

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Call to Worship

After the gathering song, the Celebrant invites us to stand.

Celebrant In the beginning

People was the Word.

Celebrant The Word was with God,

People and the word was God.

Celebrant In the beginning was God.

People All things came into being through God. What has come into being is life,

Celebrant and that life is the light of all people.

People The light shines in the darkness,

Celebrant and the darkness did not

People will not

Celebrant can not

People overcome it.

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent. Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, Versified by Eleanor H. Hull Traditional Irish melody Arr. by David Evans



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Come, God of peace. Be our refuge. Make your mercy the path beneath our feet and the hope into which you call us. Strengthen us to love without judgment, to do good without condemnation, to pray for those who hurt us. Draw us to discover your goodness pressed down, shaken together, running over in the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

After the reading, the reader will say

 The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 37:1-12, 41-42

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

**Take delight in the Lord,
and he shall give you your heart's desire.**

Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him,
and he will bring it to pass.

**He will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for him.

**Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

**For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

**But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**The Lord will help them and rescue them;
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | I Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | There is More Love Somewhere

Traditional African American Hymn

The image shows the musical notation for the Gospel Song 'There is More Love Somewhere'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'There is more love* some - where. There is'. The second staff contains: 'more love some - where. I'm gon-na'. The third staff contains: 'keep on 'til I find it. There is'. The fourth staff contains: 'more love some - where.'.

* Additional verses: hope, peace, joy

The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

After the Gospel the Celebrant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

We stand and say

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his Kingdom will one day be known.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

We gather in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

Gathering

Leader "Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return."
In this season of growing light, move us to respond to your voice in our midst, in our hometown.

All May we see Christ's spirit and energy in many people near to us.

Prayer Requests

Leader "Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him."
We offer prayers for those we carry in our hearts, for the disabled, the aging and their helpers, and for those on our prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts

Leader Light of Jesus,
All lead us in our prayers.

Gratitude

Leader "Take delight in the Lord, and he shall give you your heart's desire."
God, we give thanks for ways that we encounter your love in our community, in our neighbors, and in our families and companions.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts

Leader Light of Jesus,
All **lead us in our prayers.**

Relationships

Leader "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

We pray for those whose emotional, spiritual, or physical journey is fearful or dangerous. Christ, open us, and all in need to experience your hope and love.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts

Leader Light of Jesus,
All **lead us in our prayers.**

Environment

Leader "The first man was from the earth, a man of dust."
Move us to act out of love for the earth that you have made, so that we conserve and protect the diverse life around us.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts

Leader Light of Jesus,
All **lead us in our prayers.**

World and Faith Leaders

Leader "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned."
Fill the leaders of our world and of faith communities with compassion to seek peace and serve others with generosity.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts

Leader Light of Jesus,
All **lead us in our prayers.**

Closing

Leader "The measure you give will be the measure you get back."
All **Hear our prayers, God of love, and open us to your presence in the world.**

The Peace

We conclude these prayers with the sharing of God's peace.

Celebrant We turn to one another with outstretched arms, saying: the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

After the peace, we are seated.

Offertory Song | Streets of Philadelphia by Bruce Springsteen

Offered by Kelly Hume

I was bruised and battered, I couldn't tell what I felt.
I was unrecognizable to myself.
Saw my reflection in a window and didn't know my own face.
Oh brother are you gonna leave me wastin' away
On the streets of Philadelphia.

I walked the avenue, 'til my legs felt like stone,
I heard the voices of friends, vanished and gone,
At night I could hear the blood in my veins,
It was just as black and whispering as the rain,
On the streets of Philadelphia.

Ain't no angel gonna greet me.
It's just you and I my friend.
And my clothes don't fit me no more,
A thousand miles
Just to slip this skin.

Night has fallen, I'm lyin' awake,
I can feel myself fading away,
So receive me brother with your faithless kiss,
Or will we leave each other alone like this
On the streets of Philadelphia.

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL

We stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away. And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity lifting our voices to you as we sing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dore you!
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!



My heart is glad to say the words you are ho - ly, Lord!
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor! (Repeat first verse)

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. And whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please know that at Grace Church all are invited to receive the bread and wine. This sacrament is God's free gift. Assist the Chalice Bearers by tipping the cup from the base. Please tell your server if you prefer a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy.

Music during Communion | La Beauté Existe dans la Monde

by Martin Cockroft

Instrumental by the Music Circle

Be Still and Know

by Martin Cockroft

Be Still and know that I am God Be still and know
Be still and know Be still and know

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Wait for the Lord

Words: Taizé Community | Music: Jacques Berthier

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of two systems of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system covers the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and the second system covers 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Lord Have Mercy

by Stefan Andre Waligur

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
Lord, have mer - cy, on us.
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The musical score is in G major and 12/8 time. It is a three-part setting of the prayer. The first system (measures 1-3) introduces the main melody. The second system (measures 4-6) continues the prayer with a more rhythmic accompaniment. The third system (measures 7-9) concludes the prayer with a final melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment provides a steady, rhythmic foundation throughout.

*Following Communion we share silence with one another.
The quiet will last a few minutes and will begin and end with a bell.*

Song after Communion | Over My Head

African American Spiritual

Refrain

Ov-er my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; ov-er my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; ov-er my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.

Fine

Cantor

Oh, when the world is si-lent, oh,

All: (Hum) I hear mu-sic in the air; when the world is si-lent, oh, (Hum) I hear mu-sic in the air; when the world is si-lent, (Hum) I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.

D.C.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the song 'Over My Head'. It is an African American spiritual. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of several systems of music. The first system is the Refrain, which is repeated three times. The lyrics are 'Ov-er my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; ov-er my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; ov-er my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.' The Refrain ends with a 'Fine' marking. The second system is for the Cantor, with the lyrics 'Oh, when the world is si-lent, oh,'. The third system is for the 'All' part, with the lyrics '(Hum) I hear mu-sic in the air; when the world is si-lent, oh, (Hum) I hear mu-sic in the air; when the world is si-lent, (Hum) I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.' The 'All' part is marked with '(Hum)' and 'D.C.' (Da Capo). The score uses a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs) for each part.

GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Our Prayer after Communion

We stand and say together

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing.

Now God strengthen you to love your enemies, do good, and to lend expecting nothing in return. And may God's abundant peace go before and behind you, that today and in the days to come you may encounter God's goodness, know Christ's forgiveness, and receive the Spirit's inspiration pressed down and running over into your lives. **Amen**

Closing Song | Woyaya

by Sol Amarfio (Osibisa)

We are go - ing heav-en knows where we are go - ing, We know with-in,
We will get there heav-en knows how we will get there, We know we will,
It will be hard we know And the road may be mud-dy and rough but we'll
15
get there heav-en knows how we will get there, We know we will..

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Announcements

The flowers on the table in Walker Hall today are given in thanksgiving for the commitment, energy, and hard work that Jane Crane and Patty Robinson, as vestry members, have given to the Grace community.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Making Peace

A voice from the dark called out,
 'The poets must give us
imagination of peace, to oust the intense, familiar
imagination of disaster. Peace, not only
the absence of war.'

 But peace, like a poem,
is not there ahead of itself,
can't be imagined before it is made,
can't be known except
in the words of its making,
grammar of justice,
syntax of mutual aid.

 A feeling towards it,
dimly sensing a rhythm, is all we have
until we begin to utter its metaphors,
learning them as we speak.

 A line of peace might appear
if we restructured the sentence our lives are making,
revoked its reaffirmation of profit and power,
questioned our needs, allowed
long pauses . . .

 A cadence of peace might balance its weight
on that different fulcrum; peace, a presence,
an energy field more intense than war,
might pulse then,
stanza by stanza into the world,
each act of living
one of its words, each word
a vibration of light—facets
of the forming crystal.

~ Denise Levertov

from Breathing the Water. Copyright © 1987 by Denise Levertov.