

A Service of the Word to celebrate Music Sunday

PREPARATION

Greeting

O Lord, open our lips,

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

**All To tell of your love early in the morning
and of your faithfulness in the night-time.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

All let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

Psalm 92:1-2; 95:1-2

Further words of welcome and introduction follow.

Praise: Hymn of Praise – see *Music Sunday Music Suggestions from Sunday by Sunday*

Confession

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God for
idols of our own imagining.

As we gather to offer our praises to the holy and undivided Trinity,
and to worship him in spirit and in truth,
let us call to mind our sins.

Silence may be kept.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to sing the Lord's song in a strange land.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

We have used your gifts to serve our own ends.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE WORD

Psalm: Paraphrase of Psalm 40:1-3,9,10 with a response.

You put a new song in my mouth:
a song of praise to you, my God.

All **You put a new song in my mouth:
a song of praise to you, my God.**

I waited patiently for you, Lord;
You bent down to me and heard my cry for help.

All **You put a new song in my mouth.**

Many shall see, and stand amazed,
And put their trust in you, Lord.

All **You put a new song in my mouth.**

I love to do your will, Lord God;
your law is deep in my heart.

All **You put a new song in my mouth.**

I proclaimed your righteousness in the gathering of God's people;
I did not hold back from speaking out.

All **You put a new song in my mouth.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
The Lord is with us, he is our stronghold:

All **God will help at the break of day.**

New Patterns for Worship

Reading: Ephesians 5.15-20

Gospel Acclamation

All **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.**

Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 1:57-68

At the end of the readings this response may be used

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Homily

Song or hymn

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All Let us declare our faith in God:
We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PRAYERS

In the quietness,
aware that we are only part of a great multitude,
on earth and in heaven,
who share in the Church's offering of worship,
let us join ourselves with them
and bring to God in prayer our own hopes and needs,
together with those of all his children.
Through silence, spoken word and music,
let us be open to the God who both listens and speaks to us.

Silence is kept

For your holy catholic Church,
seeking the renewal of her unity,
drawing men and women to Christ,
and proclaiming your love in all the world...
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For the leaders of the churches,
[for N our Bishop],
for all who share Christ's ministry in this place,
and especially for those who order the worship of your people,

that many may draw close to you in prayer and praise...
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For all whom you inspire to compose music,
for all to whom you give skill and devotion to perform it,
and for all your children who are enriched and renewed by it...
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For the nations of the world,
seeking the path to peace and justice:
for this country,
for Elizabeth our Queen,
and for all who strive to build here a society that is Christian and free...
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For those who suffer in mind and body,
and for those who dedicate their lives to caring for their neighbours...
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For all who have gone before us in the faith of Christ,
for those who in past generations have enriched your Church with fine music,
and for all who have served as musicians in this church/parish...
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

Lord of the Church,
All **hear our prayer,**
and makes us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us
All **Our Father...**

ENDING

The Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Song

Concluding Prayers

Creator God,
you have made us in your image to reflect your goodness.
You have called us to use our gifts to build your kingdom.
Give us wisdom and help us to use our skills to your glory
and for the building up of the people we serve.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

All Amen.

**All God of majesty,
Whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
be with your servants who make music for your people,
that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty;
and bring us to the fulfilment of that hope of perfection
which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

(Prayer from Calvin Institute of Christian Worship)

Sending Out

May the songs of the angels sustain you,
may the praises of the saints inspire you,
may the silent music of the Unseen Trinity be in your heart,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

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