

**STEWARDSHIP
RENEWAL
LAUNCH SERVICE**

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9: 8

Preparation

The congregation remain seated while we all sing the gathering hymn.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
In him no sin is found we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace
No work too hard for him. In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

We stand for the procession and carrying into church of the Scriptures.

The Greeting

In the name of Christ
who died and was raised by the glory of God the Father
we welcome you:

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet those around us and especially those we don't know with a warm handshake, our name and the words 'The peace of the Lord be with you'.

HYMN

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 man's 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 cheer me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
If e'er I disown you I stumble and fall;
But, sworn in glad service your word to obey,
I walk in your freedom to the end of the day.

Introduction

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, and to hear and receive his holy word.

As we renew our commitment to supporting God's church, we also give thanks for the generosity of those who have given in the past, and respond to God's call on us to look to the future.

So let us ask God's forgiveness of our sins, and to seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to his service.

The congregation kneel or sit.

Confession

Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us ask the Father's forgiveness for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

Father in creation, you are generous towards us;
When we are tight-fisted in return;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you call us to turn to you;
When we are deaf to your call;
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you show us the gift of charity;
When we fail to respond;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Forgiveness

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation stand

Praise

Glory to the Father
Glory to the Son

Glory to the Spirit
For ever Three in One

Be glorified at home
Be glorified in church
Be glorified in our work
Be glorified in our play
Be glorified in our land
Be glorified in our neighbours
Be glorified in earth
Be glorified in heaven

Glory to the Father
Glory to the Son
Glory to the Spirit
For ever Three in One

Hallelujah
Amen

HYMN

Eternal God, we bring our praise
to you, our Father and our Friend;
to you, whose word has never failed,
whose reign shall never end:

all greatness and all power are yours,
all splendour and all majesty –
for over heaven and earth you rule
with total sovereignty.

Your kingdom stands for evermore –
enthroned on high, you are the King!
Let every tongue acknowledge you
as Lord of everything.

Our wealth and honour come from you;
from you are strength and power and fame;
how glad we are to give you thanks
and magnify your name.

But who are we to worship you,
to make our offerings at your throne?
Whatever gifts we choose to bring
have come from you alone.

Let all that we possess be yours –
ourselves, our lives, our riches too;
confessing you as Lord and God
bow and honour you!

Reading from the Old Testament

Ezekiel 36. 24-28

Thus says the Lord GOD: ²⁴I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

At the end the reader says:
Your word is a lantern to my feet

And the congregation reply
And a light upon our path.

Responsorial Psalm 19. V. 1-2, 8-12, 14.

The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
One day pours out its song to another
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.

The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb.

By them also is your servant taught
and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how often they offend?
O cleanse me from my secret faults!

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Reading from the New Testament

John 17. 20-26

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: ‘Holy Father, ²⁰I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

At the end the reader says:

Your word is a lantern to my feet

And the congregation reply

And a light upon our path.

Sermon

The Apostles Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made all things?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

The Choir sing an anthem

HYMN

during which the collection is taken

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine:
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Gathering of the Gifts

We give what we have, but not all –

help us to be more generous.

We serve as we are called –

help us to see when you are calling us further.

We love within our limits –

help us to break down those barriers.

So that we may love and serve you and give wholeheartedly.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers

The Collect

Infinite Lord and Eternal God, rouse your church in this place, restore your people's sense of mission, and revive your work in holiness and strength. By your Spirit, teach us to give our energy, our time, our money, our service and our prayer; that your kingdom may be advanced here and in all the world; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us now pray with confidence to the Father, in the words our Saviour taught us.

**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 for ever. Amen.**

In the prayers that follow the sung response may be

O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me

O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me

HYMN

during which Junior Church join us

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Conclusion

*Presentation of Junior Church's activities.
Banns of Marriage and notices are then given*

CHORUS

SEEK YE FIRST the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you,
Hallelu, hallelujah!

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!*

You shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God,
Hallelu, hallelujah!

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened unto you,
Hallelu, hallelujah!

Prayer and Blessing

May God who loves a cheerful giver,
and gives us all things in Christ,
swell the harvest of your benevolence.

Amen.

May Christ who for our sake became poor
make you rich in everything –
in faith, speech, knowledge and love.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit who gives gifts to all people,
flood your hearts with thanksgiving to God.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The congregation stand and the choir recess to the vestry

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!.

After the service you are invited to join us for coffee and biscuits at the back of church.

You are welcome to take this service booklet away with you.