

The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE THIRD SUNDAY of THE KINGDOM -



Hymn 1. Christ is made the Sure Foundation.

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.
2. To this temple, where we call you,
Come, O Lord, of hosts, today;
You have promised loving kindness,
Hear your servants as we pray,
Bless your people now before you,
Turn our darkness into day.
3. Hear the cry of all your people,
What they ask and hope to gain;
What they gain with you, for ever
With your chosen to retain,
And hereafter in your glory
Evermore with you to reign.
4. Praise and honour to the Father,
Praise and honour to the Son,
Praise and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and One in glory,
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 is 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 prophet Malachi

4. 1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of the Lord.

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory. **(R)**

The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast
love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. (R)

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. (R)

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. (R)

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. (R)

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians 3. 6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

'for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict'.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.**

21. 5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.' They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them. 'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. 'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation *As the Churches year draws to an end, Jesus, in our Gospel reading today directs our thoughts toward the time when his Kingdom will be established in all its fullness and glory. Jesus paints a picture of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem warning his disciples, "nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various place, there will be famines." The picture of the world which Jesus paints is one that seems familiar to us, yet Jesus tells us: these conflicts and natural disasters must happen as the Kingdom of God is established in the world. Ever since Jesus returned to claim his throne in the glory of heaven through his glorious Ascension his followers have been looking for his coming again in glory. Of course, as Jesus tells us elsewhere in the Gospels, we do not know the exact time when he will return, we live in expectation and hope. But we do not wait alone. Jesus promise to be with us always is fulfilled in the presence of the Holy Spirit, which dwells within each of us, drawing us closer to God and enabling us to live our lives as faithful disciples of Christ. Jesus knew that it would not always be easy for us to follow his ways, to live lives of love, in an often hostile or indifferent world. We will, Jesus tells*

us face opposition, betrayal or more often for us indifference to the Good News from those among whom we live. Such reactions are signs of the coming of the Kingdom. The eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ was born through the horrors and violence of the Cross which made possible the resurrection to new life and Jesus is warning us that as we follow the way of the cross, the pain that can bring will herald a new dawn as the Kingdom of God in all its glory is established throughout the world bring peace, love and security to all people..

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 in building his kingdom on earth.

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 Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and the Sudan. 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 love and serve the Lord and our neighbours as he loves us.

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 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:

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: Blessed are the pure in heart.

- 1. Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.**
- 2. The Lord who left the heavens
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with us,
Our pattern and our King.**
- 3. Still to the lowly soul
He doth himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooseth the poor in heart.**
- 4. Lord, we thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for thee.**