



# Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection  
January 18, 2025

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## God our Parent, Sibling, Friend

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### Preparing

*We are invited to reflect before the service begins.*

I don't know who—or what—put the question, I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone—or Something—and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life is self-surrender, had a goal. From that moment I have know what it means “not to look back,” and “to take no thought for the morrow.”<sup>1</sup>

*Prelude: Processional – Martin Shaw*

*The pastor leads and we respond by reading the bold type:<sup>2</sup>*

**Praise the One who spoke and made everything!**  
Let the rivers ripple with joy;  
let the mountains stomp their feet.  
**Praise the One who adopts all of us as children!**  
We will sing of God's glory;  
we will shout our joy to the heavens.

**Amen.**

*The pastor briefly shares announcements.*

## Inviting

*The liturgist continues:*

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.<sup>3</sup>

**Alleluia! Amen.**

*The cantor sings (to the tune of hymnal #304), and the people join for the second stanza.*

O Great Creator, Faithful Friend,  
loving us more than we can know;  
O hold us fast with tender hand,  
walking with us wherever we go.  
O Great Creator, Faithful Friend,  
marvelous love to all you send.

**O Great Creator, we will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife.  
And show you too, as love knows how,  
sharing your word in all our lives.**  
O Great Creator, Faithful Friend,  
marvelous love to all you send.<sup>4</sup>

## Praying

*The liturgist continues:*

Almighty God,  
We have sinned against you and against our fellow humans,  
In thought and word and deed,  
In what we have done and in what we have failed to do.

**We repent of our sins.**

*After a period of silent reflection on our sin and God's grace, we continue:*

Lord,

**I am not worthy that you come under my roof,  
But only say the word and I will be healed.  
Amen.**

*The liturgist may remind us of special blessings, needs and concerns, and then says:*

I invite you to kneel as we pray.

**Our holy Guardian God, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours now and forever.**

**Amen.**

Christ, Servant of God, with whom the Creator was well pleased: Send your Spirit upon us to flood us with your life.

*We pray silently.*

Christ, Chosen of God, who did not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoldering wick: Have mercy on all who seek you in truth.

*We pray silently.*

Christ, Son of God, whom the Creator sent as a light to the nations: Enlighten all with the gifts of faith and lead them to you.

*We pray silently.*

Christ, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world: Cleanse us by your blood of the new covenant.

*We pray silently.*

Christ, Savior of us all, whose hand the Lord grasped in the waters of the Jordan and the terrors of the desert: Release the captives and free us from fear.<sup>5</sup>

*We pray silently.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to the Lord: So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!<sup>6</sup>

**Amen.**

*The congregation sits.*

## Listening

Listen to the word of God from Isaiah, chapter 62, verses 1-5.

*Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures*

The word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*After a period of silent reflection on the reading, the pastor says:*

Please join in reading from Psalm 36.

- 5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
**and your faithfulness to the clouds.**
- 6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep;  
**you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**
- 7 How priceless is your love, O God!  
**your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.**
- 8 They feast upon the abundance of your house;  
**you give them drink from the river of your delights.**
- 9 For with you is the well of life,  
**and in your light we see light.**
- 10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,  
**and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

*After a period of silent reflection on the Psalm, the lector says:*

Listen to the word of God from First Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 1-11.

*Lesson from the New Testament*

The word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*After a period of silent reflection on the reading, the cantor says:*

Please stand and join me in singing \_\_\_ stanzas of hymn 1, "Praise to the Lord."

*The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:*

Listen to the gospel according to John, chapter 2, verses 1-11.

## Lesson from the Gospel

The word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We reflect silently on the Gospel.*

## Offering

*The liturgist continues:*

Please be seated.

By these gifts, Gracious God, may those who have so little be clothed with your abundant grace, and may all who are searching find that they are your beloved children.

You can give at the doors to the sanctuary after the service, or you can visit [lasierra.church](http://lasierra.church) and click on “Give.”

*Offertory: Canzonetta – Eric H. Thiman*

## Considering

*The homilist prays:*

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in our Savior’s coming. May our hearts always receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Homily*

## Affirming

*The liturgist says:*

As we bask in Christ’s presence in our lives, and remember his death and resurrection, we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**By Christ, we are redeemed from sin;  
by Christ, we are delivered from death;  
by Christ, we are adopted as God's children.**

*We join the cantor in singing (tune of #304):*

**Wings of the morning we will take,  
following you on ventures bold;  
Darkness and light are one with you;  
all day and night your gifts unfold.  
O Great Creator, Faithful Friend,  
marvelous love to all you send.**

**Daily we praise your wondrous works,  
lovely beyond all words to tell;  
Formed in your image we will be  
with you forever more to dwell.  
O Great Creator, Faithful Friend,  
marvelous love to all you send.<sup>7</sup>**

## Responding

*The pastor says:*

Bless the Lord God of Israel  
who has delivered God's people.  
Who has raised up a mighty savior for us in God's servant David's house,  
just as God said through the mouths of holy prophets long ago.  
The Lord has brought salvation from our enemies  
and from the power of all those who hate us.  
God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and remembered the holy covenant,  
God's solemn pledge to our ancestors Abraham and Sarah.  
The Lord has granted that we would be rescued  
from the power of our enemies  
so that we could become God's fearless servants,  
in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes,  
for as long as we live.  
You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way.  
You will tell people how to be saved  
through the forgiveness of their sins.  
Because of our God's deep compassion,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who are sitting in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,

to guide us on the path of peace.<sup>8</sup>

**Alleluia! Amen.**

*Angelus (organ chimes)*

## Blessing

*Postlude: Improvisation on "Praise to the Lord" – Paul Manz*

*The pastor says:*

The God of creation goes with us now

as we go to care for all that has been given to us.

The Christ lives with us now as we seek to serve with humility and hope.

The Spirit of God goes with us now

as we would show others how to find the kingdom.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

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## Upcoming Texts

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January 25: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;  
and Luke 4:14-21.

February 1: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; and Luke  
4:21-30.

*Visit <https://lasierra.church/liturgical-service/> to view upcoming texts and participants, download this liturgy, watch online, or sign up for our email newsletter.*

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<sup>1</sup> Dag Hammarskjöld.

<sup>2</sup> Thom M. Schuman.

<sup>3</sup> *Book of Common Prayer* (1979).

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Jann Aldredge-Clanton, *Inclusive Hymns for Liberating Christians* (2006).

<sup>5</sup> Adapted from *Benedictine Daily Prayer* (2005).

<sup>6</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:17.

<sup>7</sup> Jann Aldredge-Clanton, *Inclusive Hymns for Liberating Christians* (2006).

<sup>8</sup> From Luke 1, translation adapted from *Benedictine Daily Prayer* (2005).