

Order of Service

for Home Worship

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY

AFTER TRINITY



Hymn: Thine for ever! God of love.

1. Thine for ever! God of love,
Hear us from thy throne above;
Thine for ever may we be
Here and in eternity.
2. Thine for ever! Lord of life,
Shield us through our earthly strife;
Thou the life, the truth, the way,
Guide us to the realms of day.
3. Thine for ever! O how blest
They who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, guardian, heavenly friend,
O defend us to the end.
4. Thine for ever! Shepherd, keep
Us thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe within thy tender care,
Let us all thy goodness share.
5. Thine for ever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by thee supplied,
All our sins be thee forgiven,
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.

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 have shown 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 to 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: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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 Ecclesiastes (1. 2, 12-14; 2. 18-23)
Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me - and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 49 (1-9) Response: God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear all inhabitants of the world,
Both low and high, rich and poor together.
My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp. **R/**

Why should I fear in times of trouble,
When the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
Those who trust in their wealth
And boast of the abundance of their riches? **R/**

Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,
There is no price one can give to God for it.
For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice
That one should live on for ever and never see the grave. **R/**

A reading from the letter of S. Paul to the Colossians. (3. 1-11)

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things - anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Come to us, Lord Jesus. You have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke. (12: 13-21)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger

ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: *Reading today's Gospel we are warned by Jesus of the dangers of becoming side-tracked from his true purpose for us with a warning against excessive materialism. The rich fool in Jesus parable found that his earthly treasures, his money and power meant nothing when he was called into the nearer presence of God at his death. During his life the rich man lived as if he would live forever, building up his wealth and his estate. His greed narrowed his world view, he became incredibly selfish and self-serving. He had no time for God or his neighbour. But this is not just a parable for the very rich. The people Jesus was talking to were not rich by our standards. This parable is a warning to all who put all their efforts into ensuring they obtain all the material comforts they can, all who become motivated simply by self-interest and who live without any thought for anyone else, especially those less fortunate than themselves. It is a timely warning that comes at a time when divisions within our society are growing. It is a warning particularly to those become so concerned with their own circumstances that they feel they can dismiss the poor by saying they don't deserve help because they are lazy, those who resent the help that those less well off than themselves receive from the state. For Jesus is reminding us that far more important to God is not the wealth we acquire during our lifetimes but rather the people we become during the process of living. How rich we are in God. Far more acceptable to God is the loving, the generous, the open-hearted, the compassionate person than the materially rich person who has never given a second thought to the plight of others. Every day we stand before God and every day we have to account to him for our words and actions. He will not be impressed with the money we have made or the goods we have bought. It is the love, the generosity, the compassion we have shown which are the treasures that we build up for ourselves in heaven. This is why S Paul tells the Colossians, "Put away all anger, wrath, malice, slander and abusive language." These are the things that keep us from God. Following the teaching of Jesus our focus should centre on the kind of people we want to be, the kind of society that we should be building, for us, as Christians, a society built on the values of God's kingdom, love, peace, kindness, compassion and generosity. As followers of Christ we have a responsibility to enter into the national discussion in order to reassert the values of God's kingdom in our nation and our society. Many people often say to me with an air of nostalgia how people seemed happier years ago when living standards were lower. Have we sacrificed happiness for material wealth? If so, it is another example of how we as a people we have moved away from God and how timely is Jesus warning to us today. 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 we be faithful in worship and rich towards God in faithful service of his people.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of war, violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought: Lead the nations in the ways of peace and justice.
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 respond to the needs of others with open and generous hearts and love our neighbours as ourselves.
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:

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

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

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord 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: Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!

1. **Alleluia, sing to Jesus, His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia, his the triumph, his the victory alone:
Hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.**
2. **Alleluia, not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia, he is near us, faith believes nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?**
3. **Alleluia, Bread of Angels, Thou on earth our food, out stay;
Alleluia, here the sinful flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

4. Alleluia, King eternal, Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia, born of Mary, Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
In the Eucharistic Feast.

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