

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The world belongs to God,
People: the earth and all its people.
Leader: If Christ's disciples keep silent
People: these stones would shout aloud!
Leader: Open our lips, O God,
People: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise!



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

March 25, 2026

OPENING PRAYER

(... now and forever. **Amen.**)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Let us pray...
Lord God, early in the morning, when the world was young,
you made life in all its beauty and terror;
you gave birth to all that we know.
Holy is your name.
People: Holy is your name.
Leader: Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders,
anxious statesmen and silent friends,
you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God;
you shouldered and suffered the cross.
Holy is your name.
People: Holy is your name.
Leader: Early in the morning,
a voice in a guarded graveyard and footsteps in the dew
proved that you had risen, that you had come back
to those and for those who had forgotten, denied and destroyed you.
Holy is your name.
People: Holy is your name.
Leader: Early in the morning in the glorious company of your church on earth
and in heaven...
**People: We celebrate your creation, your life,
your death and resurrection, your love for us;**
Leader: And so we pray...
**People: Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired,
new love where we have turned hard hearted,
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded,
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit
where we are the prisoners of ourselves.**
(*A period of silence is kept for personal reflection...*)
Leader: To all and to each, on his community and on his friends,
**People: where regret is real, God announces his pardon
and grants us the right to begin again.**
Leader: Thanks be to God!
People: Amen!

PSALM 130 (*read in unison*)

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.
I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.
For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.*

SCRIPTURE READING:**2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6**

Leader: ...The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.*(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)***SCRIPTURE READING:****Mark 10:1-16**

Leader: ...The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.*(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Leader: Turn again, O God, and quicken us

People: that your people may rejoice in you.

Leader: Make me a clean heart, O God,

People: and renew a right spirit within me.

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help,

People: with your spirit of freedom sustain us.

Leader: God of life—of all life and of each life—we lay our lives before you.

People: We open our lives to you, for nothing in us is hidden.

Leader: You are before us, Lord, you are behind;

People: You are in the light and in the darkness;

Leader: You see our most public face;

People: You know the secret thoughts of every heart.

Leader: We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt;

People: We bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow;

Leader: We bring the pride that is in us, and the shame;

People: We bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance;

Leader: We bring the hope that is in us, and the despair;

People: We bring the courage that is in us, and the fear;

Leader: God give us grace to walk in the way of Christ.

People: Guide us by your Spirit, strengthen us against all evil.**In Jesus' name. Amen.***A time is included for worshippers to pray (either silently or audibly) for the needs of the world, the nation, the church, friends and family, one's self...***CONCLUDING COLLECT***(...through Christ our Lord. 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 forever. Amen.***DISMISSAL**Leader: May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior.**People: Amen.**

Leader: Bless the Lord.

People: The Lord's name be praised.

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

People: Thanks be to God.*(Signs and words of Christ's peace may be exchanged by all.)*

~ 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.

~ The prayers are adapted from the Iona Community.