



# Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection  
April 25, 2026

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## Celebrating the Resurrection

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### Preparing

*We are invited to reflect before the service begins.*

O Majesty, O Magnificence, O Mystery, come!  
Be hammer, and break our indifference.  
Be sun, and splinter our shadows.  
Be wind, and scatter our despair.  
Yea, in the dry country of our souls,  
Let thy grace rain;  
So that we take root in thee, and grow.  
Make of us trees strong in all seasons,  
Bearing good fruit,  
Giving shade to all weariness  
And shelter to them that are lost.  
So we pray to the glory of Jesus Christ  
Who made the crosstree  
Green and flourishing forever.<sup>1</sup>

*Prelude: Allegro moderato e serioso, from Organ Sonata No. 1 – Felix  
Mendelssohn*

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

The love of God our Creator,

the grace of Christ our Savior,  
and the presence of the Holy Spirit our Guide  
be with you all.

**Amen.**

*The pastor briefly shares announcements.*

## Inviting

*The liturgist continues:*

Life abundant,  
God of grace,  
you call us by name  
to live without fear:  
in peace we may resist  
all who kill and despoil your people,  
that their hearts might be turned  
to the only source of life;  
through Jesus Christ, the gateway.

**Amen.**

*The cantor sings and the people join on the second verse (to the tune of Hymn #169):*

Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness;  
God has brought all Israel  
into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.

**'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ has burst his prison;  
From the frost and gloom of death  
Light and life have risen.  
All the winter of our sins,  
Long and dark, is flying  
From His light to whom we give  
Thanks and praise undying.**

## Praying

*The liturgist continues:*

Although we have promised to serve your will and live your love,  
**too often we have served ourselves and lived for our own benefit.**

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

God the Three-in-One-whose unity is the oneness of  
Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit,  
across the abyss of separation  
in the cross, grave, and resurrection—  
**you have reconciled the world to yourself  
and swallowed up our death.**

**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.**

Risen Christ Jesus, risen from your dark tomb  
Death could not bind you, you broke out as from a womb.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

*We pray silently.*

Light of the whole world, you leave no one in despair,  
Strengthen weak faith, that we with you great deeds may dare.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

*We pray silently.*

Chief Shepherd of us all, you gave your life for the lost

Help us guide the scattered; no careful counting of the cost.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

*We pray silently.*

Jesus the joy of life, now begin your dance of bliss,  
The whole world rejoices, tune each heart to ways of peace.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

*We pray silently.*

Companion of the needy, always near to those who seek,  
Use us as your body to bind the wounds of all the weak.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

*We pray silently.*

Head of God's new creation, every creature now is called  
To live in your freedom, men and women, young and old.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.**

*We pray silently.*

Strong Hero of the lowly, may all oppressed or suffering  
Find hope and love in you.

**Share through us your presence, risen Christ today.<sup>2</sup>**

*We pray silently.*

**Amen.**

*The congregation sits.*

## Listening

Listen to the word of God from Acts, chapter 2, verses 42-47.

*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 First Peter, chapter 2, verses 19-25.

*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 290, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus."

*The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:*

Listen to the gospel according to John, chapter 10, verses 1-10.

*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.

All that we have is God's alone. Whatever gifts we bring, we give You what is Yours.

*If you wish to contribute financially, you can donate at the doors to the sanctuary at the end of the service, or you can visit [lasierra.church](http://lasierra.church) and click on "Give."*

*Offertory: Adagio, from Organ Sonata No. 1 – Felix Mendelssohn*

## Considering

*The homilist prays:*

Nourish us today with your Word, O God, so that we may bear witness to your redeeming love and resurrection power.

**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 #169):*

**Spring has dawned on earth today;  
Christ has burst from prison.  
And from three days' sleep in death  
as the sun has risen;  
All the winter of our sins,  
long and gray, is flying  
From the light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.**

**Neither might the gates of death,  
nor the tomb's dim portal,  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal  
hold you as a mortal;  
But today amid the twelve  
you still stand, bestowing  
Peace and joy which evermore  
passes human knowing.**

## 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.<sup>3</sup>

**Amen.**

*Angelus (organ chimes)*

## Blessing

*Postlude: Allegro assai vivace, from Organ Sonata No. 1 – Felix  
Mendelssohn*

*The pastor says:*

That we may love justice, for its own sake and for God, without asking  
return: May God help us to this.<sup>4</sup>

**Amen.**

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## Upcoming Texts

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May 2: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; and John 14:1-14.

May 9: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; and John 14:15-21.

Visit <https://lasierra.church/liturgical-service/> to view upcoming texts and participants, download this liturgy, watch online, or sign up for our email newsletter.

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<sup>1</sup> Arnold Kenseth, from *Gifts of Many Cultures* (1995).

<sup>2</sup> United Theological College, Bangalore, India, from *Gifts of Many Cultures: Resources for the Global Community* (1995).

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 3:20-21.

<sup>4</sup> Meister Eckhart, Sermon Six, from *Meister Eckhart: The Essential Sermons, Commentaries, Treatises, and Defense*, translated by Edmund College and Bernard McGinn (1981).