

The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY of
EASTER -

Sunday after Ascension Day



Hymn: : Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

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.

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.

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

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 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: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles. 1. 6-14

So, when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes

stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68. 1-10

Response: Our God is a God of salvation.

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. (R)

But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy. Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides up on the clouds –
his name is the Lord - be exultant before him. (R)

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.
God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity
but the rebellious live in a parched land. (R)

O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel. (R)

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
your flock found a dwelling in it,
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. (R)

A reading from the first letter of Peter

4. 12-14; 5. 6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

to God.

Thanks be

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! "All mine are yours, and yours are mine," says the Lord, "and I have been glorified in them."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

17. 1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of

those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O

Christ.

Meditation:

The opening words of the Gospel of John are those of the revelation, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we saw his glory." Today, we are in the privileged position of being able to hear the prayer of Jesus – one of the final prayers for his loyal followers. By Jesus dedicating himself to his Father, he reveals his identity for us. The glory Jesus asks for is the cross which for Jesus, will be the gateway to eternal life which shows that what the world sees as a defeat is actually a triumph. Jesus taught his disciples through a life of service and love and through this they have learned how to follow him. As Jesus prepares to leave them, he places them in the hands of the Father where they can share in the promised eternal life. We are told that to remain faithful to Jesus, we need to build a loving relationship with our Father - the Father who is not the distant person some may have imagined but rather is the one who loved us into being and awaits our turning back to him. Jesus knows his followers are still in the world but following the triumph of the cross they now walk in the light of the resurrection. In the prayer we heard today, we discover the identity of our Lord, who dedicates us to the Father, and we also see our own identity as Christ becomes our gateway to the Father. As we live in relationship with him and with each other, we become his adopted brothers and sisters. We live in a world where the Easter message is not accepted by all people. As Christians, it is up to us to live out our faith and tell those around us that Christ is risen. The question may be asked, "How can we do that?" The answer is that the Spirit of Pentecost gives us the strength to do this. In addition, it is also encouraging to hear that we have been entrusted to our loving Father in this way. Each of us belongs to a community of faith and who we are is brought home to us as we gather to both hear and tell others of God's love for all people. Whatever our weaknesses are, we know that the Father is close to us and we are offered the chance of eternal life. 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 the Church faithfully proclaim the risen Christ, the sure ground for hope in the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression in conflicts around the world, 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 Giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the
world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission and help us to
live the good news we proclaim; 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. **Amen.**

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

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: We have a gospel to proclaim.

1. **We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**
2. **Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**
3. **Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suff'ring on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.**
4. **Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free;
He broke the pow'r of death and hell
that we might share his victory.**
5. **Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.**
6. **Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth**

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