A Service for Today’s Church

MORNING / EVENING CHURCH (1)

##### Welcome

##### Hymn / Song

##### Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

The minister introduces a general confession with appropriate words from the Scriptures.

All sit or kneel and, after a brief silence for reflection, join in a general confession.

**Heavenly Father,**

You have loved us with an everlasting love,

but we have gone our own way

and broken your laws.

We are sorry for our sins

and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us

forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.

By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you

and to please you more and more,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The minister, standing, says*

God has promised in his word that when we confess our sins, he forgives us and

cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Thanks be to God.

##### Thanksgiving and Joy

An interview or testimony expressing God’s goodness may take place.

##### Bible Readings

A prayer for the day or this prayer for the hearing of God’s word may be said.

*The Bible readings follow, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.*

Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died. and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

from there he will come to judge

the living and the dead.

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. Amen.**

**Prayers**

*Following prayers for God’s people, the nations, and people in need, the Lord’s Prayer is said.*

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.

A hymn may be sung.

##### Sermon

**Hymn / Song**

##### *During the hymn a collection may be taken.*

Benediction

A Service for Today’s Church

MORNING / EVENING CHURCH (2)

##### Welcome

##### Hymn / Song

Psalm 95:1-7a is sung or said; or a hymn, a song or a psalm that is consistent with the exhortation of Psalm 95 is sung.

##### Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

The minister says the following or similar words.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we meet as God’s people, we are to come with our hearts full of joy and thanksgiving, praising God for his glory and goodness, his majesty and power, his justice and love. The Scriptures also call on us not to harden our hearts towards God, but to hear his voice and confess our failure to honour and glorify him as we should. So we read in the Bible that:

The minister reads one of the following.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (*Matthew 22:37-40*)

*Or*

Paul the apostle writes:

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things— anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. (*Colossians 3:5-10)*

All sit or kneel and, after a brief silence for reflection, join in a general confession.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have gone our own way,

and have not loved you as we ought,

nor loved our neighbour as ourselves.

We have failed to do what we should have done,

and we have done what we should not have done.

We have broken your commands and justly deserve your condemnation.

Father, we are truly sorry.

For the sake of Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past.

By your Spirit turn our hearts to love you and to love our neighbour.

Help us to live a godly and obedient life for your honour and glory,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister, standing, says

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ promises to pardon and forgive all who truly repent and sincerely believe his holy gospel. May God grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, so that forgiven and cleansed from our sins, our lives may be holy, shielded by God’s power until Christ comes. Amen.

Or

God has promised in his word that when we confess our sins, he forgives us

and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Thanks be to God.

##### Thanksgiving and Joy

An interview or testimony expressing God’s goodness may take place.

##### Bible Readings

A prayer for the day or this prayer for the hearing of God’s word may be said.

The Bible readings follow, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.

*Following the first reading the ‘Hymn of Praise’ or a similar song is sung.*

**We praise you O God:**

**we acknowledge you to be the Lord.**

**All creation worships you: the Father everlasting.**

**To you all angels cry aloud:**

**with all the powers of heaven,**

**Cherubim and Seraphim:**

**ever sing in endless praise,**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might:**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**The glorious company of apostles praise you:**

**the goodly fellowship of prophets praise you.**

**The noble army of martyrs praise you:**

**through all the world your holy Church acclaims you,**

**Father of majesty unbounded:**

**your true and only Son**

**and the Holy Spirit advocate and guide.**

**You Lord Christ are the King of glory:**

**the eternal Son of the Father.**

**When you became man to set us free:**

**you did not disdain the virgin’s womb.**

**When you overcame the sting of death:**

**you opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

**You are seated at God’s right hand in glory:**

**we believe that you will come to be our judge.**

**Come then Lord and help your people:**

**bought with the price of your own blood;**

**and bring us with your saints:**

**to glory everlasting.**

*(The ‘Hymn of Praise’, Te Deum may end at this point.)*

**Save your people Lord and bless your inheritance:**

**govern and uphold them now and always.**

**Day by day we bless you:**

**we praise your name for ever.**

**Keep us today Lord from all sin.**

**Have mercy on us Lord have mercy.**

**Lord show us your love and mercy:**

**for we put our trust in you.**

**In you Lord is our hope:**

**let us not be confounded at the last.**

The second Reading follows

The Song of Zechariah is sung or said or a similar song is sung.

**Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel:**

**for he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty saviour:**

**born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old:**

**that he would save us from our enemies**

**from the hands of all that hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers:**

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:**

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**free to worship him without fear:**

**holy and righteous**

**in his sight all the days of our life.**

**And you my child shall be called the prophet of the Most**

**High:**

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**to give his people knowledge of salvation:**

**by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God:**

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us;**

**to shine upon those who dwell in darkness and**

**the shadow of death:**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

from there he will come to judge

the living and the dead.

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. Amen.**

**Prayers**

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens,

**let your glory cover the earth.**

Keep our nation under your care,

and guide us in justice and truth.

Let your way be known by all people,

your saving power among all nations.

Send out your light and your truth,

that we may tell of your saving works.

Lord, hear our prayers,

for we put our trust in you.

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.

The minister, or those appointed, pray for the nations, the church and for people in need, using this form or other appropriate prayers.

Let us pray for God's people everywhere, and for the needs and the peace of the world.

Almighty God and Father, sustainer and saviour of your creation, hear our prayers for all people, especially for all Christians throughout the world.

Sovereign Lord, direct and govern the leaders of the nations. Give them the will and the wisdom to resolve tension and conflict so that all people may live in harmony and peace. We pray especially for the leaders of our nation; give wisdom, grace, and integrity to the Queen of Australia, to the Prime Minister…, and the Premier …, and to all members of parliament. Strengthen all judges, magistrates and police to uphold justice and truth. Help our nation to share the resources you have given us, so that people everywhere may enjoy with gratitude the fruits of your creation.

Father hear our prayer,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We thank you Lord of all, for the gifts of Christ our ascended king: for apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Send out your light and truth through those who proclaim Christ. Fill with compassion and spiritual understanding the pastors of your church (and in particular N our Archbishop, *N* our Bishop, and N our Minister). May their lives and their teaching commend the truth of your word. Give your heavenly grace Lord, to all your people, and especially to this congregation. Renew us and make us holy. Help us to live in the unity of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, enabling us to persevere together in the hope of glory, living in peace with one another.

Father hear our prayer,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We commend to your fatherly care, merciful God, all those who in this passing world are in any kind of trouble, sorrow, sickness, anxiety or need (especially we pray for…). Give them patience and confidence in your goodness, and in your mercy provide their every need. Father hear our prayer,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise your name for all your servants in whose life and death Christ has been honoured. Grant that, encouraged by their witness, we may run the race that is set before us, and with them share the fullness of joy at your right hand; through Christ who is the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Amen.

A prayer for God's protection.

Lord our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have safely brought us to this day; defend us with your mighty power, and grant that today we may not fall into sin, or run into any kind of danger, but lead and govern us in all things, that we may do what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or, this prayer in the evening

Give us light in our darkness, Lord, and by your great mercy protect us from the dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

All may say:

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

A hymn may be sung.

##### Sermon

**Hymn / Song**

##### *During the hymn a collection may be taken.*

Benediction