**Introduction and Opening Prayers**

**All:** **Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us; renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead; strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**  **Amen**

**Hymn: “I watch the sunrise”**

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky, casting its shadow near;

and on this morning, bright though it be, I feel those shadows near me.

*But you are always close to me, following all my ways.*

*May I be always close to you, following all your ways, Lord.*

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds warming the earth below;

and at the mid-day life seems to say: "I feel your brightness near me."

*But you are always close to me ...*

I watch the sunset fading away lighting the clouds with sleep;

and as the evening closes its eyes I feel your presence near me.

*But you are always close to me ...*

I watch the moonlight guarding the night, waiting till morning comes.

The air is silent, earth is at rest - only your peace is near me.

*But you are always close to me ...*

**The Scriptural Reading** 1 Peter 1. 3-9

**The Address**

**Hymn: “Abide with me”**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:

the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:

when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,

help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;

ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness,

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?

I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;

shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:

heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;

in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**The Prayers and Lord’s Prayer:**

## After the final section:

**God of mercy, entrusting into your hands all that you have made and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people, we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

**Hymn: “Jerusalem”**

And did those feet in ancient time

walk upon England's mountains green?

And was the holy Lamb of God

on England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the countenance divine

shine forth upon our clouded hills?

And was Jerusalem builded here

among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!

Bring me my arrows of desire!

Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!

Bring me my chariot of fire!

I will not cease from mental fight,

nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,

till we have built Jerusalem

in England's green and pleasant land.

**Commendation and Farewell**

All: Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ you have given us a true faith and a sure hope. Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days, that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.