Service for the Seventh Sunday

Welcome:

Jesus says ‘Ask and it will be given to you.’ Matthew 7:7

You, Lord, are forgiving and good

**Abounding in love to all who call to you.**

When I am in distress, I call to you,

**Because you answer me.**

All the nations will come and worship

**They will glorify your name for ever and ever. Amen.**

Faithful God, whose word is life,

And whose love is everlasting:

Come with saving power to free our praise,

Inspire our prayer and shape our lives

For the kingdom of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our God has given us so many precious promises that we live in love and in hope. Last week we considered his promise for our future, to grant us a place in heaven. Today, we are exploring his continual daily promise to answer us when we pray to him in faith.

Opening hymn: Holy Spirit, we welcome You

Holy Spirit, we welcome You,

Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Move among us with holy fire

As we lay aside all earthly desire,

Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,

Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You,

Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Let the breeze of Your presence blow

That Your children here might truly know

How to move in the Spirit’s flow:

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,

Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You,

Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Please accomplish in us today

Some new work of loving grace, we pray –

Unreservedly – have Your way.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,

Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Confession:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith

We renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

Almighty God, long suffering and of great goodness

I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart

My neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments

My wrong doing, thinking and speaking:

The hurts I have done to others

and the good I have left undone

O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;

And raise me to new life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Your Son has opened for us

A new and living way into your presence

Give us new hearts and steadfast wills

To walk in your ways and delight in your truth

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

Reading: Psalm 34:1-22

You hear me:

Chorus: There is a higher throne

There is a higher throne

Than all this world has known,

Where faithful ones from every tongue

Will one day come.

Before the Son we’ll stand,

Made faultless through the Lamb;

Believing hearts find promised grace: Salvation comes.

*Hear heaven’s voices sing,*

*Their thunderous anthem rings*

*Through emerald courts and sapphire skies,*

*Their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, power,*

*Strength, thanks and honour are*

*To God our King who reigns on high,*

*For ever more.*

And there we’ll find our home,

Our life before the throne;

We’ll honour Him in perfect song

Where we belong.

He’ll wipe each tear stained eye,

As thirst and hunger die;

The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King: We’ll reign with Him.

*Chorus*

Reading: Romans 8:18-39

Address:

Prayers:

As we bow before our heavenly Father, we base our prayers on the words of the chorus ‘Is he worthy?’ by Chris Tomlin.

Do you feel the world is broken? **WE DO**

Do you feel the shadows deepen? **WE DO**

But do you know that all the dark

won’t stop the light from getting through? **WE DO**

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **WE DO**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the world

For the lives that are broken,

For the sin that robs us of our joy

And fills our hearts with darkness.

Send forth the light of your truth,

Shine in our hearts and lives,

Make us new, make us whole.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Is all creation groaning? **IT IS**

Is a new creation coming? **IT IS**

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **IT IS**

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **IT IS**

Almighty God, we pray for creation

For the oceans, forests, mountains and deserts,

For the creatures that inhabit them

Facing the effects of climate change, pollution and exploitation.

We pray for a new heaven and a new earth,

Where humanity and creation can live in harmony

Under the blessing of God.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Does the Father truly love us? **HE DOES**

Does the Spirit move among us? **HE DOES**

And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? **HE DOES**

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **HE DOES**

Lord of all, we pray for your people

Known and loved by you,

Chosen, called, justified and glorified.

Make us in the image of Christ,

Fill us with your Spirit of love

Hold close to your heart, those for whom we pray

Who love you and who need you,

Who are lost and who are sad.

Dwell amongst us in your glory

and build your Holy City in our midst.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David’s root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? **HE IS**

Lord Jesus, Saviour and King

You have conquered death

and opened the door to eternal life.

You are worthy to break the seal of history

And bring forth the new creation.

Redeem us and restore us,

Justify us and glorify your church

For ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord of all power and might

The author and giver of all good things:

Graft in our hearts the love of your name,

Increase in us true religion

Nourish us with all goodness,

And of your great mercy keep us in the same;

Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **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: Be thou my vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art –

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word

I ever with thee and Thou with me Lord

Thou my great Father and I Thy true son

Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight

Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight

Thou my soul’s shelter, Thou my high tower

Raise Thou me heavenward O Power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise

Thou mine inheritance now and always

Thou and Thou only First in my heart

High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won

May I reach heaven’s joy, O bright Heaven’s Sun

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall.

Still be my vision O Ruler of all.

Blessing:

May God the Father, who has called us in love,

Make us worthy of a place in his kingdom. **Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,

Reveal in our midst the promise of his glory. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,

Joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father,

the Son and the Holy Spirit

Be with you all this day and for ever more. **Amen.**