

The Order of Service for Home Worship



BARNABAS, APOSTLE

Hymn: Jerusalem the golden.

1. Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest.
Beneath thy contemplation sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O, I know not what joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.
2. They stand, those halls of Sion, all jubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel, and all the martyr throng;
The Prince is ever with them, the daylight is serene,
The pastures of the blessed are decked in glorious sheen.
3. There is the throne of David; and there from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast;
And they, who with their Leader have conquered in the fight,
For ever and for ever are clad in robes of white.
4. O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect!
Jesu, in mercy bring us to that dear land of rest;
Who art, with God the Father and Spirit, ever blest.

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 are gracious and compassionate. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you are loving to all and your mercy is over all creation. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your kingdom. **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: Bountiful God, giver of all gifts, who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas: help us, by his example, to be generous in our judgements, and unselfish in our service; through Jesus Christ 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 Acts

11. 19-30

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found

him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they associated with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'. At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112. Response: Happy are those, those who fear the Lord.

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. (R)

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures for ever. They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. (R)

It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered for ever. (R)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians

2. 1-10

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up in response to a revelation. Then I laid before them (though only in a private meeting with the acknowledged leaders) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure that I was not running, or had not run, in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. But because of false believers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us - we did not submit to them even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might always remain with you. And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) - those leaders contributed nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with

the gospel for the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

'This is my commandment' says the Lord, that you love one another as I have loved you. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. John

15. 12-17

Glory to you, O Lord.

'This

is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: Today we celebrate the Feast day of S. Barnabas. Barnabas was among the first to believe when the Apostles began to proclaim the risen Lord. Although not one of the twelve he became a part of the fellowship and it was he who supported Paul and introduced him to the Apostles. He travelled with Paul on the first missionary journey which began in Cyprus. At the council of Jerusalem Barnabas supported the gentile Christians as Paul acknowledges in our second reading, though Paul and Barnabas later quarrelled and Barnabas returned to Cyprus. He is credited with undertaking the evangelisation of Cyprus and is believed to have died a martyr in Salamis in AD61. We commemorate Barnabas as someone who played such an important part in the life of the infant church. He is a great example to us today. He was not one of the twelve yet he came to believe through their teaching. He was a man of great courage. After coming to faith his life changed completely. He was a man not afraid to take risks for the faith. He introduced Paul to the apostles who were

suspicious of him. Barnabas travelled to new lands not knowing what welcome he might or might not receive at a time when Christians were being persecuted. He took to heart Jesus' command in our Gospel reading today, "Love one another and I have loved you." He believed that he had been appointed, chosen by God, to go, bear fruit, to grow the fellowship of the faithful. Following in the way of Christ Barnabas was prepared to lay down his life for his friends and this he did when he was martyred at Salamis. We too can take heart from the example of Barnabas. Like him we have come to believe through the teaching of the apostles and those who have gone before us. Like Barnabas we too have been called by name, chosen by God to go and bear fruit, to play our part in the building up of his Kingdom by loving others as God loves us. As Barnabas stood up for the gentiles we are called to stand up for those who are outcast or considered unworthy. Like Barnabas we are called to be people of courage in our proclaiming of the risen Christ. We have much to learn from Barnabas. 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 they follow the example of Barnabas in bringing the Good News of Christ to all the world.

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; following the example to Barnabas may we bring the 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:

We are all citizens with the saints and belong to the family of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who came and preached peace to those who were far away and to those who were near.

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.**

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love, 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: Love Divine, all Loves Excelling.

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus thou, art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Come almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.