

## 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.**

### *Hymn: 596*

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
And his righteousness,  
And all these things will be added unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia!

2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek, and ye shall find;  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia!

3. We shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;  
Allelu, alleluia!

### Collect of the Day

O Lord, Hear the prayers of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power  
faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Psalm 25

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;  
**let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.**

- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame,  
**but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.**
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord,  
**and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
**for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,  
**for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,  
**but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
**therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.**
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right  
**and teach his way to the lowly.**
- 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 First Reading**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:1-13)

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Hymn 250**

1. All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, To crown Him Lord of all!
2. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, Who from his altar call  
Extol him in whose path ye trod And crown him Lord of all
3. Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed of the fall,  
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!
4. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him Lord of all.
5. Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
6. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!

## **The Gospel Reading**

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

### **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.'

So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.'

For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him. (*Matthew 21: 23-32*)

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.**

#### Hymn 593 O Jesus I Have Promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me, my Master and my friend:  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my  
guide.
2. O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

5. O let me see thy foot-marks, and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my friend

### **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.**