



Liturgical Service

A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
May 16, 2026

Celebrating the Resurrection

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

Prelude: Offertoire from L'Orgue Mystique, Office No. 23: "In Ascensione Domini" - Charles Tournemire

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:

Threefold One,
relationship in unity,
love given and received
through all the ages long:
give us that unity

which is not enclosed
but alive and accepting
with the open heart of love;
through Jesus Christ, the glory of God.

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 Pharoah'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.¹

We pray silently.

Amen.

The congregation sits.

Listening

Listen to the word of God from Acts, chapter 1, verses 6-14.

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 68.

- 1 Arise, O God, and let your enemies be scattered;
let those who hate you flee before you.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;
**as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
presence of God.**
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;
exalt the One who rides upon the heavens;
rejoice before the One whose name is the Lord!
- 5 Parent to orphans, defender to widowed ones,
God in heaven's holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into
freedom;

- but the rebels shall live in dry places.**
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
 at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it;
**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the
 impoverished.**
- 32 Sing to God, O realms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
- 33 Who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
who mighty voice thunders.
- 34 Ascribe power to God;
**whose majesty is over Israel;
 whose strength is in the skies.**
- 35 How wonderful is God in the holy places!
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to the chosen
 people!
 Blessed be God!**

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

Listen to the word of God from First Peter, chapter 4 verses 12-14, and chapter 5 verses 6-11.

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 334, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to John, chapter 17, verses 1-11.

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 and click on "Give."

Offertory: Excerpt from Symphony No. 9 (II. Largo) - Antonín Dvořák

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.²

Amen.

Angelus (organ chimes)

Blessing

*Postlude: "Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn," BWV 630 - Johann
Sebastian Bach*

The pastor says:

That we may love justice, for its own sake and for God, without asking return: May God help us to this.³

Amen.

Upcoming Texts

May 23: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; and John 20:19-23.

May 30: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; and Matthew 28:16-20.

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

² Ephesians 3:20-21.

³ Meister Eckhart, Sermon Six, from *Meister Eckhart: The Essential Sermons, Commentaries, Treatises, and Defense*, translated by Edmund College and Bernard McGinn (1981).