The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY



Hymn 1 Faithful Shepherd, feed me.

1. **Faithful Shepherd, feed me**
   in the pastures green;
   faithful Shepherd lead me
   where thy steps are seen.

2. **Hold me fast, and guide me**
   in the narrow way;
   so, with thee beside me,
   I shall never stray.

3. **Daily bring me nearer**
   to the heavenly shore;
   may my faith grow clearer,
   may I love thee more.

4. **Hallow every pleasure,**
   every gift and pain;
   be thyself my treasure,
   though none else I gain.

5. **Day by day prepare me**
   as thou seest best,
   then let angels bear me
   to thy promised rest.

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: O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah **25. 1-9**

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore, strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued

the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23.
Response:

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. **(R)**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff – they comfort me. **(R)**

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **(R)**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. **(R)**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians 4. 1-9
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew. 22. 1-14
Glory to you, O Lord.
Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king

said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation:

I am sure many of us have either been invited to a party or get together or invited people to an event that we have planned. We hope that if people are unable to attend, they inform the host so that he/she knows who is able and who is unable to attend. As we know, not all events run smoothly and people, without any advance warning, simply do not turn up or make an excuse not to attend and then at the other end of the spectrum there is the gate crasher who turns up without an invite!!! In today’s Gospel reading, we see Jesus, using a parable, too speak of the Kingdom of God as a party. Some people who were invited did not attend, others did not take it seriously and made excuses to do their thing and finally there were those who appear to be insulted at having received an invite that they assaulted those who came to fetch them. There must have been something about this party that made people feel as if they did not want to go. There are many occasions in the Bible where Jesus uses the image of a welcoming feast to represent the Kingdom of God. In this parable we notice how Jesus emphasis God’s anger at being rejected through the host in the parable being annoyed with those who did not come and the man who wore was not wearing wedding robes was thrown out. So what can we learn from this parable. Jesus is teaching us not to be complacent. God will offer us a place in his kingdom and as Isaiah said in the Old Testament reading, God will fulfil our needs, wipe away our tears, and remove our guilt and shame. God invites each of us to his banquet but not just to take our seat. He wants us to prepare it with him and to begin the work of building his kingdom in both our lives and the world. When we think of the man who was thrown out of the feast, St Augustine suggests that it may be that the garment which he lacks is love. The wedding garment is a symbol – that to enter the kingdom of God we need to have a change of heart and say sorry for all our wrongdoings. This repentance is not to be a five-minute wonder but to be continuous throughout our lives of love and compassion. Many of us have heard the words, God is love and sometimes there is a chance that we may use the words as an excuse for not living out those words and bringing God’s love to the people we meet each and every day – either in work, the community or in our leisure time. If we have occasions when we behave in this manner then we can be likened to the man without the wedding garment. As individuals, we are each given the opportunity to make our own choices in our lives with some choices having consequences. This parable teaches us that how we respond to God’s invitation is so important – as people of faith and people of the party let us make sure we do our best to make the invitation clear. 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 may faithfully work with Christ to proclaim the saving love of God to the world.
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 nation’s follow the Lord in the ways of justice and peace.
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 persevere in the ways of Christ bringing hope and peace to those in need around 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; 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:
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:
Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **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: . What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to him in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit.
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness –
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus only is our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,
thou wilt find a solace there.

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