



# Service of the Word

This Service of the Word derives its pattern from the service of Holy Communion. Although a weekly celebration of the Lord's supper is the norm, a service of the word of God is also celebrated regularly or occasionally in many places.

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we hear and proclaim the saving word of God for all the world. We give thanks for that saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news we have received and to care for those in need.

Any of the ten musical settings for Holy Communion (pp. 94–209) may be used to begin the Service of the Word. After the greeting of peace in each of those settings, the Service of the Word continues with the Thanksgiving section on p. 219.

# Gathering

*The service may begin with confession and forgiveness (below) or with thanksgiving for baptism (p. 97). Otherwise, the service begins with gathering song (p. 213) or with the prayer of the day (p. 215), preceded by the greeting.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**OR**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin  
to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**OR**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*One of the following or another confession is prayed.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
we confess  
that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you  
with our whole heart;  
we have not loved  
our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake  
of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.

**OR**

Gracious God,  
have mercy on us.  
We confess  
that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves  
into the power of sin.  
We are truly sorry  
and humbly repent.  
In your compassion  
forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things we have done  
and things we have failed to do.  
Turn us again to you,  
and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you  
in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake  
God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister  
of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**OR**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive  
together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God  
strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts  
through faith.  
Amen.

*The assembly stands.*

The service continues with gathering song or with the prayer of the day (p. 215), preceded by the greeting.

## Gathering Song

The time of gathering song may be brief or extended, and may include one or more of the following: hymns, psalms; a Kyrie; a canticle of praise.

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

A Kyrie may be sung, using Settings One–Ten, this setting, or another appropriate song.

S 213a

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

A canticle of praise may be sung, using Settings One–Ten, this setting, or another appropriate song.

S213b

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

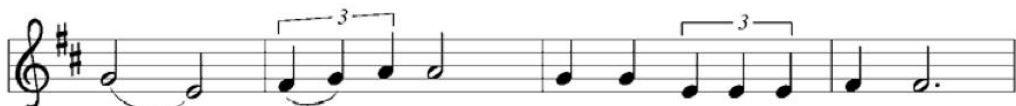
*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



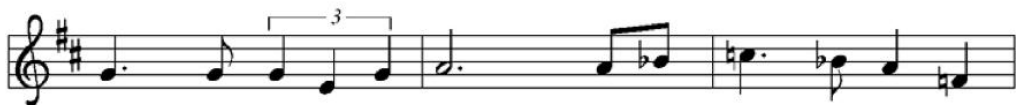
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on



earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## Prayer of the Day

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

*After the prayer the assembly responds:* **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# Word

## First Reading

*The reading may be announced: A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.*

*The reading may be concluded: The word of the Lord. **OR** Word of God, word of life.*

*The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm

*The psalm for the day is sung.*

## Second Reading

*The reading may be announced and concluded in the same way as the first reading.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, using the acclamations from Settings One–Ten, one of the following settings, or another appropriate song.*

S216a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**OR**

*During Lent, the acclamation of the day, this acclamation, or another appropriate song is sung.*

S216b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Gospel

*The gospel is announced:*

The holy gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The gospel is proclaimed, concluding:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## Hymn of the Day

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## Creed

*The Apostles' Creed (below) or the Nicene Creed (see p. 104) may be spoken. The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.



## Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion, using the following pattern or another appropriate form.*

*An assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer with these or similar words.*

**With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.**

*Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world—*

*for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;  
for the well-being of creation;  
for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community;  
for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;  
for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;  
for the congregation, and for special concerns.*

*Additional prayers may come from the assembly.*

*Prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed may include those who recently have died and those commemorated on the church's calendar.*

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words.*

	<b>OR</b>		<b>OR</b>
Lord, in your mercy, <b>hear our prayer.</b>	... let us pray. <b>Have mercy, O God.</b>		Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b>

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.*

**Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen.**

## Peace

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

**The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

# Thanksgiving

## Offering

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Assembly song or other music may accompany the gathering of the offering.*

*After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands.*

## Canticle of Thanksgiving

*The assembly may sing this canticle or another appropriate hymn or song.*

*Refrain* S219

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -  
ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O  
God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O  
Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and  
*Refrain*  
sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va - tion be - longs to our  
God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.  
2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and



bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All



praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

### Thanksgiving for the Word

*The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.*

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,  
for by your Word you made all things:  
you spoke light into darkness, called  
forth beauty from chaos, and brought  
life into being. For your Word of life,  
O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people  
Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:  
freedom from captivity, water on the  
desert journey, a pathway home from  
exile, wisdom for life with you.  
For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:  
forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your  
self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith,  
increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to  
your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.  
**Amen.**

**OR**

O God of justice and love, we give  
thanks to you that you illumine  
our way through life with the  
words of your Son. Give us the  
light we need, awaken us to the  
needs of others, and at the end  
bring all the world to your feast;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord, to whom, with you and  
the Holy Spirit, be honor and  
glory forever. **Amen.**

*Continue with the Lord's Prayer.*

Our Father in heaven,  
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 sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

**OR**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Sending

*Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world. Affirmation of Christian Vocation (p. 84) may be used here.*

### Blessing

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**OR**

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.**

**OR**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace † bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

*A sending song may be sung.*

### Dismissal

*The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.*

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**OR**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**OR**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**OR**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**OR**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**