

Order of Service for Home Worship



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY

After TRINITY

Hymn 1 O Love, that wilt not let me go.

1. O Love, that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul on thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in the sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that sleekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee:
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms read life that shall endless be.

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 the prophet Isaiah **44. 6-8**
Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86. 11 – 17

Response: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name. (R)

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. (R)

O God, the insolent raise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.
But you, O Lord, are a god merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. (R)

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving girl.

Show me a sign of your favour,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. (R)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

8. 12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the

redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43
Glory to you, O Lord.**

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" ' Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation:

Even though I don't have green fingers, I know how important it is to keep lawns well tended and in our gardens it is important to keep weeds under control. What is a lot of hard work, is even harder if you have to figure out what is a weed and what is a good flower or blade of grass. In today's gospel reading we see that the parable of the weeds is an allegory. In other words, it can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning as everything in the story represents something else. Jesus is comparing the Kingdom of God to a person who sows good seed in a field but while he sleeps, an enemy comes and sows weeds among the wheat. This would have meant that the two grew up together and their roots would have intertwined. Unfortunately the Sower would not have noticed what the enemy had done until the plants began to grow and produce grain. The owner explains to his slaves that an enemy must have planted weed and instructs them to do nothing until harvest time as if they did anything before the harvest it would risk uprooting the grain. The owner says that at harvest time the reapers will collect the weeds first, bind them into bundles and burn them. The wheat will then be gathered and brought into the barn. In this allegory, the Sower is Jesus.

The good seed represents people who listen to and respond to God's word. These are the people who belong to the Kingdom of God and who will go to Heaven at the end of time. The weeds represent those people who do not listen to God's word. A story such as this is an invitation to not just discipleship but costly discipleship. The very real evil that exists is not to be answered by attacking and destroying the people who are responsible for it as this only adds to the harm. Instead, our response should be to be loving and forgiving and to be willing to trust in God's purposes. If we want to receive grace, we must be willing to extend that grace. In the final act of salvation, the tensions that exist both within us and with all of God's creation will finally be resolved and we shall live in peace with God and also each other for eternity. Until that time, they coexist even within us, so that to root out the one would be to destroy the other. When we hear of loving the sinner and hating the sin, it means being tolerant of those who in whatever way, are different from us. The phrase Love the sinner and hate the sin means that people are held accountable for their actions, but we, as Christians are always willing to forgive. In other words, we look for the good in people instead of looking for the bad. We can still see the weeds in not only ourselves but also others. Instead of being discouraged, we should be hopeful. Good seed has been planted in us and is growing. The burden of the struggle isn't ours alone. We get help from Jesus who knows what is happening and helps us sort things out.

As people, we are not the final judge of the world-that is God. We are to remain faithful to God's word even when times are hard, but if we do go astray, we have opportunities to mend our ways. We have the time and the grace we need to make the changes we have to make.

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. Hail to the Lord's Anointed!

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains from hill and valley flow.
4. Kings shall bow down before him and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him, His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
5. O'er every foe victorious, He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest;
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever, that name to us is love.