



Worship at home  
*for the*  
Eighth Sunday  
*after*  
Trinity



While public worship is suspended,  
each week we will produce a sheet  
to help you to worship at home,  
and feel connected with other  
Christians who are doing the same.

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*Find a place where you can be still, focus, and be comfortable. You may find it strange to speak out loud if you are on your own. Give it a try, but if it feels too odd, say the words in your head.*

*Light a candle, if you have one, and give thanks that even in times of uncertainty or darkness, Jesus Christ is the light of the world. If you have one, and you find it helpful, you may wish to have a cross or crucifix with you as a visual focus.*

*Spend some time thinking about the week past, and bring before God anything which needs putting right. Say:*

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Pray today's prayer ('Collect'):*

**Lord God,**

**your Son left the riches of heaven**

**and became poor for our sake:**

**when we prosper save us from pride,**

**when we are needy save us from despair,**

**that we may trust in you alone;**

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

*Read these Bible readings:*

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

*Romans 9.1-5*

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

*Matthew 14.13-21*

*Spend some time thinking about the Bible readings. Here are some ideas you might want to think about today, or over the coming week:*

- Jesus withdraws to pray several times in the Gospels. Do you think this is important? How might it help us when we prepare to pray?
- In this passage Jesus attends to the physical and material needs of people – he heals the sick and feeds the hungry. Is this separate from attending to their spiritual needs? What might we learn from it?
- How does Jesus feed us, when we hunger for him?
- The twelve baskets traditionally represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Paul's letter to the Romans is very clear that the Messiah is from the people of Israel. How confident are you in celebrating what share with our Jewish neighbours, and in recognizing differences in our beliefs? Would you find it helpful to study what we call the Old Testament more closely?

*Keep focussed and spend some time in prayer. You may want to pray for:*

- *Any who are hungry, physically or spiritually*
- *Greater understanding between people of different faith traditions*
- *The Church of Christ*
- *Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*
- *The local community*
- *Those who suffer*
- *The communion of saints*

*Finish with the Lord's Prayer:*

**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.**

*Extinguish your candle and end this time of worship, but keep the Bible readings and prayer for the week, and keep returning to them over the next seven days.*

**We are praying for you every day  
at Blackburn Cathedral.**