



CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 1 February 2026
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany



A PRAYER FOR GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**Gracious God, you call us from many places
and many weeks into one holy moment.**

Quiet our restless hearts and gather our scattered thoughts.

**As you have promised, be present among us now—
to speak your living Word, to renew our faith,
and to shape us again by your mercy.**

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed are those who are poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

We come seeking God's mercy and grace.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

We come with our joys and our sorrows, trusting in God's love.

Blessed are the meek, the merciful, and the pure in heart.

We come to worship the One who calls us to be his people.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

How Great is our God

The splendour of the King,
clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice,
all the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light,
and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at His voice,
and trembles at His voice.

How great is our God!
Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great,
how great is our God!

And age to age He stands,
and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End.

The God-head, Three-in-One,
Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God!
Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great,
how great is our God!

Name above all names,
worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing:
how great is our God!

How great is our God!
Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great,
how great is our God!

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves
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LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

YOU ARE GLORIOUS

You are glorious.

Ev'ry knee shall bow to one victorious,

now exalted to the highest place of all,

Every tongue confess that you are Lord of all,

Lord of all.

And we belong to you,

we love your name,

the name above all other names

and Your glory is upon us now

as we worship you,

King of Kings.

You are glorious.

Ev'ry knee shall bow to one victorious,

now exalted to the highest place of all,

Every tongue confess that you are Lord of all,

Lord of all.

Sharny Russel

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God,

You call us blessed when we are poor in spirit,
meek, and merciful. Open our hearts to receive your kingdom,
guide our steps in the righteousness of Christ, and fill us with your peace.

Teach us to live in the hope of your promises and to be witnesses
of your love in the world; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

PSALM 15

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?
The one whose way of life is blameless,
 who does what is righteous,
 who speaks the truth from their heart;
 whose tongue utters no slander,
 who does no wrong to a neighbour,
 and casts no slur on others;
 who despises a vile person
but honours those who fear the Lord;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,
 and does not change their mind;
who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.
 Whoever does these things
 will never be shaken.

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

Amen.

BIBLE READING

Micah 6:1-8 - The Lord's case against Israel

Listen to what the Lord says: 'Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. 'Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. 'My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.' With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

*After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.*

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - God chooses the weak

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God –

that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

Matthew 5:1-12 - The beatitudes - life in God's kingdom

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

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 there 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**

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

(The Prayer of St Francis)

Make me a channel of your peace

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope

Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

In giving to all people that we receive

And in dying that we're born to eternal life

MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

CONFESSiON OF SINS

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.

O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

**O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure
Sufficient is Thine arm alone
And our defense is sure**

**Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame
From everlasting Thou art God
To endless years the same**

Thy Word commands our flesh to dust
Return ye sons of men
All nations rose from earth at first
And turn to earth again

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun

The busy tribes of flesh and blood
With all their lives and cares
Are carried downwards by the flood
And lost in following years

Time like an ever rolling stream
Bears all its sons away
They fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day

Like flowery fields the nations stand
Pleased with the morning light
The flowers beneath the mower's hand
Lie withering ere 'tis night

Our God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home

Isaac Watts
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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

We bring our gifts, small and great, trusting you to bless them for your kingdom. May our offerings be used to comfort the sorrowful, feed the hungry, and bring your light to others. Help us to be generous and merciful, knowing that in giving we receive your blessing. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Paul reminds us that God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. We come before our Father in our weakness, acknowledging that we are totally dependent on him, seeking his strength and wisdom.

Gracious Father, we praise you for your mercy and grace. Before the world began you chose us in Christ and adopted us as your children. For your saving love we give you thanks and praise.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Bless your holy Church. Refresh us by your Holy Spirit so that we confess your name, love our neighbour, and serve through good works. Be with all pastors and church workers, especially the leaders of the LCA, our Bishop and District Bishop. Guide and strengthen them in their service.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the freedoms and blessings of this land. Bless our nation and all who lead it. Give us a love of truth and justice, help us serve our neighbour in our vocations, strengthen families and marriages, support those who struggle in work or unemployment, and guide parents and children.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

You rule over all nations. Curb evil, bring relief to those suffering through disaster and oppression, and comfort them with your Word. We pray for Israel and Palestine: turn hearts to your Son, the Messiah, and help your people bear faithful witness in love.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Bless the families, students, and staff at all our Grace Places. Today we pray specially for GLPS Students Samuel & Savannah in Prep; Elliot & Kyal in Year 1; Roman in Year 2; Kees, Cohen Lincoln & Ryan in Year 3; Milla, Tilly & Zay in Year 4; Joshua in Year 5; and staff members Tegan B & Rebecca M. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, since we can do nothing without you, send us your Holy Spirit, that your will may be fulfilled in us; 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 TO SHARE

May God bless you with mercy, meekness, and peace.
May God bless you with mercy, meekness, and peace.
May God comfort you and protect you from danger.
May God comfort you and protect you from danger.
May Christ's light shine through you, bringing hope and joy to all.
May Christ's light shine through you, bringing hope and joy to all. Amen.

LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS

Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike,
no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking
and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness,
Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labours
and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.

**Lord of all kindness,
Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing
and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness,
Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping
and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.**

Jan Struther
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