

## **A Service of the Word**

### *The greeting*

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

### *Introductory sentence*

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
**Everything old has passed away; see, everything  
has become new!**

### *Notices*

#### *A prayer of preparation:*

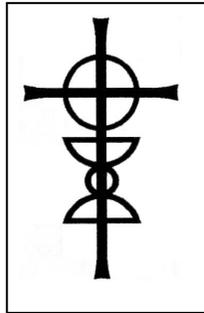
God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.

Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you. **Amen.**

*We **stand** for our opening hymn*

*We **sit or kneel** for our confession*

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin  
and be faithful to Christ.



As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,  
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**God our Father,  
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,  
you create us from nothing and give us life.  
You give your faithful people new life in the water  
of baptism.**

**You do not turn your face from us,  
nor cast us aside.**

**We confess that we have sinned  
against you and our neighbour.**

**We have wounded your love and marred  
your image in us.**

**Restore us for the sake of your Son,  
and bring us to heavenly joy,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### *The absolution:*

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,  
and restore *us* in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We remain **standing** for the collect, the church's special prayer for today:*

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*We **sit** for our Bible reading*

*At the end:* This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*We **stand** for our second hymn*

*We remain **standing** for our Gospel reading*

*The reading is announced:* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*At the end of the reading:* This is the Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, O Christ**

*We **sit** for the sermon*

*After a moment of reflection following the sermon, we **stand** for the 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.**

*We remain **standing** for our offertory hymn*

*We **sit or kneel** for our prayers of intercession*

*Our response may be:*

...Lord, in your mercy

## Hear our prayer

*At the conclusion of our prayers, we pray*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom

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.**

*We **stand** to renew our commitment to God's kingdom*

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them

to

be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to God's steadfast

love

by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.

So let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to God, trust in his promises and rely on his grace.

**I am no longer my own but yours.**

**Your will, not mine, be done in all things,**

**wherever you may place me, in all that I do**

**and in all that I may endure;  
when there is work for me and when there is none;  
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.  
Your will be done when I am valued and when I am  
disregarded;  
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;  
when I have all things, and when I have nothing.  
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and  
where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let  
this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.  
Amen.**

*A closing prayer*

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,  
accompany us in this day's journey.  
Dawn on our darkness,  
open our eyes to praise you for your creation  
and to see the work you set before us today.  
Take us and use us  
to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ  
our Lord. **Amen**

*We stand for our closing hymn*

*We remain stand for a prayer of blessing*

May Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his  
glory  
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The sending out*

Glory to God,  
**whose power at work among us can do infinitely more  
than all we can ask or conceive;  
to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**