The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE THIRD SUNDAY *of* THE KINGDOM



Hymn 1: Be thou my guardian and my guide.

1. **Be thou my guardian and my guide,**
   And hear me when I call;
   Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
   And hold me lest I fall.
2. **The world, the flesh and Satan dwell**
   Around the path I tread;
   O save me from the snares of hell,
   Thou quick'ner of the dead.
3. **And if I tempted am to sin,**
   And outward things are strong,
   Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
   And save my soul from sin.
4. **Still let me ever watch and pray**
   And feel that I am frail;
   That if the tempter cross my way,
   Yet he may not prevail.

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 show 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 into 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: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Zephaniah **1. 7, 12-18**

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such

distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90. 1-8
Response: Let the favour of the Lord, the Lord our God, be upon us.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **(R)**

You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals,'
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night. **(R)**

You sweep them away: they are like a dream,
Like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers. **(R)**

For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance **(R)**

A reading from the first letter of S. Paul to the Thessalonians 5. 1-11
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesus is Lord! The King of all Creation. He brings Good News of eternal life.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew. 25. 14-30
Glory to you, O Lord.
'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation: Today we continue our celebration of the Kingdom Season as we give thanks to God that, as the collect prayer reminds us, through his Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father has adopted us as his children and given us the sure hope of eternal life in his glorious Kingdom as members of his great fellowship, the Communion of Saints. The collect prayer also asks God to purify us that we made be made worthy of this great promise. In the Gospel reading today Jesus tells his disciples and he tells us of some of the responsibilities bestowed on us as members of God's family. Jesus tells the parable of the talents reminding us that God has given each of us special talents for us to use in h service. Each of the talents he has given us, we are to use collectively to sustain and grow his Kingdom on earth, made visible in the life of the Church, and to proclaim the Good News of his saving love for all people. And Jesus makes clear in the parable of the talents that we are each accountable to God for the way that we put the talents he has given us to good use. And so as we give thanks to God who calls us his children and promises us a place at his side for all time so we may live our lives as faithful disciples.

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; that the Church may faithfully lead God's people in the way of 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; We pray especially for the people of the Holy Land and the Middle East and for the people of the Ukraine. May there be peace where there is conflict and hope where there is 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; may we welcome all who come to live among us who have been displaced through conflict and terror.
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 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; 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:
God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through 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 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 2: Lead us, Heavenly Father, Lead us.

1. **Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us**
   O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
   Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
   For we have no help but thee;
   Yet possessing every blessing
   If our God our Father be.

2. **Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,**
   All our weakness thou dost know,
   Thou didst tread this earth before us,
   Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
   Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
   Through the desert thou didst go.

3. **Spirit of our God, descending,**
   Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
   Love with every passion blending,
   Pleasure that can never cloy;
   Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
   Nothing can our peace destroy.

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