The Order of Service for Home Worship

Bible Sunday



Hymn 1: Thou, whose almighty word.

1. **Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard,**
   And took their flight;
   Hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day
   Sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

2. **Thou, who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing,**
   Healing and sight,
   Health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,
   O now to all mankind let there be light.

3. **Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy Dove,**
   Speed forth thy flight;
   Move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,
   And in earth's darkest place let there be light.

4. **Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity,**
   Wisdom, Love, Might;
   Boundless in ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride,
   Through the earth far and wide let there be light.

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: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus 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 Nehemiah **8. 1-4a, 8-12**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.So, they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go

your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119. 9-16
Response: Lead me, O Lord in the path of your commands

How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.
I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. **(R)**

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth,
I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all your word. **(R)**

I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. **(R)**

A reading from the letter of S. Paul to the Colossians 3. 12-17
As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew. 24. 30-35
Glory to you, O Lord.
Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation: This week we give thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God. The words of Holy Scriptures bear witness, first and foremost, to Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Holy Scriptures detail for us the history of the relationship between God and his people from the very beginning to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and the emergence of God's holy Church on earth. In the writings of the Bible we encounter the God who created us, his voice speaks to us as he spoke to those who wrote the scriptures. The Holy Scriptures are our companion in life. In them we walk and talk with Jesus, we hear his voice encouraging us onwards, lifting us when we fall, even admonishing us when we fall short of his teachings. We can carry the scriptures with us when we are alone and we read and hear them with friends when we come together in worship. As members of the family of God in the words of scripture we find ourselves among friends. We can bond with the characters we encounter in both the Old and New Testaments as they become our companions on our journey through life. In reading Holy Scripture we find a renewed sense of what it is to be a part of God's family, a renewed sense of belonging to God and of being loved by God so much that he sent his only Son to share our lives and to die on the cross that we might share his glorious risen life for all eternity. Through his words revealed to us in Scripture our heavenly Father inspires us and assures us of his love and concern for us. In Jesus Christ our heavenly Father reveals himself to us and

calls us to be faithful to him. In our collect prayer this week we thank God for the gift of the Holy Scriptures, written for our learning. Let us pray for a renewed enthusiasm to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them" that we might know his comfort, his encouragement and his strength in our own lives. For the message of Holy Scripture is that Christ, who led us through death on the cross to the new life of his resurrection will lead us through the joys, sorrows and challenges of this life to our eternal home in heaven.

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 in obedience to your Holy Word the Church may reach out and embrace all in the love and peace which only Christ can give.
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; that the leaders of the world, led by the Holy Spirit, may be united in purpose in securing a sustainable, secure and peaceful future for all your people.
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; that guided by your Holy Word we may love our neighbours as God love 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 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; 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 Lord, thy word abideth.

1. **Lord, thy word abideth,**
   And our footsteps guideth;
   Who its truth believeth
   Light and joy receiveth.

2. **When our foes are near us,**
   Then thy word doth cheer us,
   Word of consolation,
   Message of salvation.

3. **When the storms are o'er us,**
   And dark clouds before us,
   Then its light directeth,
   And our way protecteth.

4. **Who can tell the pleasure,**
   Who recount the treasure,
   By thy word imparted
   To the simple-hearted?

5. **Word of mercy, giving**
   Succour to the iving;
   Word of life, supplying
   Comfort to the dying.

6. **O that we, discerning**
   Its most holy learning,
   Lord, may love and fear thee,
   Evermore be near thee,

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