

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE FIRST SUNDAY

### of LENT



Hymn: Forty days and Forty nights.

1. **Forty days and forty nights**  
Though wast fasting in the wild,  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted and yet undefiled.
2. **Sunbeams scorching all the day,**  
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,  
Prowling beasts about thy way,  
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.
3. **Let us then endurance share,**  
And awhile from joys abstain,  
With thee watching unto prayer,  
Strong with thee to suffer pain.
4. **And if Satan, vexing sore,**  
Flesh or spirit should assail.  
Thou, his vanquisher before,  
Grant we may not faint nor fail.
5. **So shall we have peace divine,**  
Holier gladness ours shall be,  
Round us too shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.
6. **Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,**  
Ever constant by thy side.  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

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.

**Heavenly Father, all hearts are open to you. No secrets are hidden from you. Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit that we may love and worship you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 were sent to heal the contrite. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you plead with us at the right hand of the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 Deuteronomy**

**26. 1-11**

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you,

O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 91. 1, 2, 9-16      Response: Under his wings you will find a refuge.**

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.      (R)

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling-place,  
no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.      (R)

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.      (R)

You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.  
Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.      (R)

When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honour them.  
With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.      (R)

**A reading from the letter of S. Paul to the Romans      10. 8b-13**

'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.** "Worship the Lord your God", says the Lord. "Serve only him." **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke**

4. 1-13

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." ' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." 'When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation:** *One of the aspects of our Lenten observances which has long been understood by the Church is of Lent being a time when we reflect on the time Jesus spent in the wilderness and the temptations he experienced there, which is recorded for us in our Gospel reading today. Luke gives a full account of Jesus' time in the wilderness. Jesus' time in the wilderness follows immediately after his baptism. It was a time of celebration as he was led into the wilderness where he experienced the temptations as he tried to discern how he was to fulfil his public ministry of proclaiming the love of God and the coming of his Kingdom. Jesus' experience in the wilderness puts our Lenten observances into context. We have recently come out of the Christmas Epiphany Season of celebration when we celebrated the incarnation, the coming of Jesus to live among us, his people. As his people we are called to work with him in proclaiming the Good News that in Jesus God lives among us, sharing our lives. We face the same questions that Jesus faced as he entered the wilderness. How are we to fulfil our calling, the ministry that God has entrusted to us. Do we look*

*for ways that will yield quick results which may not last? Will our actions proclaim the presence of God or will they really glorify ourselves and our fellowship? These are the questions which are highlighted by the temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness and they are the temptations we face as we enter this season of Lent. When we look at this questions with open hearts and with honesty God will guide us. He will steer us away from the temptations to seek the easy way, the comfortable way, the novel way, none of which may really help to grow the Kingdom of God in the communities where we live. God will give us the strength we need to move forward and we will emerge from this season of Lent into the glorious light of Easter. We will arrive at Easter with the resurrected Jesus, full of confidence, full of the love of God for us, full of enthusiasm to share our faith with others, ready to fulfil the ministry God has entrusted to us as Jesus fulfilled the earthly ministry God entrusted to him. 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 June our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own ministry area; that the Church may worship God faithfully and serve only him.

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

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought. We pray especially at this time for the people of Ukraine; that peace may be restored where there is conflict and relief be brought to all who struggle.

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; Help us to see you in our neighbours, give us generous hearts

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:

**Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **The Blessing:**

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

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him 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: Lead us, Heavenly Father, Lead us.**

- 1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the worlds tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee;  
Yet possessing every blessing  
If our God our Father be.**
- 2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,  
All our weakness thou dost know.  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
Through the desert thou didst go.**
- 3. Spirit of our God, descending,  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
Love with every passion blending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy;  
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.**