

Order of Service for Home Worship

St. David's Day



Hymn 1: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give 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.

Heavenly Father, all hearts are open to you. No secrets are hidden from you. Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit that we may love and worship you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 were sent to heal the contrite. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners. Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you plead with us at the right hand of the Father. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Collect: God our Father, you gave Saint David to the people of Wales to uphold the faith: encouraged by his example, may we joyfully hold fast to the things which lead to eternal life; 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 Sirach

15. 1-6

Whoever fears the Lord will do this, and whoever holds to the law will obtain wisdom. She will come to meet him like a mother, and like a young bride she will welcome him. She will feed him with the bread of learning and give him the water of wisdom to drink. He will lean on her and not fall, and he will rely on her and not be put to shame. She will exalt him above his neighbours and will open his mouth in the midst of the assembly. He will find gladness and a crown of rejoicing and will inherit an everlasting name.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16. 3, 5-8

Response: In your presence, O Lord, there is fullness of joy,

As for the holy ones in the land,
they are the nobles, in whom is all my delight. **(R)**

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places,
I have a goodly heritage. **(R)**

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be
moved. **(R)**

A reading from the Paul's letter the Thessalonians. 2. 2b-12

We had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

“If you want to follow me,” says the Lord, “Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.”

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew. 16. 24-27
Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: As we continue our journey through the season of Lent we encounter Jesus talking with his disciples. He tells them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Jesus is telling us that in order to follow him we have to make his ways our ways, to live and build our lives on the principles of love and service which he taught and showed throughout his life and ministry and which eventually brought him to the cross. In following Jesus we are called to grow daily more like him, to put his teaching ahead of our own instincts and inclinations, to rid ourselves of intolerance and prejudice, to allow him to replace our cold hearts of stone with warm loving, generous and charitable hearts. This will not be easy, the challenges we face are the crosses we are called to take up as we follow him. S. David, our national patron Saint, whom we commemorate today, gives us a wonderful example to inspire us on our way. David was a monk and Bishop who lived in the 6th century. He lived in Pembrokeshire but was well known throughout the celtic world, in Ireland, Cornwall and Brittany. He established a monastery at Menevia, the modern day city of S. Davids. Life in David’s monastery was particularly austere. Each day was built around prayer, study and manual labour sustained by a diet of bread, vegetables and water. David devoted himself to works of mercy and teaching. At the Synod of Brevi his preaching was so effective that with the consent of all, we are told, he was acclaimed as an Archbishop. The famous final words of S. David to his followers serve as an encouragement to us. “Be faithful in the small things,” he told them. Be faithful in prayer, in study of the scriptures and in your work, Small acts of charity and mercy mean so much, not only to the person we help but to ourselves. In being generous of heart, even in small ways, sees us grow in the likeness of Christ, we become more like him, loving and serving our neighbours, not just ourselves. David knew what Jesus meant when he said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” He did it every day of his life and encouraged the members of his community to do the same.

As our Patron Saint, he speaks his words to us. As we journey through Lent, as we seek to follow Jesus and walk with him at our side each day let us hear again the inspirational words of S. David and take them to heart as we seek to follow Jesus, “Be faithful in the little things.” 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; that the Church, following the example of S. David may worship God faithfully and serve only him.

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 at this time for the people of Ukraine The Holy Land and the Sudan; that peace may be restored where there is conflict and relief be brought to all who struggle.

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; Help us to be faithful in the little things, prayer and service, that we may follow in the way of Christ.

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.**

Let us 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:

Almighty God, awaken in us the zeal of your servant David that we may follow you in singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him 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: Love Divine, all Loves Excelling.

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus thou, art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Come almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.