



**Form of Service  
for  
Guild and Branch Meetings**



If preferred, a form of service based upon Evening Prayer from The Book of Common prayer may be used. In such cases some of the prayers included in this service may be useful.

Issued with the approval of the Bishop  
2002

# A Service of the Word

## ***Preparation***

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

*All* And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## ***Prayers of Penitence***

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven  
is close at hand'.  
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*All* **Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and  
cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

*All* Blessed is the Lord,  
**for he has heard the voice of our prayer.**  
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
*All* **and in our song will we praise our God.**

*This or another hymn may be sung.*

O God who madest time and space  
And needest not a dwelling place;  
Yet for the need of Christian lands  
dost hallow temples made by hands.

Grant to us ringers each and all,  
Whom, to thy service thou dost call,  
That, with the skill that comes from thee,  
We may thy faithful servants be.

And grant, O Lord, thy ringers' call  
On heedful ears may ever fall,  
That with the faithful in each place  
We too may kneel to seek thy grace.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Laud, honour, might and glory be  
From age to age eternally.

(Suitable tune: Old Hundredth)

### ***The Liturgy of the Word***

*A canticle or psalm may be said or sung.*

### ***Reading***

*Address*

### ***Hymn***

## ***The Apostles' Creed***

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again 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.

## ***The Prayers***

*These or other prayers may be said.*

We pray, Lord, that as we are appointed to ring the  
bells in his house of prayer, so we may do it worthily  
and for your glory; and that all who are called by these  
bells to worship you may enter into your gates with  
thanksgiving, and into your courts with praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Ringers' Prayer**

*All*        **Most gracious God, you are the source of ail skill and beauty, and have entrusted to us, your servants, the ringing of the bells to call your people to worship you; give us we pray, the necessary grace of perseverance for the faithful performing of our task and help us always to work for the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. "**  
**Amen.**

## **The Guild prayer**

*All*        **Almighty God, giver of strength and skill, who alone makes us to be of one mind in a house: bless, we pray, the work of our Guild in this Diocese. Guide us in the exercise of our art; may our ringing proclaim your presence in every place and give eternal glory to your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

O God our Father, by whose providence the art and science of bellringing was discovered, grant that all who hear the bells calling from your house may find in them an invitation to come to you to find rest for their souls;  
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Grant, Lord, that those who are prevented by sickness or any other need from coming to your house, may by the sound of the bells be reminded of the prayers of your Church and rejoice in the fellowship of all believers;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The Collect for the day, or one of these, may be used*

### **The Collect for Easter Day**

Lord of all life and power  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.  
**Amen.**

### **The Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily  
bread.  
And forgive us our  
trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
Lead us not into  
temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Hymn**

### ***Conclusion***

#### **Blessing** *(if a minister is present)*

Go forth into the world in peace,  
wherever you ring,  
proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.  
Sound the rounds and changes on your bells  
For the glory of God. Know that at all times  
You exercise your art to serve Him.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be amongst you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*(Or the Grace may be said by all)*

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

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

*All* **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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### Other Suitable Hymns

1 Lifted gently to the steeple,  
Let our bells be rung on high:  
There fulfil their sacred mission,  
Midway 'twixt the earth and sky.

2 As the birds sing early matins  
To the God of nature's praise;  
These their ring of changing music  
To the God of grace shall raise.

3 Christian men shall hear at distance,  
In their toil or in their rest;  
Joying that in one Communion  
Of the Church they too are blest.

4 Year by year the steeple music  
O'er the tended graves shall pour;  
Where the dust of Saints is garnered  
Till the Master comes once more.

5 Till the day of sheaves in-gathering,  
Till the harvest of the earth;  
Till the Saints rise in their order,  
Glorious in their second birth.

6 Christ to Thee, the world's salvation,  
Father, Spirit, unto Thee  
Low we bend in adoration  
Ever blessed Trinity.

(Suitable tune: Stuttgart)

Unchanging God, who livest  
Enthroned in realms on high:  
To men the power thou givest  
Thy Name to magnify.  
We raise the bells for ringing  
With ready mind and will,  
And come before thee, bringing  
Our hearts, our strength, our skill.

We call, from tower and steeple,  
Upon the day of days,  
All faithful Christian people  
To worship, prayer and praise.  
We ring with joyous gladness  
When man and wife are blessed;  
We peal in muffled sadness  
For loved ones laid to rest.

By union, free and willing,  
The work of God is done:  
Our Master's prayer fulfilling  
We would in him be one:  
One, as the Church our Mother  
Would have her children stand,  
Befriending one another,  
A strong and steadfast band.

Our lives, like bells, while changing,  
An ordered course pursue;  
Through joys and sorrows ranging,  
May all those lives ring true:  
May we, through Christ forgiven  
Our faults and failures past,  
Attain our place in heaven,  
Called home to rest at last.

(Suitable tune: Belfry praise)

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