



The Seven Towers Group of Churches



In Loving Memory

ALL SOULS' TIDE SERVICE

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At the centre of our faith stands Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection are its foundation and it is in this saving faith that we make our yearly commemoration of the dead.

There are three parts to our service.

First of all we hear readings drawn from Holy Scripture of God's saving activity; in the Old Testament and in the early days of the Church, and we hear from one of the Gospels of our Lord's ministry.

Secondly, with the Church lit by candles, reminding us that the light of Christ's resurrection has overcome the darkness of death, we name before God those who have died and we commend them to God's continuing love and care.

Finally we pray for ourselves and for all who mourn, that the darkness of our grief may be lightened and that we may never lose hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A prayer for your use before the Service.

*Heavenly Father,
you have not made us for darkness and death,
but for life with you for ever.
Without you we have nothing to hope for;
with you we have nothing to fear.
Speak to us now your words of eternal life.
Lift us to the light and peace of your presence,
and set the glory of your love before us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hast lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

The Blessing

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Before the service begins take the opportunity to read the introduction
on the inside of the front cover of this Order of Service.*

Please stand as the minister enters.

We Gather in God's presence

Minister Welcome in the name of Christ,
who died and was raised by the glory of the Father.
Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

All And also with you

Minister We meet today to remember the faithful departed
whom we knew and loved,
to renew our trust and confidence in Christ,
and to pray that we may be one with him,
through whom we offer our praises to the Father.

Minister I have set the Lord always before me:
All He is at my right hand and I shall not fall.

Minister Show us your mercy, O Lord:
All And grant us your salvation.

Minister For with you is the well of life:
All And in your light shall we see light.

Minister Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
All A light no darkness can quench.

HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more.
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

The minister lights the Easter Candle, a symbol of our Lord's resurrection.

The Acclamation

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls
you uphold us in life and sustain us in death:
to you be glory and praise for ever!
For the darkness of this age is passing away
as Christ the bright and morning star
brings to his saints the light of life.

Minister Help us, Lord,
to receive and understand your Gospel,
so that we may find light in darkness,
faith in our doubts,
and comfort for one another in your saving words.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The minister says a Collect for Easter.

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.

All Amen

(Please extinguish all candles after the prayers)

HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

During the next item, people will light the candles at the end of each row. Please pass the light to those near you, taking care as you do so.

Reflection

The Commemoration

Please remain seated for this part of the service.

Minister You Christ, are the King of glory,
All The eternal Son of the Father.

Minister You overcame the sting of death
All And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Minister You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
**All 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.**

Minister Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love
all whom we have placed in your hands.....

[*Their names are now read*]

Acknowledge, we pray,
sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock,
sinners of your own redeeming.

Enfold them in the arms of your mercy,
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and in the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen

Minister The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
All Blessed is the Lord, our strength and our salvation.

As you give light to those in darkness
who walk in the shadow of death,
so remember in your kingdom your faithful servants,
that death may be for them the gate to life
and to unending fellowship with you;
where with your saints you live and reign
one in the perfect union of love now and for ever.

All Amen.

Please sit

We hear God's Word

First Reading

Psalm 43

- 1 Give judgement for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 For you are the God of my refuge;
why have you cast me from you,
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness;
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 O put your trust in God;
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

We keep a moment of silence and stillness

HYMN

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
thy unction grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Please sit

Second Reading

The Sermon

Please sit or kneel.

The prayers end with this prayer

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church,
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,
to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All **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.
And 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.**

Our Prayers