

A Service of the Word for Ordinary Time

Welcome

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

Romans 8:14-19

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn

*Angel-voices ever singing
Round thy tone of light,
Angel-harps for ever ringing,
Rest not day nor night;
Thousands only live to bless thee
And confess thee
Lord of might.*

*Thou who art beyond the farthest
Mortal eye can scan,
Can it be that thou regardest
Songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
And wilt hear us?
Yes, we can.*

*For we know that thou rejoicest
O'er each work of thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
For thy praise design;
Craftsman's art and music's measure
For thy pleasure
All combine.*

*In thy house, great God, we offer
Of thine own to thee;
And for thine acceptance proffer
All unworthily
Hearts and minds and hands and voices
In our choicest
Psalmody.*

*Honour, glory, might and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity.
Of the best which thou has given
Earth and heaven
Render thee.*

Confession

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 8.22,23

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah:

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.

Isaiah 44:6-8

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Alleluia, alleluia.

Welcome with meekness the implanted word
that has the power to save your souls.

Amen.

James 1.21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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!

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Music

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

cf Galatians 3.28

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Prayers

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

The following response may be used: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At the end, the following may be said: Merciful Father, **accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

Hymn

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rules in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all life thou gives - to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish - but nought changeth thee.*

*Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.*

Praise Response

See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God.

You are my sons and daughters, this day I have begotten you.

See what love the Father has given us.

As many as received him, to them he gave power to become the children of God.

See what love the Father has given us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God.**

cf 1 John 3.1

Blessing

May the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, and that, knowing his love, broad and long, deep and high beyond our knowledge, you may be filled with all the fullness of God; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3.15-19

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.