

# The Order of Service for Home Worship



## THE EIGHTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

Hymn: Faithful Shepherd, feed me.

1. Faithful Shepherd, feed me  
in the pastures green;  
faithful Shepherd lead me  
where thy steps are seen.
2. Hold me fast, and guide me  
in the narrow way;  
so, with thee beside me,  
I shall never stray.
3. Daily bring me nearer  
to the heavenly shore;  
may my faith grow clearer,  
may I love thee more.
4. Hallow every pleasure,  
every gift and pain;  
be thyself my treasure,  
though none else I gain.
5. Day by day prepare me  
as thou seest best,  
then let angels bear me  
to thy promised rest.

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 raise the dead to life in the Spirit. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you give light to those who live in darkness. **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:** 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 book of Jeremiah**

**23. 1-6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be

fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

**Response: The lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.  
The lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.**

The lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. (R)

Even though I walk through the darkest valley  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff – they comfort me. (R)

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. (R)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long. (R)

## A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

2. 11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh

he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## The Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark

6. 30-34, 53-56

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Meditation:**

Today's Gospel begins with the disciples telling Jesus all they had done and taught and continues with Jesus taking them to a quiet place. As they are making their way to a boat, many people who recognised Jesus followed them and arrived at the destination before Jesus and the disciples. On seeing all these people, Jesus described them as sheep without a shepherd and had compassion on them. We see that today's Gospel demonstrates that being a Christian does not involve only reading the Bible to learn of Jesus, it is about being like the disciples and practicing our faith through doing and teaching, with the work that the disciples did mirrored that of Jesus. When we think of sports such as football, there are always those who, may not have played the game but become armchair experts. These are people who, for example, can see where the footballer is going wrong or what the manager should do such as substituting players and are people who think they are very good on the theory but never put it into practice unlike the experts who are actually on the pitch. An armchair shepherd is of no use to the sheep as they need to be with their sheep to protect them and care for them. Jesus is a true shepherd as he is always there to guide, protect and care for his sheep. In the same way that the first disciples were sent to continue the mission of Jesus in the world, we too are called to do the same. We can do this through reading the Bible, teaching and living out our faith and pastoral care. If we are to remain faithful to the Christian faith, these elements must not be separated. When we take our faith into the community and into world, we do it in ways that are best suited to our gifts and situations. Some people may enjoy community projects, others visiting, others helping others in various ways or for some people they help through prayer, praying for people and situations. Whatever we choose to do, we do in the name of Jesus Christ in the hope of bringing others to faith to see the love and compassion that Jesus our Good Shepherd has for each and every one of us.

### **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 proclaim the risen Christ, the sure ground for hope in 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 Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and the Yemen, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; may the power of the risen Christ bring 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 witness to the risen Christ in our daily lives, bringing your love and peace to all with whom we share our 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; 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:**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, "Peace be with you!" They were overjoyed on seeing the Lord. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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: 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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