



Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
March 15, 2025

Lent

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

O God of many names
Lover of all nations
We pray for peace
 in our hearts
 in our homes
 in our nations
 in the world
The peace of your will
The peace of our need.¹

Prelude: O Soul, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin (BWV 622) – Johann Sebastian Bach

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

God, our light and our salvation, calls us to worship.

We gather in faith, confidence, and praise.

Come; seek the face of God.

God's face shines upon us with grace and love.

Be strong, my friends, for God is here.

Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift.²

The pastor briefly shares announcements.

Inviting

The liturgist continues:

Mighty God, we come into your presence
from many different places and situations.
Light our way in this time of worship.
Calm our hearts, focus our thoughts,
and strengthen our faith,
as we pray and praise this day.

Amen.³

The cantor and people sing Hymn #662.

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand. Amen.**

Praying

The liturgist continues:

Mothering God, we often feel scattered and lost,
separated from you and from one another.
Gather us in.
Comfort us in our loneliness.
Dispel our fears.
Correct our wayward feet and strengthen our faith,
that we might hear your voice, trust your promises,
and stand firm in your ways.
In your light and love, we pray.⁴

Amen.

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

Be strong and take heart.
God is with us here and now.

Christ's love is saving us, now and always.⁵

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.

We give glory to God, who has concern for us all. Lord, save the people you have redeemed.

We pray silently.

Teach us to serve the needs of others, and to be like you, who came to serve.

We pray silently.

Make us a community that truly seeks you. May we all help each other, so that we may be your city.

We pray silently.

Protect with your love all who suffer (including _____).

We pray silently.

Christ, Savior of us all, who sought you in the desert: Release the captives and free us from fear.

Amen.

The congregation sits.

Listening

Listen to the word of God from Genesis, chapter 15, verses 1-12 and 17-18.

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 27.

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?
**the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?**
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,
**it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and
fell.**
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
And though war should rise up against me,
yet will I put my trust in God.
- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek;
**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my
life;**
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord
and to seek God in the temple.
- 5 For in the day of trouble the Lord shall shelter me in safety;
**the Lord shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.**
- 6 Even now God lifts up my head
above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation
with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 13 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!
- 14 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and God shall comfort your heart;
wait patiently for the Lord.
- 15 Show me your way, O Lord;
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,

**for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.**

17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and God shall comfort your heart;
wait patiently for the Lord.

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

Listen to the word of God from Philippians, chapter 3 verse 17 to chapter 4 verse 1.

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 240, "Fairest Lord Jesus."

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to Luke, chapter 13, verses 31-35.

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.

As we contemplate God's word and God's glory, we offer our lives and our praise.

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Offertory: *When in the Hour of Utmost Need (BWV 641)* – Johann Sebastian Bach

Considering

The homilist prays:

Seek God and thirst for the Lord. For God's steadfast love is sweeter than honey and more satisfying than the finest bread.⁶

Amen.

Homily

Affirming

The liturgist says:

As we contemplate Christ's path to Jerusalem, 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 #662):

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food. Amen.**

Responding

The pastor says:

O Lord, the helper of the helpless, the hope of those who are past hope, the savior of the tempest-tossed, the harbor of the voyagers, the physician of the sick; you know each soul and our prayer, each home and its need; become to each one of us what we most dearly require, receiving us all into your kingdom, making us children of light; and pour on us your peace and love, O Lord our God.⁷

Amen.

Angelus (organ chimes)

Blessing

Postlude: When in the Hour of Utmost Need (BWV 668) – Johann Sebastian Bach

The pastor says:

Be strong and take heart.

God goes before us on the road of life.

Go as beloved children of God.

We will bring love to all of God's children.⁸

Amen.

Upcoming Texts

March 22: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; and Luke 13:1-9.

March 29: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

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 George Appleton, *The Oxford Book of Prayer* (1985).

² Mary Scifres, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

³ Mary Scifres, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

⁴ Mary Scifres, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

⁵ Mary Scifres, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

⁶ B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

⁷ From *The Liturgy of Saint Basil, 2000 Years of Prayer* (1999).

⁸ Mary Scifres, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).