

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY



Hymn 1: Songs of thankfulness and praise.

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar;  
Branch of royal David's stem,  
In thy birth at Bethlehem;  
Anthems be to thee addressed:  
God in man made manifest.
2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, priest and King supreme,  
And at Cana, wedding guest,  
In thy Godhead manifest,  
Manifest in power divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to thee addressed  
God in man made manifest.
3. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
Mirrored in thy holy word;  
May we imitate thee now,  
And be pure, as pure art thou;  
That we like to thee may be  
At thy great Epiphany,  
And may praise thee, ever blessed.  
God in man made manifest.

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 in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, mighty God and Prince of Peace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh and splendour of the Father. **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 God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 Genesis**

**14. 17-20**

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 128

**Response: May the Lord bless you all the days of your life.**

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,  
who walks in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;  
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. (R)

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots  
around your table.

This shall the man be blessed  
who fears the Lord. (R)

the Lord bless you from Zion.  
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.  
May you see your children's children.  
Peace be upon Israel! (R)

## **A reading from the book of Revelation** 19. 6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' - for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Speak Lord, your children are listening. You bring the message of eternal life.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

**2. 1-11**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation:** *In Saint John's Gospel just four days after his baptism during which time he has called his first disciples Jesus is a guest at a wedding in Cana. He arrives with his disciples and his mother Mary is also a guest. We are still at the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry and this is very evident in his reaction to the hearing the news from his mother that the host had run out of wine. "Woman," said Jesus, "what has that to do with me?" Jesus seems reluctant to get involved. Yet Mary has complete faith in her Son. Completing ignoring her son Mary tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Jesus tells them to fill the water-jars with water and when they draw the water they find that it has changed into wine – and just wine but the best wine. The changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana is the first of Jesus' miracles, the first time that we see the power of the divine, the glory of God at work in Jesus. Coming so near to the beginning of Jesus public ministry in John emphasises how important an event this was for John. First there is Mary his mother, who notices the potential embarrassment of the host as the wine runs out. She is the one who alerts Jesus to the problem, she is the one who tells the servants, "do what he tells you." Here we see Mary living out her vocation of pointing the way to her Son. It is a vocation that she continues to exercise, praying for us in heaven, standing at the foot of the Cross pointing our attention up to her Son who hangs there for us telling us to listen*

*to him and to do whatever he tells us. When we call to Jesus he will hear our cries and he will answer us as he answered the needs of the host at the wedding feast. When the old wine of life seems to run dry, when we feel anxious, afraid, overwhelmed, when something seems missing from our lives if we turn to him and do as he tells us he will fill us and lift us with the new wine of his love as the Holy Spirit makes his home in us. He will make us whole again and free us to live our lives to the full. Jesus will feed us with himself, the true new wine, not by changing water into wine but by changing bread and wine into his Body and Blood in Holy Communion, the food for our souls by which he pours the wine of new life into us doing as he tells us, "Do this in remembrance of me. For the miracle of the Eucharist is foreseen in the miracle of Cana. At Cana the glory of God is again revealed, we have seen that glory, let us live rejoicing in the light, the light that lightens the world, the light which is Jesus Christ, God in man made manifest.*

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; pour through your Church the good wine of your mercy and love on all come to you that all may know your saving power.

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 nations work together to ensure that all who thirst and all who hunger are satisfied.

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 be faithful and committed to one another, may the wine of your love be poured through us to all among whom we live and work.

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; 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. 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:**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace; of the increase of his government and of his peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **The Blessing:**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom 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: Author of life divine.**

- 1. Author of life divine,  
Who hast a table spread,  
Furnished with mystic wine  
And everlasting bread,  
Preserve the life thyself hast given,  
And feed and train us up for heaven.**
  
- 2. Our needy souls sustain  
With fresh supplies of love,  
Till all thy life we gain,  
And all thy fullness prove,  
And, strengthened by thy perfect grace,  
Behold without a veil thy face.**