

CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

**Sunday, 13 September 2026
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

A PRAYER FOR THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Holy Spirit of God, breathe life into this gathering.
Move among us through Word and Sacrament,
that faith may be kindled, hope renewed, and love made strong.
Form us not only for this hour,
but for lives of service and witness in the days ahead,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

*When the way seems blocked and our enemies press close,
Let us stand firm and trust in the Lord.
The Lord fights for his people and makes a way where there seems to be no way.
Let us be still and see the salvation of our God.
Let us worship the Lord who delivers his people,
Who leads us from fear to freedom, from death to life.*

INVOCATION

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

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

LEAD US, HEAVENLY FATHER, LEAD US

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea
Guard us guide us keep us feed us
For we have no help but Thee
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us
All our weakness Thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, Faint and weary,
Through the desert Thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love, all other love transcending,
Pleasure that can never cloy:
Thus provided, Pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**

James Edmeston

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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

**Almighty and merciful God,
when your people were trapped between the sea and their enemies, you made a
way where there seemed to be no way and brought them safely through the waters.
Give us faith to trust your promises when we are afraid, courage to follow where you
lead, and confidence that your saving presence is with us; through Jesus Christ our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

BIBLE READING

Exodus 14:19-31: The crossing of the Red Sea

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to camp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. Pharaoh will think, "The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert." And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.' So the Israelites did this. When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, 'What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!' So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. The Egyptians – all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops – pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, "Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians"? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!' Moses answered the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.' Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had

difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, ‘Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.’ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing towards it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen – the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

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

Romans 14:1-12: The strong and the weak faith

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: “‘As surely as I live,” says the Lord, “Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.”’ So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

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

Matthew 18:21-35: Parable of the unforgiving servant

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ‘Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ‘At this the servant fell on his knees before him. “Be patient with me,” he begged, “and I will pay back everything.” The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. ‘But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. “Pay back what you owe me!” he demanded. ‘His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, “Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.” ‘But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ‘Then the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?” In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ‘This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

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**

WAYMAKER

**You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You**

**(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You**

**(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord**

**(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are**

**(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working**

**(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

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.*

NO LONGER SLAVES

**You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone**

**I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God**

**From my Mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins**

**I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God**

**You split the sea so I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing
I am a child of God**

**I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God**

Brian Johnson | Joel Case | Jonathan David Helser

OFFERING PRAYER

**Gracious God,
thank you for rescuing us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Receive the gifts we offer as
a response to your grace and goodness. Use them to proclaim the good news of
salvation, to bring hope to those who are afraid, to make a way for those who feel
trapped, and to share your love with those in need. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Since God our Father has compassion on us, let us pray that his mercy may flow through his church and into the whole of his creation.

Almighty God, heavenly Father: In your mercy you have forgiven us the debt of our sin. Help us to forgive each other in our homes, our families and congregation. Especially help those who have suffered at the hands of others to overcome their pain, to forgive, and to receive healing.

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

You have given to your church the keys of the kingdom of heaven: Help your church throughout the world to rightly preach law and gospel, to retain the sins of the unrepentant and forgive those who repent and believe.

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

We thank you for the laws of our land which provide safety and order. Bless our justice system and all who work in it, that people may receive their rights and be encouraged to fulfill their responsibilities.

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

Be with those who are sick or receiving medical treatment. Guide the hands of the doctors and nurses and other health professionals who care for them, and grant them healing if it is your will.

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

We thank you for our material blessings. Help us to be good stewards and to give generously towards the work of the church.

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 Lorna; Malcolm & Elvera; Meryl; Larry & Cheryl; Jillian. 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 Theo, Lucia & Coco in Prep; Cruz, Lexi, Maeve & Jagger in Year 2; Matilda in Year 3; Ivy in Year 4; Ewan & Grace in Year 5; Emily & Finn in Year 6 and staff members Jacqueline & Jodie. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

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

Lord, you have compassion on us as a father has compassion on his children. Hear our prayer, and satisfy our needs, and the needs of all for whom we pray. We ask this in the name of 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 the Lord go before you, making a way where there seems to be no way.
May the Lord go before you, making a way where there seems to be no way.
May Christ your Rescuer lead you from fear into freedom.
May Christ your Rescuer lead you from fear into freedom.
May the Holy Spirit remind you that the Lord is on your side.
May the Holy Spirit remind you that the Lord is on your side. Amen.

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT REDEEMER

**Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven;
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer;
be Thou still my strength and shield;
be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises; songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.**

William Williams (1717-1791) Tr. St. 1: Peter Williams, 1771 Sts. 2,3: William Williams, c. 1772