

The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY



Hymn 1: Jesus, where'er thy people meet.

1. Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
There they behold thy mercy seat;
Where'er they seek thee thou art found,
And every place is hallowed ground.
2. For thou, within no walls confined,
Inhabitest the humble mind;
Such ever bring thee when they come,
And, going, take thee to their home.
3. Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
Thy former mercies here renew;
Here to our waiting hearts proclaim
The sweetness of thy saving name.
4. Here may we prove the power of prayer
To strengthen faith and sweeten care,
To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring all heaven before our eyes.
5. Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
Nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear;
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
And make a thousand hearts thine own.

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 God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 the prophet Ezekiel **33. 7-11**

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119. 33-40

Response: Lead me, O Lord in the path of your commands.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart. (R)

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways. (R)

Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for your precepts;

in your righteousness give me life. (R)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

13. 8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Speak to us, O Lord, and lead us in the path of your commands.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew

18. 15-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: We often hear the question, "what is the purpose of life." The answer revealed to us in the life and person of Jesus Christ is to love. Jesus is the personification of love – the divine love which he shares with us. A love that took him to the cross for our sakes, a love that was restored to us in his glorious resurrection. The love that we are called to show for others as he calls us to love each other as he loves us. For love alone has the power to transform the world, love alone can build the peace that is the hallmark of the Kingdom of God. Love alone can bring hope where there is despair and reconciliation where there is division. That is why Paul reminds us in his letter to the Roman's, "Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves has fulfilled the law." Experience, though, teaches us that loving others as he loves us is not easy. We are fallible and flawed human beings. When feel threatened we can become defensive, at times our patience is can be tested, we can suffer hurt at the hands of others and we can find ourselves responding in a less than Christ-like way. In our Gospel reading today Jesus is talking to his disciples. He is talking about the occasions, which will inevitable arise, when there will be conflict among them, the times when they will feel hurt or slighted by the acts of others. He is teaching them how they should respond. Jesus told his disciples on another occasion, "Love your enemies as yourselves." And so our reactions in any circumstances we find ourselves should come from love. And so Jesus tells his disciples, "if another member of the Church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone." In other words conflicts between individual members should not be allowed to affect the life of the community as a whole. We should not gossip about what someone else has done to us, we should try and speak

with them to resolve our differences peacefully and respectfully – this is the way of love. It is only if differences cannot be resolved in this way that, first, one or two witnesses and then as a last resort the whole community should become involved. On the cross Jesus gave up his life in love for the peace of the world. As his disciples who have answered the call to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him, we are called to do the same. We are called to put aside our own feelings for love of God and his people, to respond to all that sin against us with love for the sake of peace – the peace for which Christ died, the peace which is God’s will for all his people.

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 the Church be faithful to its calling of bringing the Good News of Christ to all the world, promoting reconciliation where there is division..

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression among them the people of the Ukraine and the Yemen, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; May the leaders of the nations be led by the Spirit to bring peace and hope where there is conflict and 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 bring the sustaining love of God to all in need among whom we live.

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:

Blessed are those who make peace; they shall be called God’s children. 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 led us to the living water; refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

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

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, 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: : Dear Lord and Father of mankind.

- 1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives they service find,
In deeper reverence praise,
in deeper reverence praise.**
- 2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee,
rise up and follow thee.**
- 3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love,
interpreted by love.**
- 4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.**
- 5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!
O still small voice of calm!**