



Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
March 7, 2026

Lent

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

Prelude: Méditation - Maurice Duruflé

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

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well,
he promised to become in us a spring of water
gushing up to eternal life.

Today, we see your ever-flowing grace
poured out in snow and sun,
in the waxing and waning of the moon,
in the first bright yellow daffodils
braving the cold mornings as winter turns into spring.

In this season, and in every season,
pour out your Spirit of love among us and through us,
that we may truly be the Body of Christ,
living water for a thirsty world.¹

Amen.

The pastor briefly shares announcements.

Inviting

The liturgist continues:

O God of all creation,
hear now our prayers of praise and thanks,
our wonder and our gratitude.²

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:

O Lord, you are generous and merciful, abounding in love. Though we have been unfaithful, you wait for us with open arms. Listen as we pray:

Lord, save your people.

From not trusting your mercy and love:

Lord, save your people.

As we turn to you by serving others:

Lord, save your people.

As we turn to you in worship:

Lord, save your people.

As we turn to you in love:

Lord, save your people.

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

Our sins are forgiven.

None remain unforgiven.

We have recovered from a fever: Restore our weakness.

The spear is removed: Treat our wounds.

The cause of our sickness is removed:

The cure has begun!³

Amen.

The liturgist may remind us of special blessings, needs and concerns, and then says:

We pray for those who never have enough to eat,
and for those who daily turn the bread of others into stones.

We pray for those who are oppressed,
and for those who abuse their power to oppress them.

We pray for those who thirst for God,
and we pray for the slaking of our own thirsts and hungers.⁴

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.

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?

Be gracious to your servants.

We pray silently.

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,

As we have put our trust in you.

We pray silently.

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;

Let your faithful people sing with joy.

We pray silently.

Save your people and bless your inheritance;

Shepherd them and carry them for ever.

We pray silently.

Remember your congregation

That you purchased long ago.

We pray silently.

Peace be within your walls
And quietness within your towers.

We pray silently.

Let us pray for our absent brothers and sisters,
Save your servants who put their trust in you.

We pray silently.

Let us pray for the afflicted and captives.
**Send them help from your holy place,
and strengthen them out of Zion.**

We pray silently.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

We pray silently.

Arise, O Christ, for our help;
And save us, for the sake of your steadfast love.⁵
Amen.

The congregation sits.

Listening

Listen to the word of God from Exodus, chapter 17, verses 1-7.

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 95.

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God,
and a great Ruler above all gods.
- 4 In God's hand are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills belong to the Lord.

- 5 The sea belongs to God, who made it,
whose hands have molded the dry land.
6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7 For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's
hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to the voice of the Lord!

- 8 Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness,
**at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.**
9 They put me to the test,
though they had seen my works.
10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said,
**"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."**
11 So I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter into my rest."

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

Listen to the word of God from Romans, chapter 5, verses 1-11.

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 ___,

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to John, chapter 4, verses 5-42.

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.

We bring to you, O God, our lives, our talents, and our gifts. May they work to Your glory.

If you wish to contribute financially, you can give at the doors to the sanctuary at the end of the service, or you can visit lasierra.church and click on "Give."

Offertory: Chant de Paix - Jean Langlais

Considering

The homilist prays:

God of grace, may we follow you in the desert and in the city. Speak to us and let us listen.

Amen.

Homily

Affirming

The liturgist and people say:

Christ died, faithful to the end;

Christ was raised, so all creation might be saved;

Christ will come, to bring us to that home he will show us.⁶

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: Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons, Op. 12 - Maurice Duruflé

The pastor and people say:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.⁸
Amen.**

Upcoming Texts

March 14: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; and John 9:1-41.
March 21: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; and John 11:1-45.

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 Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove, *Calling on God: Inclusive Prayers for Three Years of Sundays* (2014).

² Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove, *Calling on God: Inclusive Prayers for Three Years of Sundays* (2014).

³ Adapted from Augustine's *On the Trinity*, Book 14, Chapter 17.

⁴ Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove, *Calling on God: Inclusive Prayers for Three Years of Sundays* (2014).

⁵ From *The Daily Prayer of the Church* (2005).

⁶ Thom Shuman Lectionary Liturgies.

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

⁸ Matthew 5:3-10, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.