

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY



Hymn 1: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 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 Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 Jonah

**3.10 - 4.11**

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out

of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so, Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalms 145. 1-8**

**Response: I will bless you and praise you for ever. My God and King**

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will bless you and praise your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, his greatness is unsearchable. (R)

One generation shall laud your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendour of your majesty,

and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. (R)

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,

and I will declare your greatness.

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,

and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. (R)

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all

and his compassion is over all that he has made. (R)

### **A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians**

**1. 21-30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between

the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

"The last will be first," says the Lord, and the first shall be last."

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew**

**20. 1-16**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So, they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed

to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So, the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Meditation:**

Today's Gospel teaches us about fairness in all our actions, irrespective of whether they are thought, said or done. However, it is not only adults who see the unfairness of various situation – how many times have we heard a child say, "It's not fair." There are many reasons why a child may not see things as fair –one example is perhaps they do not agree with their parents on bedtime, the list is endless. Fairness seems to be built into our human nature, a sense that the world should be a fair place which often it is not. In addition, human beings sense that they have the right to protest if things are not fair. The labourers who have done "a heavy day's work in all the heat" complain because others have received the same wage for working only one hour. This idea of paying all workers the same wage seems to be so unfair, particularly when the last are paid first. Yet one denarius is a just wage for a day's work and that was the wage that they had originally agreed upon. We can see that the employer has been moved with compassion for the unemployed people he found in the marketplace therefore out of the genuine concern for them and their families he pays them a wage that is not proportionate to the work they did but proportionate to their needs.

As we heard, the employer's actions do not go down well with everyone. The parable focuses on two attitudes – jealousy and generosity. Jealousy is demonstrated by the first workers in the vineyard. However understandable their sense of grievance, their feelings of injustice do not take into account the needs of the workers who came later in the day to feed not only themselves but also their families. Their envy of the good fortune of others is disappointing and contrasts with the generosity of the landowner whose actions are intended to demonstrate God's compassion and generosity towards all people. Jesus tells the story about the vineyard labourers in order to teach us something about God's kingdom and something about ourselves and the society in which we live. Are we able to recognise ourselves in this parable, where the attitudes of jealousy and generosity are contrasted? Would we be complaining as the labourers who were employed in the morning complained or would we be deeply grateful like the labourers employed towards the end of the day? Would we appreciate a generous employer even if others appear to be reaping more benefit?

In the society in which we live, it is presumed that those who have a good start in life, those who are influential and well educated, either receive more or have more

opportunities. God's arithmetic is different as we are being told that the kingdom of heaven is about God's abundance and God's indiscriminate generosity to all people. Experiencing God's benevolence transforms who we are and the way we see our lives. We can recognise the blessings given to us. We can take joy in our homes, our daily bread, our schools, our jobs, the people who care for us and even the blessings in the challenge we face. Too often people complain that their earnings should be more than someone else, question why other people are more talented or gifted than themselves, sometimes why's and wherefores are hard to understand but in fact everything is a gift from God. We are called to be thankful for what we have and not complain about what we have not been given. 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 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 among them the people of the Ukraine, the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster, for the people of Nepal and Tibet 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.**

- 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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