



SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 23rd October
20th Sunday After Pentecost



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Lord God, our refuge and strength,
and the source of all true devotion,
listen to the devout prayers of your church.
Let us fully obtain what we pray for in faith.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCE: LUKE 18:14B

*If you put yourself above others, you will be put down.
But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured.*
**If you put yourself above others, you will be put down.
But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured.**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

LHS 826: FATHER WELCOMES

**Father welcomes all his children To his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation Life for ever has been won.**

**Little children, come to me, for my kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give mercy for your sin.**

**Father welcomes all his children To his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation Life for ever has been won.**

**In the water, in the Word, In his promise, be assured:
Those who are baptised and believe Shall be born again.**

**Father welcomes all his children To his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation Life for ever has been won.**

**Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with him –
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God.**

**Father welcomes all his children To his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation Life for ever has been won.**

Robin Mann

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

PSALM 65

¹ Praise awaits^[b] you, our God, in Zion ;to you our vows will be fulfilled.

² You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.

³ When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave^[c] our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

You crown the year with your goodness.

*⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour,
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,*

⁶ who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,

⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,

and the turmoil of the nations.

*⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where
evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.*

You crown the year with your goodness.

*⁹ You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn,
for so you have ordained it.^[d]*

*¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.*

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

*¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with corn;
they shout for joy and sing.*

You crown the year with your goodness.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray for healing.

[silence]

*Almighty and merciful God, your Son showed your love
by healing the sick and making them whole.*

*Look with compassion on our broken world,
and make us whole by his healing power,
so that we also may show your love to others.*

*We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Joel 2:23-32 The coming day of the Lord for his people (NIVUK)

²³ Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. ²⁴ The threshing-floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. ²⁵ 'I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten – the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm^[a] – my great army that I sent among you. ²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, until

you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. ²⁷ Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. ²⁸ 'And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls. [b]

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18 Christian courage in the face of death (NIVUK)

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ¹⁶ At my first defence, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*All who exalt themselves will be humbled,
but all who humble themselves will be exalted.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14 Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (NIVUK)

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.” ¹³‘But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” ¹⁴‘I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for having mercy on us,
even though we are sinners.*

Keep us from pride and self-righteousness.

Amen.

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong; They are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! he who died Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let his little child come in.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! This I know, As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, Saying, "Let them come to me."**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so..**

Anna Warner

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE

**How deep the Father's love for us How vast beyond all measure
That He should give his only Son To make a wretch his treasure
How great the pain of searing loss The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the man upon a cross My sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held him there Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Stuart Townend

OFFERING PRAYER

*Lord God,
we cannot rely on our own goodness
or offer you anything you have not first given us.
Consecrate us for your service, and use us and our gifts
according to your goodness.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs, praying like the tax collector for God's mercy on the basis of the sacrifice he has provided for our sin.

Loving Father, thank you for the rest and peace of this moment in which we remember all your benefits, especially the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ so that we are justified by faith in him and not by anything we do. Do not look on the sins of the world or the sins of your people, but look on Jesus and forgive us for his sake.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you: **be merciful and hear our prayer.***

Let your words of law and gospel go out to all who live in darkness, that they may work miracles of faith and love. Turn us away from comparing ourselves to others, from despising those you love, and turn us instead to the One who gave himself for us.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you: **be merciful and hear our prayer.***

Thank you for all the signs of your goodness in our homes and families, and in the church. Take our loved ones and our congregation and grow them strong, under Christ our head. Bless every gathering with forgiveness, respect and compassion. Remove all self-justification and blame from people's lives, and heal damaged relationships.

*Lord, we sinners cry to you: **be merciful and hear our prayer.***

Thank you for the blessings we receive through our pastors, teachers, and mentors in the faith. Take our Bishop *Paul Smith*, our District Bishop *Mark Vainikka*, and all the congregations and pastors of your church, and keep us in the truth and love of Christ. Take the committees and auxiliaries of our own congregation and guide our work to your glory.

Lord, we sinners cry to you: be merciful and hear our prayer.

Thank you for the goodness that continually greets and blesses us in the gifts of your creation. Protect this earth from fire and flood, from drought and disease, and from every evil. Guide all governments and authorities, give success to all proper work, and bind up the world's wounds. Give strength to students undergoing exams in the weeks ahead, that they may give a true account of what they have learnt.

Lord, we sinners cry to you: be merciful and hear our prayer.

Thank you for the certain hope we have in Christ. Give dignity to those who rely on charity, and courage to those who are without hope. Where bodies are weak or spirits are broken, heal and comfort with the peace of Christ. And we ask this blessing particularly on those we know personally to be in need and whom we now name silently in our prayers...*(brief silence)*.

Lord, we sinners cry to you: be merciful and hear our prayer.

Lord, we stand in your presence by your grace alone, and present these prayers only through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours

now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May the Lord give you strength
to share his good news with others.*

**May the Lord give you strength
to share his good news with others.**

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace,

Fight the good fight, run the race and keep the faith.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

LHS 54: WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Isaac Watts

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading (a): Joel 2:23-32

LHS

Hymns of praise, esp:

- 435 Christians, now praise ye G6
- 567 Sing to the Lord of harvest* G9
- 774 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling G6

AT

- 129 Everyone
- 218 Spirit
- 249 Dreams and visions

Second reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

LHS

- 206 Stand up, stand up for Jesus G6
- 212 Lo, round the throne, a glorious band G4
- 336 'Come, follow me,' the Saviour spake* G3
- 340 Be thou faithful unto death* G8
- 351 'Take up thy cross,' the Saviour said G9 (*alt tune 270, G3*)
- 352 Fight the good fight* G4
- 399 In Thee, Lord, have I put my trust G7
- 400 From God shall naught divide me* G3
- 405 In God, my faithful God* G4

AT

- 267 Bread of heaven
- 309 When the Lord returns

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

LHS

- 132 Spirit of wisdom, turn our eyes (*alt tune 355, G3; alt tune 245, G6*)
- 141 Father of heaven, whose love profound G5
- 311 O faithful God, we worship Thee (*alt tune 260, G3*)
- 313 With broken heart and contrite sigh (*alt tune 74, G3*)
- 848 With deep humility, O Lord G5 (*holy communion*)
- 849 With holy joy my heart shall beat (*alt tune 223, G6*) (*holy communion*)
- 903 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord G7

AT

- 260 My soul is praising the Lord, Yes!
- 379 Kyrie eleison (Ghana)
- 392 Kyrie eleison (Russia)
- 397 These I lay down