

Sunday 21 February, 2021



If a household are praying together,
one person may act as leader and the
others as the congregation and they
join in the words in bold type.

If alone, read all the words aloud.

You may want to light a candle before you begin,
and have a Bible,
cross or crucifix to look at.

You might prepare for this act of worship by
listening to some music, or by being still.

THE GATHERING

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

The Lord is here.
His spirit is with us.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Round about us
Here among us
God of promise and love

Good and faithful
Strong in mercy
God of promise and love

Calling our names
Bidding us welcome
God of promise and love

Coming together as God's family, with confidence
let us ask the Father's forgiveness for our failure
to respond fully to his grace, for he is full of
gentleness and compassion.

A time of SILENCE - for reflection

Lord, your grace is boundless and free;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Jesus, you made yourself poor,
that we might become rich;
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, you came to transform us into graceful
people; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us
our sins, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and
prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE WORD OF THE LORD

FIRST READING Genesis 9.8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with
him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant
with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and
with every living creature that is with you, the
birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of
the earth with you, as many as came out of the
ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never
again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a
flood, and never again shall there be a flood to
destroy the earth.'

¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark* 1.9-15

Glory to you, O Lord

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words, or be prompted by the words here)

We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety and fear...

We pray for our nation and its well-being...

We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we remember all those self-isolating at the moment...

We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for those who feel cut off from friends and family...

We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all whom we remember with love and affection....

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Joining with Christians throughout the world, we pray:

Our Father....

Or

Our Father in heaven....

THE GRACE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 71	Matthew 25.31-end
Tuesday	Psalm 73	Matthew 6. 7-15
Wednesday	Psalm 77	Luke 11.29-32
Thursday	Psalm 42	Matthew 7.7-12
Friday	Psalm 22	Matthew 5. 20-26
Saturday	Psalm 63	Matthew 5. 43-end