The Order of Service for Home Worship

Luke, Evangelist



Hymn Fight the good fight with all thy might

1. **Fight the good fight with all thy might;**
   Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
   Lay hold on life, and it shall be
   Thy joy and crown eternally.

2. **Run the straight race through God's good grace,**
   Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
   Life with its way before us lies,
   Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3. **Cast care aside, lean on thy guide,**
   His boundless mercy will provide;
   Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
   Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

4. **Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,**
   He changeth not, and thou art dear.
   Only believe, and thou shalt see
   That Christ is all in all to thee.

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: Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah **35. 3-6**
Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147. 1-7.

Response: It is good to sing praises to our God.

Praise the LORD! How good it is
to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious,
and a song of praise is fitting.
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds. (R)

He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure. **(R)**

The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre. **(R)**

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Timothy. 4. 5-17

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
"The kingdom of God has come near to you."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Luke. 10. 1-9
Glory to you, O Lord.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation:

Today we give thanks for St Luke the Evangelist - physician, companion of St Paul, and faithful witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. At first glance ,Luke, is a rather unlikely figure to leave such a monumental mark of the Christian faith. He was a Gentile, a physician and a historian rather than one of the original twelve apostles who walked with Jesus on the dust roads of Galilee Luke is traditionally called "the beloved physician." That title reveals something important about his understanding of Jesus and there is something deeply pastoral about a doctor writing a Gospel. A

physician knows what it means to look at a wound, to sit with the feverish, to touch the untouchable and to care for the broken body without flinching. More than any other Evangelist, Luke has a special, relentless heartbeat for the poor, the outcast and the forgotten. Christ is the healer of the whole person. He heals bodies, forgives sins, restores dignity and welcomes those whom society has pushed aside. The poor, the sick, women, foreigners and sinners are not placed at the edges of Luke's account instead they are brought into the centre of God's mercy. The mission of the seventy is so fitting for Luke's feast as Jesus sends his disciples into towns and villages with a simple commission: offer peace, heal the sick and proclaim that the kingdom of God has come near. We notice that Jesus sends the disciples two by two as Christian mission is not meant to be a solitary enterprise. We need companions who will encourage us, correct us and pray with us. Even Luke, for all his gifts, travelled as a companion of Paul. Jesus also says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few." These words remain true. Around us are people longing for peace, meaning, forgiveness and hope. We catch a final poignant glimpse of Luke in the second reading from Timothy. Paul is in a Roman prison, cold and awaiting his end. Friends have scattered. Demas, who was a companion and fellow worker of Paul, has fallen in love with the present world and left. And yet, Paul writes these quiet, steadfast words, "Only Luke is with me." Luke stayed. The doctor who wrote about healing did not just pen words about compassion, he lived it out on a cold prison floor in Rome, keeping company with a condemned apostle. The seventy that Jesus sent were ordinary disciples. They were sent into ordinary places to make God's extraordinary mercy visible. We too are sent - into our homes, workplaces, schools and communities. Our witness need not begin with many words. It may begin by noticing the person others overlook, visiting someone who is lonely, forgiving an old injury, caring for someone who is ill or speaking hope to someone who is afraid. Such actions do not replace the proclamation of Christ; they give it flesh. Luke's own ministry joined truth with compassion. As an evangelist, he told the story of salvation and as a physician, he understood human frailty. So today, let us thank God for St Luke, and let us ask for grace to follow his example: to know Christ more deeply, to tell his story faithfully and to carry his healing mercy into a wounded world. The harvest is still plentiful. The Lord still sends his disciples. And the kingdom of God has come near.
Amen

I**ntercessions:**
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 be faithful to its calling of bringing the Good News of Christ to all the world, promoting reconciliation where there is division.
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; May the leaders of the nations be led by the Spirit to bring peace and hope where there is conflict and 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 bring the sustaining love of God to all in need among whom we live.
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:
Blessed are those who make peace; they shall be called God's children. 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 led us to the living water; refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey in the name of 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 2: We have a gospel to proclaim.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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