

CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 26 July 2026
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

A PRAYER FOR OPEN HEARTS AND EARS

**Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,
open our ears to hear your voice and our hearts to trust your promises.
Where we are distracted, focus us;
where we are weary, strengthen us;
where we are guarded, soften us by your grace.
Let your truth take root in us and bear fruit for the life of the world.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

God said to Solomon, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."
We come before God with humble hearts, seeking wisdom and grace.
Solomon asked for an understanding heart to serve God's people.
Lord, give us wisdom to hear your voice and follow your ways.
Come, let us worship the Lord who guides, teaches, and blesses his people.
We worship God with thankful hearts. Amen.

INVOCATION

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

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

LORD OF CREATION, TO YOU BE ALL PRAISE

**Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways;
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.**

**Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom: your service is song:
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.**

**Lord of all wisdom, I give You my mind,
rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find,
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.**

**Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart:
I praise and adore you for all you impart:
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
Your presence to shield me, whatever betide.**

**Lord of all being, I give you my all:
if ever I leave you, I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your Word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way..**

**Jack C. Winslow (1882 – 1974, alt), J Tyrell
Public Domain**

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

Permission used under CCLI - 53805 / 230276 / 153413

*The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God,
you gave Solomon a listening heart and wisdom beyond measure.
Grant us humble hearts that seek your will above our own,
that we may walk in your ways and serve others with love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BIBLE READING

1 Kings 3:5-12: Solomon's prayer for wisdom

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.' Solomon answered, 'You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. 'Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?' The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 8:26-39: Nothing can separate us from the love of God

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered 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, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52: Parables of the kingdom

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.' He told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. 'Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all these things?' Jesus asked. 'Yes,' they replied. He said to them, 'Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.'

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

GIVE US HEARTS

**Give us hearts to know you, Lord,
to know who you are.**

**We will be your people,
and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to love you, Lord,
to love who you are.**

**We will be your people,
and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to bless you, Lord,
to bless who you are.**

**We will be your people,
and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to serve you, Lord,
to serve who you are.**

**We will be your people,
and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to praise you, Lord,
to praise who you are.**

**We will be your people,
and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to worship, Lord,
to worship who you are.**

**We will be your people,
and you our God, and you our God.**

**Words and music: Annette Fechner
Used with permission of Author**

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.*

IN CHRIST ALONE

**In Christ alone my heart is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought & storm.**

**What heights of love,
What depths of peace,
When fears are stilled,
When strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in all;
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.**

**‘Til on that Cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose again!**

**And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, No fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
'Til he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

**Stuart Townend & Keith Getty
Permission used under CCLI - 53805 / 230276 / 153413**

OFFERING PRAYER

**Gracious God,
thank you for the many gifts you have entrusted to us, including our time, abilities,
and resources. Receive our offerings as signs of our gratitude and trust in you. Use
them to serve your people, share the good news of Jesus Christ, and bring your
blessing to the world. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*The Spirit of God intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Knowing that
nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for all people.*

Heavenly Father, we pray for the church, the body of Christ. May we be yeast in this
world, bringing the gospel of your love and grace to the lost and broken.

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

Today, we pray for all who seek the kingdom of God. Work your Holy Spirit within them and lead them to the light of your salvation. Make us ready to give an answer for the hope we have in Christ Jesus, so that we can encourage and support the seekers and new believers, to your glory.

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

Lord, we ask your blessing and guidance for our political leaders. We pray for our state, its premier [insert name] and the leader of the opposition [insert name]. Have mercy on them, and help them lead our people with justice, compassion and wisdom.

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

Jesus, saviour of the world, comfort and protect those who experience hardship, distress, persecution, famine, lack of clothing, danger, or warfare. In the midst of our personal concerns, remind us of the huge needs of others less fortunate than ourselves.

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

God of justice, we are all slaves to sin until we have been set free by your grace. We thank you for your great mercy to us. We pray for criminals, prisoners, and all those who look after them.

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

God, your people cry out in their need. You alone have the power to save them. Please be with the sick and the dying. Comfort the grieving, and we ask your blessing on our brothers and sister in Christ.

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

We pray for God's guidance and blessings for all members and friends of our congregation. Today we pray for Trudy; Mike & Felicia; Barbara; Rene; Trevor. Please keep them strong in faith, active in love, and hopeful in all things.

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 Savannah & Bonnie in Prep; Phoenix in Year 1; Chase & Bryce in Year 2; Scarlet, Kingston; Pheonix; Aubree & Celine in Year4; Aria in Year 5; Klayton & Leon in Year 6 and staff members Bernie & Kate L. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

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

Heavenly Father, because of your great love, you work for our good in all things. In mercy, listen to our prayers, 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 God the Father make you wise to follow his ways each day.
May God the Father make you wise to follow his ways each day.
May Jesus guide you with his love and grace.
May Jesus guide you with his love and grace.
May the Holy Spirit lead you in faithful service and joyful hope.
May the Holy Spirit lead you in faithful service and joyful hope. Amen.

BE THOU MY VISSION

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy dear child;
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
Raise thou me Heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'ns Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Public Domain