



Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
March 22, 2025

Lent

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

O Lord, calm the wanes of this heart; calm its tempests. Calm thyself, O my soul, so that the divine can act on thee. Calm thyself, O my soul, so that God is able to repose in thee, so that his peace may cover thee. Yes, Father in heaven, often have we found that the world cannot give us peace, O but make us feel that thou art able to give peace; let us know the truth of thy promise: that the whole world may not be able to take away thy peace.¹

Prelude: Psalm-Prelude (Ps. 37:11) – Herbert Howells

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

The table is set. The banquet is laid.

Our souls hunger and thirst for God.

Our gracious host welcomes us here.

God's steadfast love is better than life.

Sing for joy in the shadow of God's wings.

We have come to praise the living God.²

The pastor briefly shares announcements.

Inviting

The liturgist continues:

Lord of overflowing abundance,
we praise you with joyful lips
and bless you with uplifted hands.
When our souls are parched,
you offer us wine and milk without price
and satisfy our hunger.
Guard us when we stand for what is right,
and save us from the time of trial,
that we may be worthy disciples of your Son,
our rock and our redeemer.³

Amen.

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:

God of our weary years, lift us up and guide us forward,
when we are tired beyond words.
Pour your grace into our souls,
when we give in to temptation
and stray where we were never meant to go.
Shepherding God, guide us back to you
and show us the path home.
In hope and gratitude, we pray.⁴

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

God is our help in times of trial
and when we lose our way.

When we place our trust in Christ,
God helps us stand and restores our honor.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 Isaiah, chapter 55, verses 1-9.

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 63.

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
**my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

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

Listen to the word of God from First Corinthians, chapter 10, verses 1-13.

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 100, "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to Luke, chapter 13, verses 1-9.

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: Prelude on "As Pants the Hart" – Healey Willan

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: Solemn Prelude – Alec Rowley

The pastor says:

Seek the Lord while God may be found.
We will call upon the Lord, while God is near.
Embrace the paths that lead to life.
We will return to our God.
Seek the Lord while God may be found.
We will call upon the Lord, while God is near.⁸
Amen.

Upcoming Texts

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

April 5: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; and John 12:1-8.

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 Søren Kierkegaard.

² B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

³ B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

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

⁵ B. J. Beu, *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 B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).