of love is how we respect others. It is in the love that we show to all others that we bear witness to the love of God for all his people, it is in the love we share with family, friends and neighbours that others will know we are his disciples. It is in loving others that we help build God’s kingdom of love and peace on earth. In the Gospel Jesus makes it clear - no-one can be a friend of Jesus who does not love their neighbour, everyone, equally. 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 people grow in mutual love so that all may know that we are your disciples.

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 the Yemen, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; may the power of the risen Christ bring peace where there is conflict and reconciliation where there is division.

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 we witness to the risen

Christ in our daily lives, bringing your love and peace to all with whom we share our lives.

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:

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, “Peace be with you!” They were overjoyed on seeing the Lord. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing:

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

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life 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: Love Divine, all Loves Excelling.

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus thou, art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Come almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.