

A Family Service of the Word

Greeting & Invitation to Worship

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.
Let us rejoice and shout for joy, giving God the glory.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power
to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in
our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all
goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen**

The First Reading

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as
we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And
God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the
Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all
things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according
to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed
to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large
family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called
he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we
to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not
withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also
give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God
who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was
raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will
separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are
being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8: 26–39*)

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 128

- 1 Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, ♦
and walk in his ways.
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands; ♦
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.
- 3 Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine; ♦
your children round your table, like fresh olive branches.
- 4 Thus shall the one be blest ♦
who fears the Lord.
- 5 The Lord from out of Zion bless you, ♦
that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life.
- 6 May you see your children's children, ♦
and may there be peace upon Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen

The Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and

caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’ (*Matthew 13: 31–33, 44–52*)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Children’s Talk

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end. Amen**

Prayers of Penitence

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers and Thanksgivings

The Lord's Prayer

We sum up all our prayers and praises in the words our Saviour Christ 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.**

Dismissal

As we leave this place may we bring:

To a troubled world: **Peace from Christ.**
To a searching world: **Love from Christ.**
To a waiting world: **Hope from Christ.**

May God's hand lead you, God's eyes watch over you,
God's ears hear your prayers, God's arms protect you and hold you close,
God's word encourage you and God's love fill your hearts.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you all evermore. **Amen.**