

Before the Service

There is a higher throne

Welcome

Worship in Song

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong a perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God

Confession

Seeing we have a great high priest who has
passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God,
let us draw near with a true heart, in full
assurance of faith, and make our confession to
our heavenly Father.

Father, we have sinned against heaven and
against you. We are not worthy to be called
your children. We turn to you again. Have
mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as
those who once were dead but now have life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Assurance of Forgiveness

May the Father forgive you by the death and
resurrection of his Son and strengthen you to
live in the power of the Spirit all your days.
Amen.

Special Prayer for Today

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we
believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus
Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so
we in heart and mind may also ascend and
with him continually dwell; who is alive and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible Readings

Acts 1.1-11 (*Church Bible p909*)

Luke 24.50-53 (*Church Bible p885*)

Sermon

Worship in Song

You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by your hand
All creation holds together
By the power of your voice
Let the skies declare your glory
Let the land and seas rejoice

You're the Author of creation
You're the Lord of every man
And your cry of love rings out across the lands

Yet you left the gaze of angels
Came to seek and save the lost
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross
With a prayer you fed the hungry
With a word you stilled the sea
Yet how silently you suffered
That the guilty may go free

With a shout you rose victorious
Wresting victory from the grave
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in your wake
Now you stand before the Father
Interceding for your own
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.' Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you and also with you.

Worship in Song

There is a higher throne
Than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from every tongue
Will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace:
Salvation comes.

Hear heaven's voices sing,
Their thunderous anthem rings
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies,
Their praises rise. All glory, wisdom, power,
Strength, thanks and honour are
To God, our King who reigns on high forevermore

And there we'll find our home,
Our life before the throne;
We'll honour him in perfect song
Where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,
As thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:
We'll reign with him.

Offertory Prayer

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory. Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race. Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin. By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life

eternal and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be. Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. 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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Worship in Song - during communion

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in his suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption

See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain him
Praise the Lord he is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

Ending: What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

Worship in Song - during communion
What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in
Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual
blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly
places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship in Song

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 or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true Word
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father, I thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

Be thou my shield and my sword for the fight
Be thou my dignity be thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower
Raise thou me heavenward O power of my power

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and thou only, be first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure thou art

High King of heaven when victory is won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

Blessing

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the
abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign
with him in glory. And may the blessing of God
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be with you now and always. Amen.

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