

***Opening Prayer***

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise his presence with us. As God's people we have gathered:

**God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: fill us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

***Song:*** All creatures of our God and King

***Words from Psalm 22***

But you, O Lord do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you; All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. (vv 19 – 28, abridged)

***We say sorry to God:***

As those who hope to draw nearer to God, to feast on God's word and on his presence with us, let's seek God's healing and forgiveness for the errors and regrets of the past.

*We keep a short time of silence before we pray together*

**Forgive us, Lord, when we run out of patience with others;  
When we run out of kindness for others.**

**Help us, Lord, when we run out of confidence in ourselves.  
Fill us up with all that makes for good friendships,  
And help us to use our gifts in your service. Amen.**

***Assurance of forgiveness***

***Praise and thanksgiving***

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

**Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep.**

You, Lord, preserve both people and animals. How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

**People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast in the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

***Songs:*** Lord you have my heart 912; Holy Spirit move within me

***Collect prayer for today:***

**God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

***Reading***

Luke 8:26-39

*At the end:* This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

***Reflection and Table Talk***

Do you think there other themes in this story, apart from those we have mentioned?

How is this story “good news” for you?

How do you feel about Jesus healing mental ill-health as well as physical ill-health?

Thinking about people being afraid in this story, where do we find Jesus at those times?

***Song:*** Day by day and hour by hour

***The prayers***

***Notices***

***Hymn:*** To God be the glory

***Blessing and Dismissal***

In sickness and in health,

**may the God of life grant us rich blessing. Amen.**

From each day of our ordinary lives,

**may Jesus draw out the fruit of God's kingdom. Amen**

Beyond the expectations of the daily round,

**may the Holy Spirit surprise us with new joys. Amen**

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be  
with us all, today and every day.

We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations.

Let us go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**