



Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
March 29, 2025

Lent

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.¹

Prelude: Lord, Have Mercy (BWV 721) – Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Come, all ye faithful ...

to worship, praise, and pray.

Come, all ye unfaithful ...

for God's love welcomes us home.

Come into the presence of Christ ...

for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.²

Amen.

The pastor briefly shares announcements.

Inviting

The liturgist continues:

God of ages past and present faithfulness,
welcome us into your love,
as we worship you this day.
Draw closer to us,
that we might trust your promises
and follow your ways.
In hope and faith, we pray.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:

Father-Mother God, welcome us home
when we wander afar.
Restore us with your compassion and love.
Transform us with your miraculous grace,
that we might become the new creations
you envision us to be.
Strengthen us with the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we might offer others
the same welcome, grace, and love
that you have offered us.
In your beloved name, we pray.⁴
Amen.

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

Everything old has passed away.
In Christ, you are a new creation,

full of mercy and grace.

**In Christ, you are a new creation,
full of mercy and grace.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 Joshua, chapter 5, verses 9-12.

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 32.

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 6 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 7 You are my hiding place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
- 9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 10 Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

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

Listen to the word of God from Second Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 16-21.

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 296, “Lord, I’m Coming Home.”

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to Luke, chapter 15, verses 1 to 3 and 11b to 32.

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: Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word – Max Reger

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: O World, I Now Must Leave Thee – Johannes Brahms

The pastor says:

Created anew in Christ,
we go to proclaim new life to the world.
Transformed by God's love and grace,

we go to bring love and grace to all.⁸
Amen.

Upcoming Texts

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

April 12: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; and Luke 19:28-40.

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 Reinhold Niebhr.

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).