

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE THIRD SUNDAY of EPIPHANY



Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus.

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and grief to bear.  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to him in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless we pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.
2. Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness –  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Jesus only is our refuge,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

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 in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, mighty God and Prince of Peace. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh and splendour of the Father. **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 Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 Nehemiah**

**8. 1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was

the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.  
'This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 19. 1-6      Response: The heavens are telling the glory of God.**

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.    (R)

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.    (R)

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom  
from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.    (R)

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.    (R)

**A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians      12. 12-31a**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so

arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Acclamation:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

"The Spirit is upon me," says the Lord. "He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke      4. 14-21  
Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation:** In Luke's Gospel, after his baptism, Jesus is led into the wilderness before he returns to Galilee to begin his public ministry. As he travelled towards his home town of Nazareth he taught in the synagogues and he began to build a reputation and the people began to praise him. At last Jesus arrived in Nazareth and on the Sabbath he went to the Synagogue as usual. During the meeting Jesus took the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and began to read the passage concerned with the prophecy of the coming Messiah. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed

me to bring good news to the poor, to release the captives and recover sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. When he finished he told the assembly, "today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus could not be any clearer. He is the one that Isaiah is speaking of. Jesus the one anointed by God at his baptism to bring the good news of God's saving love to the world. Jesus comes proclaiming God's favour for all people, the poor, the oppressed, the blind and the captive. He proclaims God's love for us, the Good News that we are all his children. He comes to free us from the chains of our sins, our fears, our anxieties – all the things that prevent us from responding to God's love and living our lives fully in his service. Jesus proclaims God's liberating love which will free us to enjoy the life God has given us to the full allowing us to become fully the people God has created us to be. It is the Good News that we in our time are called to share with all among whom and with whom we live. For the Good News of God's love alone can bring the hope and deep sense of peace which we all need if we are to enjoy our lives as God intends. We all have our part to play as St Paul explains in his letter to the Corinthians. We all belong to the family of God, the Body of Christ. As members of one body we are interdependent we need each other for the body to function as it should. If one person, one part of the body hurts, we all hurt. God has given each of us talents to use to enable the Body of Christ to be effective as it can in proclaiming the Good News of Christ – that in him are all the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled, in him is God's favour poured upon us, in him we find freedom and new life – a wonderful life, the gift of God, which will never disappoint for in him, in Jesus, is God with us forever. 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 the Church faithfully follow the example of Jesus in preaching the Good News of God's love for all people.

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; may the leaders of the nation's look to relieve the needs of the poor and needy.

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 the Spirit of the Lord be upon us that we might follow the ways of Christ in our own daily lives.

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; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled 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. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints.

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:**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace; of the increase of his government and of his peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

Let us pray:

**Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Blessing:**

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

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom 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: Lord thy word abideth.**

1. **Lord, thy word abideth,  
and our footsteps guideth;  
Who its truth believeth I  
ight and joy recieveth.**
2. **When our foes are near us,  
then thy word doth cheer us,  
Word of consolation  
message of salvation.**
3. **When the storm are o'er us,  
and dark clouds before us,  
Then its light directeth  
and our ways protecteth.**
4. **Who can tell the pleasure,  
who recount the treasure,  
By thy word imparted  
to the simple-hearted?**
5. **Word of mercy, giving  
succour to the living;  
Word of life, supplying  
comfort to the dying.**

6. **O that we, discerning  
its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear thee,  
evermore be near thee.**

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