



Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
February 22, 2025

God our Parent, Sibling, Friend

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

“You have heard that it was said, You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing? Don’t even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete.¹

Prelude: How Lovely Shines the Morning Star – Johann Ludwig Krebs

The pastor leads and we respond by reading the bold type:²

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:

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.³

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.⁴**

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.⁵

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!⁶

Amen.

The congregation sits.

Listening

Listen to the word of God from Genesis, chapter 45, verses 3-11 and 15.

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 37.

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
 dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the Lord,
and God shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in God,
who will bring it to pass.
- 6 God will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently.
Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 8 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 9 For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.
- 10 In a little while the wicked shall be no more;

- you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.**
- 11 But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 39 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord;
God is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 40 The Lord will help them and rescue them;
**God will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in the Lord they seek refuge.**

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

Listen to the word of God from First Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 35-38 and 42-50.

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 107, “God Moves in a Mysterious Way.”

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to Luke, chapter 6, verses 27-38.

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 and click on “Give.”

Offertory: *Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above* (BuxWV 219) – Dietrich
Buxtehude

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.⁷**

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.⁸

Alleluia! Amen.

Angelus (organ chimes)

Blessing

Prelude: How Lovely Shines the Morning Star – Johann Ludwig Krebs

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.

Upcoming Texts

March 1: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; and Luke 9:28-36.

March 8: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; and Luke 4:1-13.

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

¹ Matthew 5:43-48, Common English Bible.

² Thom M. Schuman.

³ *Book of Common Prayer* (1979).

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

⁵ Adapted from *Benedictine Daily Prayer* (2005).

⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:17.

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

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