

## Sea Sunday Prayer Service

Hymn/Worship song: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

Presider: Almighty God as we look back over this last week, help us to be honest with you and with ourselves. Forgive us for the times we have put self before You and others, forgive us for our wrong thoughts, hurtful words and sinful actions.

Lord in your mercy...

Lord have Mercy

Respond: Lord Have Mercy

Presider: Almighty God, we ask your forgiveness for the times we take others for granted and forget to find out if they have needs and worries. Forgive us for sometimes being too busy to notice how our friends and family really are. Lord in your mercy...

Christ have Mercy

Respond: Christ Have Mercy

Presider: Almighty God, forgive us when we forget we are dependent on you and others in our daily lives. It is so easy to forget those seafarers who work hard to bring us the food we eat and clothes we wear. Lord in your mercy...

Lord have Mercy

Respond: Lord Have Mercy

Presider: Let us pray,

Presider: Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 55 vv 10-13

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down And do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, Giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats, So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Yes, in joy you shall depart, in peace you shall be brought back; Mountains and hills shall break out in song before you, and all the trees of the countryside shall clap their hands. In place of the thornbush, the cypress shall grow, instead of nettles, the myrtle. This shall be to the LORD'S renown, an everlasting imperishable sign.

*The Word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God*

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32

*Response: Give thanks to the Lord, his love endures forever.*

"Give thanks to the LORD who is good, whose love endures forever!" Let that be the prayer of the LORD'S redeemed, those redeemed from the hand of the foe, Those gathered from foreign lands, from east and west, from north and south.

*Response: Give thanks to the Lord, his love endures forever.*

Some went off to sea in ships, plied their trade on the deep waters. They saw the works of the LORD, the wonders of God in the deep.

*Response: Give thanks to the Lord, his love endures forever.*

He spoke and roused a storm wind; it tossed the waves on high. They rose up to the heavens, sank to the depths; their hearts trembled at the danger.

*Response: Give thanks to the Lord, his love endures forever.*

They reeled, staggered like drunkards; their skill was of no avail. In their distress they cried to the LORD, who brought them out of their peril, hushed the storm to a murmur; the waves of the sea were stilled.

*Response: Give thanks to the Lord, his love endures forever.*

They rejoiced that the sea grew calm, that God brought them to the harbor they longed for.

*Response: Give thanks to the Lord, his love endures forever.*

Let them thank the LORD for such kindness, such wondrous deeds for mere mortals. Let them praise him in the assembly of the people, give thanks in the council of the elders.

*Response: Give thanks to the Lord, his love endures forever.*

Reading: St Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole

crowd stood along the shore.

And he spoke to them at length in parables, 2 saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty fold.

"Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.

The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirty fold."

The Gospel of the Lord,  
*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Talk:

*Short reflection drawn from one's own ministry to the people of the sea*

INTERCESSIONS:

Let us thank God who has brought us together to this day, sustains us by his power, strengthens us by his Spirit and nourishes us with his word. May we worship him in spirit and in truth. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us thank God, the Creator and Redeemer of all people, all things, for all his loving kindness in giving us this world and everything in it. May we care for creation in all its forms that all may live and grow together in love, peace and justice. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us thank God, the giver of all good gifts, for seafarers who leave their families, friends and homes to bring us the food for our table, the cargoes for industry and commerce, the coal and fuels for our country. May we in our turn care for them and their families, and hold them in our prayers so all may sail in safety, and return home to their loved ones. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who work in shipping, in management, in unions, in support industries and services. May their work be valued and rewarded with success and a greater understanding by those who benefit from their gifts and skills. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who work to serve seafarers and their families around the world: the chaplains, their assistants, volunteers and all who support them in any way, by prayers, by fund raising. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who are in darkness or despair, at home or at sea, in hospital or in prison. May we do everything we can to bring the love of God, the light of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit to them. May they find light in their darkness and hope in their despair. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Presider:

Creator and Father of all, we pray for those who go down to the sea in ships and on whom we depend. Bless them and those who long for their safe return and bring us all to your Kingdom where there is no sorrow, no tears, but joy and life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer..

Closing prayer/Blessing

Bless, O Lord, all who sail in ships. Preserve them for yourself. Bless all who service them, and lead us all into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.