

## OPENING SENTENCES

One: O Lord, open my lips.

**All: And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

One: O Lord, you are kind and forgiving.

**All: full of love to all who call on you.**

One: Listen to my prayer, O Lord;

**All: hear the cries of my pleading.**



**March 4, 2026**

**SILENCE** (*Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around...*)

**OPENING PRAYER** (...now and forever. **AMEN.**)

**PSALM 121** (*read in unison*)

*I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?*

*My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.*

*The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.*

*Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;  
the LORD watches over you;*

*the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.*

*The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

**1 Corinthians 5:9-6:11**

One: ... The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)*

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Mark 4:1-20**

One: ... The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)*

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

One: O God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

One: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

One: O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

One: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

One: Turn again, O God, and quicken us

**All: that your people may rejoice in you.**

One: Make me a clean heart, O God,

**All: and renew a right spirit within me.**

One: Give us again the joy of your help,

**All: with your spirit of freedom sustain us.**

One: Let us remember in our prayers those who need to be remembered this morning:

For those who have made the news headlines today because of what they have done or said.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: For those who have been brought to our attention recently through a meeting or a conversation.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: For those who we know who will have difficulty coping with themselves today.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: For those who are in hospital or in care, or in a place which is strange to them.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: For those who are agonizing over a decision they have to make.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: For those in whose family or marriage or close relationship there is a stress or a break-up.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: For those who share our work and our vision.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: For any other special person or situation.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: And for ourselves.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

**All: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.**

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**All: have mercy on us.**

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**All: have mercy on us.**

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**All: Grant us your peace.**

One: ...through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## 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 for ever. Amen.***

## DISMISSAL

One: May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**All: Amen.**

One: Bless the Lord.

**All: The Lord's name be praised.**

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*(Signs and words of peace are exchanged . . .)*

~ The psalm text comes from the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox, 2018), in an inclusive/expansive language version first published in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress, 2006) and shared with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other ecumenical partners.

~ PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION - from The Iona Community.