# A SERVICE OF THE WORD

Authorised by the College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church for experimental use for a period of two years from October 2011

The words in **bold** are said by all.

# PREPARATION

## 1 Hymn

## 2 GREETING

The Lord be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

*(Ruth 2.4)*

*A brief introduction to the service may be given here.*

## 3 PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy:

**to our God, who will richly pardon.**

*(Isaiah 55.7)*

*A time of silence is kept, followed by*

**3.1 EITHER**

Have mercy on me, O God:

according to your loving-kindness.

I know my transgressions:

and my sin is ever before me.

Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure:

wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

Create in me a clean heart, O God:

and renew a right spirit within me.

*(From Psalm 51, see Note)*

OR I confess my transgressions to you, Lord.

Then you forgive me the guilt of my sin:

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven:

and whose sin is put away.

I acknowledge my sin to you:

and do not conceal my guilt.

All the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble:

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

*(From Psalm 32, see Note)*

OR I confess my iniquity:

and am sorry for my sin.

In you, O Lord, have I fixed my hope:

You will answer me, O Lord my God.

O Lord, do not forsake me:

be not far from me, O my God.

Make haste to help me:

O Lord of my salvation.

*(From Psalm 38, see Note)*

**3.2** Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,

to your faithful people pardon and peace,

that they may be cleansed from all their sins

and serve you with a quiet mind;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Collect for Epiphany 5)*

**3.3** Blessed is the Lord:

**Who has heard the voice of our prayer.**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy:

**And in our song will we praise our God.**

*(From Psalm 28)*

**3.4 EITHER**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Alleluia!**

OR

**Glory to God, Source of all being,**

**Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Alleluia!**

*Alleluia is omitted from Ash Wednesday until Easter Day*

## 4 Venite Exultemus (see Appendix) OR Hymn

## 5 THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*

*‘Let us pray’ or a more specific bidding.*

*The Collect is said and all respond*

**Amen.**

# PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

## 6 READING(S) FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

*Readings are taken from the Lectionary. The set Psalm may be sung or read between readings.*

7 SERMON or other Exposition of the Word (see Note)

## **8 REFLECTION**

*A time of silence, which may be followed by music, such as an anthem, or a meditative congregational song.*

## 9 AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**EITHER**

**9.1** Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth**.

Do you believe in God the Son?

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

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

OR

**9.2** Do you believe in God the Creator,

who made the world?

**I believe.**

Do you believe in God the Saviour,

who redeemed humanity?

**I believe.**

Do you believe in God the Sanctifier,

who gives life to God’s people?

**I believe.**

OR

**9.3** The Nicene Creed OR The Apostles’ Creed (see Appendix)

# PRAYERS

## 10 PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**10.1** *Prayer is offered for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members.*

*The prayers conclude with*

10.2 EITHER

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**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.**

**Do not bring us to the time of trial**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

OR

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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.**

## 11 OFFERING

*During a hymn, song, music, or silence, the people’s offering may be collected, and the following prayer may then be said.*

Generous God,

Accept the offering of your people

for the work of your Church,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# CONCLUSION

## 12 ACT OF DEDICATION

**12.1** *A verse from one of the* **Readings of the Day** *is read.*

*This is followed by*

**12.2** Your word is a lantern to my feet.

**Your word is a lantern to my feet.**

A light upon my path.

**A lantern to my feet.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Your word is a lantern to my feet.**

*(Psalm 119.105)*

**12.3** **God of life and nurture**

**as the seed grows secretly in the earth,**

**as the yeast rises in the dough,**

**may your power be at work in us.**

**Like a city on a hill,**

**like a lamp in the darkness,**

**may we witness to the glory of your kingdom**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## 13 Gloria in Excelsis, Te Deum OR Hymn

**14 DISMISSAL**

14.1 The Lord be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

*(Ruth 2.4)*

14.2 Almighty God, by grace alone

you call us and accept us in your service.

Strengthen us by your Spirit,

and make us worthy of your call;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*(Collect for Epiphany 3)*

14.3 Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

14.4 **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.**

*(2 Corinthians 13.14)*

*When presiding, a bishop or a priest may give a blessing in place of the Grace.*