

Worship Text

The Invocation

Leader: May the light and love of God who wonderfully made us, who graciously redeemed us, who calls us each by name, be with us all as we gather for worship this day. Amen.

Opening Dialogue

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: We will rejoice, and be glad in it!

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our song;
he has become our victory!

People: You are our God, and we will praise you;
You are our God, and we will exalt you.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

People: His faithful love endures forever!

The Opening Song

The Confession

Leader: Trusting in the steadfast, sure love of God, let us return to the Lord, confessing our sins.

Leader: Most merciful God,

People: you desire to gather your children together, yet we are not always willing. We squander your gifts, misuse our power, and turn away from your love. We spend ourselves for what does not satisfy and neglect those in sorrow and in need. Spare us, O Lord, and forgive us our sins, that we may turn from evil ways and find shelter beneath your wings. Amen

Words of Assurance

Leader: God is generous to all who ask for help. Almighty God has mercy on us, forgives us all our sins through Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit will keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen

Hymn

The Prayer of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Doxology

The First Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Bible. New Revised Standard Version. Bible Study, 6.10.1, Olive Tree Bible Software, 2000

The Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found

my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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Song for Inspiration

The Message

The Creed

People: I believe in God, creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Redeemer,
Who suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Our Offering

Leader: In response to God's saving Grace offer yourself and your treasure.

People: With thanksgiving we commit to giving of ourselves to the needs of all of God's children.

Song of Thanksgiving

The Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious God: We, along with the psalmist and count- less saints throughout the ages, sing our praises: You delivered your people Israel, and restored them. You deliver and restore us too, therefore we rejoice and are glad.

Merciful LORD: We, like the apostle Paul, are most grateful to you for strengthening us, and judging us faithful and appointing us to your service. Thanks to your mercy and overflowing grace with the faith and love that are in Christ, we sinners are saved.

Jesus friend of sinners: You told the most moving of parables about a loving shepherd seeking a lost sheep and a searching woman looking for a lost coin. We praise and thank you that you are like that loving shepherd and searching woman — seeking all people who are lost and finding them and rejoicing in bringing them into your fold. May we too follow your example and rejoice whenever you find a lost person and welcome them into our midst as a forgiven and loved son or daughter of yours.

Christ our compassionate shepherd: We turn to you for the healing of all among us who are ill in body, mind, or soul, especially those whom we name now before you, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts: PAUSE.

LORD of the nations: Every day the mass media reports on conflicts, wars and rumors of wars. The human race is weighed down terribly by sinful thoughts and actions of violence and hatred, which leads to unspeakable cruelty, suffering and destruction. Pour out your mercy on all the leaders and citizens of the nations that they may repent of their evil ways and pursue peace with justice for everyone.

Hear our prayer merciful God, and grant us whatever else may be in accord with your holy will and purposes through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit; one God, through all ages of ages.

The Eucharist

Closing Hymn

Benediction

Leader: May Christ born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forever more. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.