



A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
May 10, 2025

Celebrating the Resurrection

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

In thy hand, we see the whole cosmos,
Heaven and earth reflect
the mystery of thy handiwork.

In thy hand, we see a little child,
Men and women are recaptured
by the event of Bethlehem.

In thy hand, we see the scar of the cross,
Sin and death are vanquished
by the suffering on Golgotha.

In thy hand, before a new light,
Day and night are transformed
in the glory of Easter morning.¹

Prelude: Lento Liturgico II by Carlo Saragozza

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

Blessed are you, O God, for you have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, that we should be holy and blameless before you. You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of your will, to the praise of your glorious grace, that you have freely given us in the Beloved.

In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of your grace which you have lavished upon us.

You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, the mystery of your will, according to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather together all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

Though in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness.

Being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.²

Amen.

The pastor briefly shares announcements.

Inviting

The liturgist continues:

Jesus,
Good Shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold:
Feed us and we shall be satisfied,
heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit.³

Amen.

The cantor and people sing (to the tune of Hymn #43):⁴

We gather here to pray and celebrate today;

We join our Faithful Friend.

In unity we come, rejoicing now as one;

We join our Faithful Friend.

We share each other's pain, our wholeness to regain;

We join our Faithful Friend.

Together we will grow as healing freely flows;

We join our Faithful Friend.

Praying

The liturgist and people continue:

Almighty God,

in raising Jesus from the grave,

you shattered the power of sin and death.

We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,

bound by the ways that lead to death.

We overlook the poor and the hungry,

and pass by those who mourn;

we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,

and indifferent to calls for peace;

we despise the weak,

and abuse the earth you made.

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

Forgive us, God of mercy.

Help us to trust your power

to change our lives and make us new,

that we may know the joy of life abundant

given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.⁵

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.

Let us each pray for the willingness to give to others the forgiveness we ourselves have received from you in the death of Jesus.

Hear us, Lord of glory.

We pray silently.

Let us each pray for insight to recognize the possibilities of resurrection in our own lives.

Hear us, Lord of glory.

We pray silently.

Let us each pray for grace to bring resurrection life to someone else in the coming week.

Hear us, Lord of glory.

We pray silently.

Let us each pray for all Your children who are suffering in mind or body or spirit (including _____).

Hear us, Lord of glory.

We pray silently.

Amen.

The congregation sits.

Listening

Listen to the word of God from Acts, chapter 9, verses 36-43.

Lesson from the Book of Acts

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 23.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
 I shall not be in want.
- 2 **You make me lie down in green pastures
 and lead me beside still waters.**
- 3 You revive my soul
 and guide me along right pathways for your Name's sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I shall fear no evil;
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble
 me;
 you have anointed my head with oil,
 and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
 my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

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

Listen to the word of God from Revelation, chapter 7, verses 9-17.

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 256, "Ye Servants of God."

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to John, chapter 10, verses 22-30.

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: Offertoire by Auguste Larriu

Considering

The homilist prays:

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
I know them, and they follow me.⁶

Amen.

Homily

Affirming

The liturgist says:

**We believe in God,
Maker of heaven and earth
and all they contain.**

God is almighty in love,
unwilling ever to abandon sinners.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's unique son.

He was born of Mary and grew to adulthood.
He went about doing good
and preaching the gospel.
He suffered, died, and was buried.
He came forth from the tomb on the third day,

ascended into heaven,
and now ministers on our behalf.
He will come again in glory
as Judge and Savior of all humanity.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
God's guiding presence and
transforming power.**

The Spirit is the source of our oneness in Christ,
the possibility of our witness and service,
and the promise of everlasting life with God.

We join the cantor in singing (tune of #43):⁷

**Our welcome reaches all, and breaks down every wall;
We join our Loving Friend.
Diversity empowers communities to flower;
We join our Loving Friend.**

**As partners we give birth to hope and peace on earth;
We join Creative Love.
We bring our varied gifts, all people to uplift;
We join Creative Love.**

Responding

The pastor says:

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or
imagine by God's power at work within us; glory to God in the church
and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always.⁸

Amen.

Angelus (organ chimes)

Blessing

Postlude: Toccata by Gaston Gryselyn

The pastor says:

God's blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,

now and always.

Amen.

Upcoming Texts

May 17: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; and John 13:31-35.

May 24: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; and John 14:23-29.

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 Masao, Fumiko, Makoto, and Yukako Takenaka.

² Ephesians 1:3-10.

³ *Book of Common Worship* (1993).

⁴ Words by Jann Aldredge-Clanton, *Inclusive Hymns for Liberation, Peace, and Justice* (2011).

⁵ *Book of Common Worship* (1993).

⁶ *Book of Common Worship* (1993).

⁷ Words by Jann Aldredge-Clanton, *Inclusive Hymns for Liberation, Peace, and Justice* (2011).

⁸ Ephesians 3:20-21.