

CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

**Sunday, 18 January 2025
Second Sunday After Epiphany**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Almighty and eternal God,
you rule over everything in heaven and on earth.
In mercy listen to the prayers of your people,
and give us your peace in our times.**

**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 SENTENCES

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We come to see Jesus, the Saviour sent for us.

"Come and see," says Jesus, inviting us to remain with him.

We come to listen, to dwell in his presence, and to follow where he leads.

We have found the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God.

With joy and faith, we worship him, and gladly bear his name.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto Me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon My breast’:
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
and He has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live’:
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in Him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘I am this dark world’s light;
look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright’:
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in Him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.**

**Horatius Bonar
Public Domain**

LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN

**Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love you well;
on the earth let all your people
speak your grace, your wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated -
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Savior, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

Michael Perry

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,
you sent John to point beyond himself to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. By your Holy Spirit, turn our eyes from ourselves to Christ, that we may come and see, abide with him, and follow where he leads; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM 40:1-11

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in him.
Blessed is the one
who trusts in the Lord,
who does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to false gods.
Many, Lord my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.
None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.
Sacrifice and offering you did not desire –
but my ears you have opened; –
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
Then I said, ‘Here I am, I have come –
it is written about me in the scroll.
I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart.’
I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;
I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know.

*I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness
from the great assembly.
Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.*

**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

Isaiah 49:1-7 - God's servant a light to the nations

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour.' But I said, 'I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due to me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God.' And now the Lord says – he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength – he says: 'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.' This is what the Lord says – the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel – to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: 'Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

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

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 - Grace and peace from God in Christ

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his

holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

John 1:29-42 - Jesus the Lamb of God

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, “A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.” I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.’ Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.” I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.’ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God!’ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked, ‘What do you want?’ They said, ‘Rabbi’ (which means ‘Teacher’), ‘where are you staying?’ ‘Come,’ he replied, ‘and you will see.’ So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter).

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**

JUST AS I AM

**Just as I am, without one plea
but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am - and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot -
to Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am - Thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down -
now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Charlotte Elliott, William Batchelder Bradbury
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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 LORD, YOU CALLED DISCIPLES

O Lord, you called disciples, proclaiming, "Come and see!"

And so an invitation began your ministry.

Then Andrew called his brother, and Peter came to you;

More men and women followed, and little children, too.

You met a busy woman out in the noon-day sun.

You shared God's love, you listened; you told all she had done.

She called her friends and neighbors and brought them face to face

With you, the living water, the bearer of God's grace.

O Christ, your invitation has reached from year to year!
Through some who heard you calling, a church was founded here.
As faithful people served you so many years ago,*
They soon invited others; your church began to grow.

God, by your Holy Spirit, now send us in your name
To serve the lost and outcast, the poor for whom you came.
Through gifts of hope and healing, through loving ministry,
May we reach out, inviting the world to "Come and see!"

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
Thank you for the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and calls us to follow. Receive not only our offerings but our lives, that we may point to Jesus with all we have and all we are. Make us like those first disciples, that we may come and see, witness with joy, and boldly share what we have found in you. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Paul reminds us of our true identity as God's holy people. We can therefore come into his presence and present our petitions and thanksgiving. So let us pray for the church, the world, and for those in need.

Heavenly Father - thank you that Jesus showed himself to be the all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. We pray for the church, that it may follow the Lamb of God in sacrificial love and clear witness to the gospel.

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

Give us strength to participate in our congregational programs with joy and enthusiasm, privileged to be your instruments of care and witness. Bless our leaders as they plan and prepare for this New Year.

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

We pray for all professionals dealing with those in need - medical workers, social workers, emergency and relief services. Give them compassion for those they help, protect them if their work is dangerous and direct them in your will.

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

Thank you for the healing you bring through modern medicine. Bring the sick to good health, and assure them of your eternal love and the coming resurrection. Meet the needs of all people in want and those we know and now name in our hearts... *(brief silence)*

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

Almighty Lord, you have called your church to witness to your reconciling love for the world in Christ Jesus; help us to be true to our calling and proclaim the good news of your love, through your Son, 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 you see Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away your sin.
May you see Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away your sin.
May you follow Jesus and find joy in his way.
May you follow Jesus and find joy in his way.
May God's love in Jesus keep you strong, each and every day.
May God's love in Jesus keep you strong, each and every day. Amen.

CHRIST, OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

**What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand**

**O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death**

**What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ**

**O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death**

**Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore**

**O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death**

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Jordan Kauflin | Keith Getty | Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Matthew Merker
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