The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE SECOND SUNDAY of THE KINGDOM
Remembrance Sunday



Hymn 1: O God our help in ages past.

1. **O God, our help in ages past,**
   Our hope for years to come,
   Our shelter from the stormy blast,
   And our eternal home.
2. **Beneath the shadow of thy throne,**
   Thy saints have dwelt secure.
   Sufficient is thine arm alone,
   And our defence is sure.
3. **Before the hills in order stood,**
   or earth received her frame,
   from everlasting thou art God,
   to endless years the same.
4. **A thousand ages in thy sight**
   Are like an evening gone.
   Short as the watch that ends the night
   Before the rising sun.
5. **Time, like an ever-rolling stream**
   Will bear us all away;
   We fade and vanish, as a dream
   Dies at the opening day.
6. **O God, our help in ages past,**
   Our hope for years to come,
   Be thou our guard while troubles last,
   And our eternal home.

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 Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Amos **5. 18-24**
Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70
Response: O Lord, make haste to help me.

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life. **(R)**

Let those be turned back
and brought to dishonour who desire to hurt me.
Let those who say, 'Aha, Aha!'
turn back because of their shame. **(R)**

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation say evermore, 'God is great!'
But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliver; O Lord, do not delay! **(R)**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians 4. 13-18
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Speak to us, O Lord, your servants are listening. You bring the word of eternal life.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew. 25. 1-13
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation: *This week, on the Second Sunday of the Kingdom season, we commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Today we remember and honour all those who have given their lives in the service of their country in the cause of peace and justice. Today we still see armed conflicts taking place around the world. War still rages in the Ukraine and the civil war in the Yemen continues. We are also witnessing continued armed conflict and terror in Jesus' homeland, the Holy Land, and the wider Middle East and Gulf. These conflicts are, sadly, the consequences of the inability of human beings to solve their differences peacefully. The kingdom of God, which we celebrate throughout this month of November is a kingdom of peace and love, a kingdom of truth and righteousness, a kingdom where all have a place, all are valued. There have always been those who have rejected God's values of love and peace, those who seek to impose their own will on others, those who claim to speak for Jesus but who in reality are power seekers. In the Gospel reading today calls to be vigilant, to be ready to take every opportunity that comes our way to stand up against such people, to defend the values of the Kingdom of God, to be peacemakers in the face of conflict. Today we honour all those who have answered the call to fight in the defence of the values of God's kingdom. We honour all who have given their lives in the service of their country in the hope of building a better more peaceful world for all people. We honour those who gave their lives in two world wars and numerous other conflicts and we pray for those caught up in conflicts today. We remember those injured though conflict, those whose lives were changed for ever by their experiences. As we honour them we pledge ourselves to playing our part in building the kind of world for which they died, a world built on the values of the Kingdom of God, a world governed by love, truth and justice, a world where all can live in peace with one*

another, a world where hope overcomes despair and differences are resolved through peaceful conciliation. 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 support the victims of war and violence and promote reconciliation between nations and peoples.
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 for the people of the Holy Land and the Middle East and for the people of the Ukraine. May there be peace where there is conflict and hope where there is 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 welcome all who come to live among us who have been displaced through conflict and terror.
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 injured in the service of their country and 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 parish intercession books; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled 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. We pray for those who gave their lives in war in the cause of peace and justice. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints.
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:
God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through 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 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: Eternal Father, Strong to save.

1. **Eternal Father, strong to save,**
   Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
   Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
   Its own appointed limits keep;
   O hear us when we call to thee
   For those in peril on the sea.

2. **O Saviour, whose almighty word**
   The winds and waves submissive heard,
   Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
   And calm, amid its rage, didst sleep:
   O hear us when we call to thee
   For those in peril on the sea.

3. **O sacred Spirit, who didst brood**
   Upon the waters dark and rude,
   And bid their angry tumult cease,
   And give, for wild confusion, peace:
   O hear us when we call to thee
   For those in peril on the sea.

4. **O Trinity of love and power,**
   Our brethren shield in danger's hour.
   From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
   Protect them whereso'er they go,
   And ever let there rise to thee
   Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

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