

The Order of Service for Home Worship

The Third Sunday in Lent.



Hymn: How Sweet the name of Jesus sounds.

1. How sweet the sound of Jesus sounds
In a believers ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast.
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.
3. Dear name! the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding-place,
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.
4. Jesus! My shepherd, brother, friend,
My prophet, priest and king,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.
5. Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.
6. Till then I would thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy name
Refresh my soul in death.

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 is 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: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 prophet Isaiah. (55. 1-9)

Lo, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63: 1-8 Response: My soul thirsts for you, O God as in a dry and weary land.

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call upon your name. **R/**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
And my mouth praises you with joyful lips
When I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
For you have been my help,
And in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. **R/**

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. (10. 1-13)

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. "Worship the Lord your God", says the Lord.
"Serve only him." **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke. (13: 1-9)

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these

Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: *Self-examination is an important part of our Lenten discipline as we prepare to celebrate the saving acts of Jesus during Holy Week. Reflecting on the betrayal of Jesus and his subsequent crucifixion brings into sharp focus our own culpability, the ways in which each day we betray him and help bring him to the cross by acting and speaking in ways which are contrary to his way, his teaching. Lent is a time when we are called to look deeply into our own lives and how we live as his disciples. It is a time to ask ourselves how do others see the love of Jesus when they encounter us each day. It is not something that we like to do, it can be difficult to accept that sometimes we act in a less than Christ-like way. We can feel uncomfortable, embarrassed. The temptation that we can so easily give in to think that we are not as bad as others. It is this temptation that Jesus is speaking about in our Gospel Reading today. 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? Jesus asks those around him. He gives the answer immediately, No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.' For Jesus being in a state of sin is not about the seriousness of the sin, being in a state of sin means being separated from God because of our disobedience to his word and what we might consider to be the smallest and most insignificant of sins will cause a separation between us and God. The only way for us to come back into fellowship with God is to repent and resolve to do our utmost to follow the way of Jesus in future. The good news which Jesus brings us today comes in the second part of our Gospel reading. Jesus tells the parable of the gardener who pleads for the fruitless fig tree to be given another year before it is cut down. The fig tree is an illustration of ourselves, so often falling short of the teachings of Jesus, yet Jesus is the gardener, who tends us with his love. Jesus is the gardener who interceded for us constantly in heaven and who pleads for us to be given another change, a new start. When we come to him in a spirit of repentance Jesus embraces us in his love, lifts us up wiping the slate clean and setting us on our way once again. During Lent we are called to heed once again the call in our first reading from Isaiah, "seek the Lord while he may be found!" The way to seek the Lord is through self-examination. The wonderful news that Jesus brings is that God's mercy*

is infinite, he will always welcome the penitent with love. As Isaiah tells us those who come to back to God will drink and feast on the richest food – his Holy Word and the Sacraments of the Church, where we encounter Jesus in the most intimate ways possible in this life. As we hear again the call to self-examination and repentance the words of Isaiah ring in our ears, “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. 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; keep the Church faithful to your Word, free us from all that keeps us from you.

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; bless the nations with the healing waters of your love, 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; Give us generous and loving hearts towards 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:

We beseech you, almighty God, look upon the heartfelt desires of your humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; 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: 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.**

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