Service for the Eighth Sunday

Welcome:

‘Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are those who take refuge in him’. Psalm 34:8

Our God is gracious and abounding in mercy. He has given us great and precious promises, he has given us the gift of prayer. This week we consider how he invites to come to him that our souls might find contentment and fulfilment.

Find rest, on my soul, in God alone

**My hope comes from him.**

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

**He is my fortress, I shall not be shaken.**

Trust in him at all times,

O people, pour out your hearts to him

**For God is our refuge. Amen.**

Eternal God, source of all blessing

Help us to worship you

With all our heart and mind and strength

For you alone are God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening hymn: Bless the Lord O my soul

*Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul*

*Worship His holy name*

*Sing like never before O my soul*

*I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Chorus*

You’re rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

10,000 reasons for my heart to find

*Chorus*

And on that day when my strength is failing

the end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

10,000 years and then forever more

*Chorus*

Confession:

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners.

We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done

And are mindful of all that we have failed to do.

For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,

Forgive us all that is past

And help us to live each day

In the light of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much

That he sent his Son to be our Saviour

Forgive us our sins

And make us holy to serve him in the world

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Come to me:

Chorus: As the deer

As the deer pants for the water

So my soul longs after You

You alone are my heart’s desire

And I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,*

*To You alone may my spirit yield*

*You alone are my heart’s desire*

*And I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver

Only You can satisfy

You alone, are the real joy giver

And the apple of my eye

*Chorus*

You’re my friend and You are my brother

Even though You are a king.

I love You more than any other

So much more than anything.

*Chorus*

Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

Address:

Prayers:

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 Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

As members of God’s family, let us pray together to our Heavenly Father

In this time of confusion and uncertainty, let us take a moment

to notice how many good things surround us,

how much there is that we take for granted, and

how much our lives have been blessed this last week.

Let us give thanks to God for his many blessings.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the people and places in the news that have touched our hearts

things we read about in the papers or seen on our TV screens during the week.

We hold them now in God’s love. Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we ask your blessing upon all rulers, leaders and politicians,

that they may be guided by you, especially at this time of the Covid 19 pandemic.

As lockdown continues to ease in many places, may our Government and governments

throughout the world, make wise decisions.

May we all abide by the limitations placed on our lives,

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who have been affected by the Corona Virus

for those recovering and those who have lost loved ones.

We remember also those working on the front line as they seek to relieve suffering.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the Church, for the big issues facing it at present,

From issues of justice and equality to the response to the pandemic.

We pray for the churches within our Benefice, in Macclesfield deanery

and Chester diocese, remembering particularly those in vacancy.

We give thanks for our Bishops, Mark and Keith,

archdeacons Ian and Michael and all the staff at Church House.

We ask for guidance and grace for the Church.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Lord, many people are struggling with illness, bereavement and various crises.

We too, have things on our minds, things we hesitate to mention to anyone else.

But you understand us totally,so webring our needs and concerns to you now.

Give to us all your peace, light and the healing of your loving presence.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

These, Lord are the prayers of your people. We ask you to take each one of these prayers

and answer them in your own time and in your own way.

And in the meantime give us expectant and trustful hearts. **Amen.**

We draw our prayers to a close with the prayer our Lord taught 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.**

Closing Hymn: Praise my soul

Praise my soul the king of heaven

To his feet my tribute bring

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven

Who like thee, His praise should sing?

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour

To our fathers in distress

Praise Him still the same for ever

Slow to chide and swift to bless

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us

Well our feeble frame He knows

In His hands He gently bears us

Rescues us from all our foes

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him

Ye behold Him face to face

Sun and moon bow down before Him

Dwellers all in time and space

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise with us the God of grace.

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and watch over you,

The Lord make his face shine upon you

And be gracious to you

The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father,

the Son and the Holy Spirit

Be with you all this day and forever more. **Amen.**