

The Order of Service for Home Worship

THE SIXTH SUNDAY after TRINITY



Hymn: Guide us, O Thou Great Redeemer.

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

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 of the Day: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 the prophet Ezekiel **2. 1-5**
He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123. Response: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy.

To you I lift my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us. (R)

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,
Have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill
Of the scorn of those who are at ease.
Of the contempt of the proud. (R)

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 12. 2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows - was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

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

He began to send them out two by two. So they went and proclaimed that all should repent.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark

6. 1-13

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: There is a saying I've heard used disparagingly of someone else. "She's no better than she ought to be." How often have we heard someone say of someone else, "Who does he think he is, I knew him when he was in short trousers! He's only... How often may we have made a similar comment ourselves. Such comments are used when we think that someone is getting above themselves, when we think they need bringing back to earth. In our Gospel reading today Jesus finds himself on the receiving end of such comments. He returns home and begins to teach in the synagogue. The people listening to him there begin to take offence and ask, "Where did this man get all this?" before sniping "Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and Joseph and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon." Jesus was so familiar to the people of his hometown that they failed to listen to him. They had probably known him all his life, who was he to come and start telling them about how to live their faith. They did not recognise that in Jesus God was present among them. We too can be guilty of failing to recognise the presence of God among us in the people we are most familiar to us. We find it easier to see God at work in those less familiar to us, people like Mother Teresa and charity and aid workers who dedicate

their lives caring for those in need in a foreign land. But in returning to his hometown Jesus is showing us that God comes to us, God is present with us wherever we are, at home and away from home. Jesus comes to us. Jesus is present with us, sharing our lives in every person that we meet. God comes to us most often not in the kindness of “special people” who are somehow different to us but in those closest to us, those most familiar to us, out nearest and our dearest, our friends and neighbours. We should not make the same mistake made by the people of Nazareth who refused to listen to Jesus because he was just the carpenter. We should not risk failing to recognise the presence of Jesus when he comes to us in the ordinary events and encounters of our daily lives. As Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth he asks to us recognise his presence among us in those around us, those most familiar to us. He asks us to give thanks for our families, our spouses, children and grandchildren, for our friends and our neighbours, for those who offer a word of greeting or a smile as we move through each day. For every act of kindness reveals the presence of God at work in the world, the presence of God with us in our own lives. Let us not take for granted the presence of God among us revealed in the goodness and kindness shown by family, friends and neighbours. **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 your Church be a beacon of light and hope 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, Israel and Gaza, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; May there be peace where there is conflict and reconciliation where there is division. 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 live as faithful disciples bringing hope 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:

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

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

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord 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: Father, hear the prayer we offer

1. **Father, hear the prayer we offer;
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.**
2. **Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.**
3. **Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.**
4. **Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.**