

Order of Service

for Home Worship

THE EIGHTH 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 ev'ry 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;
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 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:

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern us in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 first book of the Kings.

3. 5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your

servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119. 129-136

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

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments. **(R)**

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as is your custom towards those who love your name.

keep my steps steady according to your promise,

and never let iniquity have dominion over me. **(R)**

Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept. **(R)**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

8. 26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If

God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew.

13. 31-33, 44-52

Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has

been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation:

In today's gospel, we hear of Jesus sowing seeds, and possibly portraying Jesus as being a gardener. When we read the various parables, we notice that in nearly all of them Jesus tells of sowing seeds, not necessarily seeds which produce flowers and food produce but seeds which produce wisdom, encouragement, knowledge and confidence. These are the seeds which are planted and will grow in both the hearts and minds of those who listen and the seeds, if nurtured which will flourish and become fruitful. Jesus is very clever with words as he uses the seeds for everyday example that all who listen would recognise. He speaks of the tiny seed which becomes a strong bush and of the single cell of yeast helping ingredients rise in the making of, for example bread. He continues by telling of people who, in their everyday surroundings spot real treasure whether it be in the field or among the pearls, these are the treasures which they value sufficiently to give up all else to gain. Jesus does not forget about the fisherman as he speaks of a huge sea harvest with fish of every kind. We are able to recognise that the seeds that Jesus is sowing is not related to produce but about the kingdom of heaven. For many of us, the kingdom of heaven is a challenging concept, but the words of Jesus affirm how the tiniest amount of faith, a seed of love, our kingdom faith if nurtured, will grow into something big and good. He shows that the kingdom faith is of great worth, or more realistically priceless as it is something to be desired beyond our known measure of wealth. And also the kingdom is all-embracing as there is a place and room for each and every person. Whilst Jesus speaks of sowing the seeds, we recognise that he may be looking towards the end product – the colourful flower bed or scrumptious vegetable and fruit garden but in fact he is focusing on the starting point – the tiny seed which grows into a vibrant plant and the miniscule yeast cell which produces a tasty risen loaf. After hearing about the growth of various seeds, we may think of who first sowed a seed of faith in us. It maybe that our seed of faith was planted by family or friends who nurtured and encouraged us from a young age or perhaps the seed of faith was planted in our teenage or adult life or maybe we lost faith and found our way back. Irrespective of how we received it and however small and weak it may seem on times it has brought us into the kingdom of God. If we take nothing else from today's Gospel reading we must recognise that the small seed of faith in us and that same small cell of faith working in each of us and helping each of us to grow, the single jewel and the

small but rich treasure is our kingdom faith. As kingdom faith, the potential for growth is unlimited and as we grow and grow in Jesus Christ, it will enhance the kingdom. The small seed of faith growing and working in us does indeed make us part of the kingdom. When we look at the food put on our table, we notice that the most basic of meals or the most majestic banquet is enriched by the inclusion of vegetables. The gardens and wayside hedgerows, flower arrangements at home and in church are all enriched by both small flowers and large blooms, the hidden beauties as well as the bright colours. As we are all part of the kingdom, God's kingdom, let us nurture this kingdom faith in us. Most importantly, let us sow and share the kingdom seeds with all those around us and so help God's kingdom flourish and grow starting now tomorrow but today. We may find sowing the seeds and sharing the Good News of Jesus challenging, it may take us out of our comfort zone but as our own seeds strengthen our confidence, we will not only flourish but find ourselves sowing the seeds of Christ.

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 Andrew our Archbishop and Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own ministry area; that the Church may faithfully work with Christ to proclaim the saving love of God to 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 nation's follow the Lord in the ways of justice and peace.

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 persevere in the ways of Christ bringing hope and peace to 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:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing:

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

The peace of God which is beyond all understanding guard your hearts in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. **Amen**

Hymn 2. We have a gospel to proclaim.

- 1. We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**
- 2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**
- 3. Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suff'ring on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.**
- 4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free;
He broke the pow'r of death and hell
that we might share his victory.**
- 5. Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.**
- 6. Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth**

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