



A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
October 3, 2026

Fall 2026 - Communion

Preparing

Prelude: Prélude et Petit Canon by Vincent d'Indy

The pastor says:

We welcome You, Sprit of God,
You who seek our company
and choose to make Yourself know to us.

We join in reading the bold type.

**We are grateful for Your many blessings,
including bringing us together
at this time,
in this place.¹**

The pastor briefly shares announcements.

Inviting

The liturgist continues:

O God of ever-present love,
help us
to embrace true security,
fleeing from idols

and exposing illusions.

All things are passing,
God never changes.

Amen. Let it be so.²

The cantor sings (to the tune of Hymn #221):

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphed ever more.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice again I say, rejoice.

We join the cantor:

**Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice again I say, rejoice.³**

Praying

The liturgist continues:

From being content with things as they are
in ourselves, in the church, and in the world,
from confusing faith with good feelings
and love with wanting to be loved—

O God, deliver us.

From everything in us
that hinders or distorts the truths of your love—

O God, deliver us. Amen.

We contemplate our sin and God's grace.

God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us by the measure of our failings.
As vast as the distance from one end of creation to another,
God's love for us is even greater.
As far as east is from west,
from greater than this distance does God remove our sin from us.⁴

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.

Grant, almighty God, that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray silently.

We pray silently.

Give courage and determination for those who are oppressed and let us remember that “we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny.”⁵

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray silently.

Be merciful to those who suffer, in body or in mind, to those who are in danger or distress, and who have suffered loss, (including _____).

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray silently.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who suffered and died, and then rose from the dead to lead us into new life, now and for ever.

Amen.⁶

The congregation sits.

Listening

The lector says:

Listen to the word of God from Exodus, chapter 20, verses 1-20.

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 19.

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows God's handiwork.
- 2 **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- 3 Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 **Their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.**
- 5 In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the
innocent.
- 8 **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to
the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine
gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 **Can people tell how often they offend?
cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

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

Listen to the word of God from Philippians, chapter 3, verses 3b-14.

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 547, “Be Thou My Vision.”

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to Matthew, chapter 21, verses 33-46.

Lesson from the Gospel

The word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Offering

After a period of silent reflection, the liturgist continues:

Please be seated.

With gratitude and gladness we reflect on God’s goodness and gifts of grace.

Amen.

If you wish to donate financially, you can give at the doors to the sanctuary after the service, or you can visit lasierra.church and click on “Give.”

Offertory: Offertoire by Louis Bottazo

Considering

After a moment of grateful reflection, the homilist prays:

Give your people grace to witness to your word
and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

Amen.

Communing

During the next lines, the ministers break the bread.

The liturgist says:

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

Take and eat, this is my body.⁷

As the bread and wine are distributed, the cantor sings (Hymn #398).

Bread of the world in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul in mercy shed,
By whom the words of life are spoken,
And in whose death our sins are dead;

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be Thy feast to us the token
That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

Organist continues to play until all have received. Then, the liturgist says:

Christ is the bread of heaven. This is Christ's body broken for us,
the sign that God is in us always, sharing both our joys and our sorrows.

Now all eat the bread.

Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

“Drink from this, all of you.”

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Now all drink the wine.

Affirming

The liturgist and people say:

Lord, You have always marked the road for the coming day; and though it may be hidden,

today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened this darkness of mine; and though the night is here,

today I believe.

Lord, you have always spoken when time was ripe; and though You be silent now,

today I believe.

Amen.

We join the cantor in singing (to the tune of Hymn #221):⁸

Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;

The keys of death and grave are to the Savior given.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the judge shall come,

And take the faithful up to their eternal home.

We soon shall hear a heavenly voice

Above the trumpet's sound, "Rejoice!"

Responding

The pastor says:⁹

Serve your God with patience and passion.

Be deliberate in enacting your faith.

Be steadfast in celebrating the Spirit's power.

And may peace be your way in the world.¹⁰

Amen.

Organ chimes

Blessing

Postlude: Toccata No. 3 by Jean-Marie Plum

The pastor says:

Blessed be God of the rivers and of our lives.

Blessed be God of the tides and our thought.

Blessed be God of the wind and our motives.

Bless these steps we have taken.

You have walked in our shoes.¹¹

Alleluia! Amen!

Upcoming Texts

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

October 10: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; and Matthew 22:1-14.

October 17: Exodus 33:13-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; and Matthew 22:15-22.

¹ *Celtic Daily Prayer Book II* (2015).

² *Celtic Daily Prayer Book II* (2015).

³ *The New Century Hymnal* (1995).

⁴ *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* (2014).

⁵ Martin Luther King, Jr., *Why We Can't Wait* (1963).

⁶ Adapted from *the United Methodist Book of Worship* (1992).

⁷ Matthew 26:26, Common English Bible.

⁸ Adapted from *The New Century Hymnal* (1995).

⁹ *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* (2014).

¹⁰ From *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (1992).

¹¹ Adapted from *Celtic Daily Prayer Book II* (2015).