

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE THIRD SUNDAY of LENT



Hymn 1: Lord, thy word abideth

1. Lord, thy word abideth,  
And our footsteps guideth;  
Who its truth believeth  
Light and joy receiveth.
2. When our foes are near us,  
Then thy word doth cheer us,  
Word of consolation,  
Message of salvation.
3. When the storms are o'er us,  
And dark clouds before us,  
Then its light directeth,  
And our way protecteth.
4. Who can tell the pleasure,  
Who recount the treasure,  
By thy word imparted  
To the simple-hearted?
5. Word of mercy, giving  
Succour to the living;  
Word of life, supplying  
Comfort to the dying.
6. O that we, discerning  
Its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear thee,  
Evermore be near thee.

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, you reconcile us to one another and to the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your 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 Exodus

20. 1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work - you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your

God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 19 or 19. 7-14**

**Response: The heavens are telling the glory of God.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; (R)

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; (R)

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. (R)

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. (R)

Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults. (R)

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression. (R)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (R)

### **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 1. 18-25**

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and

the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

"Destroy this temple," says the Lord, "and in three days I will raise it up."

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John**

**2. 13-22**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation:** *On Mount Sinai the Lord God gave to Moses and his people the Ten Commandments. These laws gave to the Hebrew people a framework in which they could live their lives as God's people. The Ten Commandments defined the Hebrew people as a distinct community. The giving of the Ten Commandments was a gift which made their relationship with God real and personal. For the Hebrew people keeping the commandments was seen as way of living out a relationship with the God who had saved them from slavery in Egypt. When Jesus entered the temple in Jerusalem as he prepared to celebrate the Passover he was appalled to see people selling cattle, sheep and doves and money changers seated at their tables. No longer simply a house of Prayer, Jesus had walked into a place that seemed no better than a noisy market. Traders and merchants were going about their business showing little regard for the spirit of prayer and worship for which the temple had been built. In his anger Jesus made a whip of cord and drove them all out the temple, turning over the tables of the money-changers. Seldom have we seen Jesus so angry. He told the hose selling doves, "take those things out of here, stop making my father's house a market place." Of course, the Jewish authorities challenged Jesus, asking him, "What sign can you*

*show us for doing this?" Jesus response is to speak of his coming death and resurrection although those listening to him didn't understand this, When he said, "destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." It would not be until his resurrection that his own friends would remember these words and understand. In responding as he did in the temple, and as we see in many of Jesus' conversations with the Jewish authorities he challenged their interpretation of the law given to Moses. In many ways it was simply the keeping of the law which had become all important and it was in enforcing the law that the authorities could exercise control over the people. The law was no longer a framework in which the people could live out their lives in relationship with a real and personal God. Keeping the law had become an empty ritual. Jesus came to restore the relationship of love between God and his people. He did not come, as he said, to abolish the law, but he was the fulfilment of the law which he said was contained in the two great commandments to love God with all our hearts and our neighbours as ourselves. The only obligation placed on us, his people by God, is to love as he loves us. In learning to love as he loves us the Ten Commandments can be an invaluable resource and guide, a gift of grace given to us by God in love for us. For like the Jews of Jesus' time we have to be on constant alert that our worship does not become an empty ritual but a place where we encounter the living God, a place where our relationship with the living God who loves each one of us, who gave his Son for us on the cross, is renewed and refreshed so that we might live our lives to his praise and glory and love as he loves us.*

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 to love as you love us.

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, Israel and Gaza; 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 2: Father, hear the prayer we offer**

1. **Father, hear the prayer we offer;  
Not for ease that prayer shall be,  
But for strength that we may ever  
Live our lives courageously.**
2. **Not for ever in green pastures  
Do we ask our way to be;  
But the steep and rugged pathway  
May we tread rejoicingly.**
3. **Not for ever by still waters  
Would we idly rest and stay;  
But would smite the living fountains  
From the rocks along our way.**
4. **Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
In our wanderings be our guide;  
Through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.**

*copyright © Church in Wales publications 2004  
The Word of the Lord, copyright © Church in Wales publications 2011.*