

# ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR CRUISE SHIP SELECTIONS FOR THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Selection Four*)

INVOCATION (*Selections 61-67*)

**HYMN:**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (*Selection 29*)

RESPONSIVE READING (*Selections 31-60*)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Selection 1*)

**ANTHEM** (*Selections 287-293*):

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SERMON

**HYMN:**

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (*Selection 120*)

OUR FATHER

SIGN OF PEACE

BENEDICTION (*Selection 30*)

**HYMN:**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*(Selection 9)* Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
*(Advent) Isaiah 40:3*

*(Selection 10)* They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.  
*(Advent) Isaiah 40:31*

*(Selection 11)* For see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the messiah, the Lord. *(Christmas) Luke 2: 10-11*

*(Selection 12)* Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord, your God; for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. *(Lent) Joel 2: 13*

*(Selection 13)* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. *(Lent) Psalm 51: 10, 12*

*(Selection 14)* Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Hallelujah! *(Easter)*

(Selection 15) The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the oppressed; the Lord has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. *(Pentecost) Isaiah 61:1*

(Selection 16) Come to me, all who are weary carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11: 28-30*

(Selection 17) Come into the circle of love and justice. Come into the fellowship of those seeking wholeness and holiness. Come, and you shall know peace and joy. *Israel Zangwill*

(Selection 18) This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalms 118: 24*

(Selection 19) Worship the Lord with gladness!  
Come into the Lord's presence with singing!  
Know that the Lord is God! *Psalms 118: 24*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Selection 20 – Advent)*

Minister: O Lord, open my lips

**People: and our mouths shall declare your praise.**

Minister: Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us,

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Minister: Let your way be known on earth,

**People: Your saving power among all nations.**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Selection 21 – Christmas)*

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a  
great light;

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
on them light has shined.**

Minister: For a child has been born for us,

**People: a son given to us;**

Minister: authority rests upon his shoulders,

**People: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Might  
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Minister: For see – I am bringing you good news of great  
joy for all the people:

**People:** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 22 – Lent*)

**Minister:** With what shall I come before the Lord.

**People:** and bow myself before God on high?

**Minister:** God has showed you what is good;

**People:** and what does the Lord require of you

**Minister:** But to do justice, to love kindness,

**People:** and to walk humbly with your God?

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 23 – Easter*)

**Minister:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People:** The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**Minister:** So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above.

**People:** Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 24 – Pentecost*)

Minister: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts;  
**People: the whole earth is full of God's glory.**

Minister: O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
**People: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Minister: Let us therefore approach the throne of grace  
with boldness,  
**People: so that we may receive mercy and find grace to  
help in time of need.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 25 – Thanksgiving*)

Minister: The Lord is good to all,  
**People: and shows compassion to all creation.**

Minister: The eyes of all look to you,  
**People: and you give them their food in due season.**

Minister: You open your hand,  
**People: and you satisfy the desire of all living things.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 26 – General*)

Minister: Lift up your hearts,  
**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: O Lord, open our eyes,

**People: That we may behold wondrous things out of your law.**

Minister: O Lord, open our lips,

**People: And our mouths will declare your praise.**

Minister: Praise the Lord.

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

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Selection 27 – General)*

Minister: Holy and beautiful the custom which brings us together

**People: in the presence of the most high:**

Minister: To face our ideals,

**People: to remember our loved ones in absence.**

Minister: To give thanks, to make confession, to offer forgiveness,

**People: to be enlightened, and to be strengthened.**

Minister: Through this quiet hour breathes the worship of ages,

**People: the heritage of generations past.**

Minister: Three unseen guests attend,

**People:** faith, hope, and love.

Minister: Let all our hearts prepare them place.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 28 – General*)

Minister: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**People:** Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Minister: For great is the Lord,

**People:** And greatly to be praised.

Minister: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us.

**People:** Even as we hope in you.

## **BENEDICTIONS** *(Selection 30)*

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

Minister: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be among you and remain with you always.

Minister: Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we entrust you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, both now and forever.

Minister: The Lord bless you in your loneliness, the Lord console you in your anxiety, the Lord forgive you in your guilt, the Lord be with you in your despair, the Lord meet in mercy all those who seek peace.

Minister: Go in peace, and in the knowledge that in the goodness of God you were born, in the providence of God you are kept all the day

long, and in the mercy and forgiveness of God you are redeemed and made whole; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Minister: May the truth which makes us free, the hope that never dies, and the love which casts out fear, visit us and redeem us, till the day-spring breaks and the shadows flee away.

Minister: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast 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 the Lord rejoicing the power of the Holy Spirit.

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 8 *(Selection 31)*

Minister: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**People: Out of the mouths of babes and infants your majesty is praised above the heavens.**

Minister: You have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemies and the avenger.

**People: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses.**

Minister: What are human beings that you are mindful of them? Mortals that you care for them?

**People: You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.**

Minister: You give them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

**People: All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,**

Minister: The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**People: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalms 9-10 *(Selection 32)*

Minister: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of your wonderful deeds.

**People: I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

Minister: It is the Lord who rules the world with righteousness and judges the people with equity.

**People: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in time of trouble.**

Minister: For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.

**People: Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.**

Minister: But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your own hands.

**People: The helpless commit themselves to you, you have been the helper of the orphan.**

Minister: The Lord will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear

**People: To do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike**

**terror no more.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 18 *(Selection 33)*

Minister: I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer,

**People: my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

Minister: I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from my enemies.

**People: The cords of the grave encompassed me; , the torrents of perdition assailed me;**

Minister: The cords of the grave entangled me; and the snares of death confronted me.

**People: In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help.**

Minister: The Lord reached down from on high, and took me, and drew me out of many waters.

**People: The Lord delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me.**

Minister: They confronted me in the day of my calamity; but the Lord was my support.

**People: The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock! Exalted be the God of my salvation, the God who**

**gave me victory.**

**Minister:** You delivered me from my enemies; you  
exalted me above my adversaries; you saved  
me from the violent.

**People:** For this I will extol you, O Lord, among the  
nations, and sing praises to your name.

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 19 *(Selection 34)*

Minister: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and  
the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to  
night declares knowledge.**

Minister: There is no speech, nor are there words; their  
voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out  
through all the earth, and their words to the  
end of the world.

**People: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the  
soul;**

Minister: the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise  
the simple;

**People: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the  
heart;**

Minister: the commandment of the Lord is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;

**People: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;**

Minister: The ordinances of the Lord are true and  
righteous altogether.

**People: More to be desired are they than gold, even  
much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, and  
drippings of the honeycomb.**

Minister: Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in  
keeping them there is great reward.

**People: But who can discern his errors? Clear thou me  
from hidden faults.**

Minister: Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous  
sins; let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great  
transgression.

**People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my  
rock and my redeemer.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 23 *(Selection 35)*

Minister: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

**People: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

Minister: He restores my soul; he leads me in paths, for his name's sake.

**People: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;**

Minister: For thou art with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**People: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

Minister: You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 25 *(Selection 36)*

Minister: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, in  
you I trust,

**People: Let me not be put to shame; do not my  
enemies exult over me.**

Minister: Make me to know thy ways, O Lord, teach me  
thy paths.

**People: Lead me in thy truth, and teach me, for you are  
the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the  
day long.**

Minister: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your  
steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**People: Do not remember the sins of my youth, or my  
transgressions; according to your love  
remember me, for your goodness' sake, O  
Lord.**

Minister: Turn to me, and be gracious to me; for I am  
lonely and afflicted.

**People: Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me  
out of my distresses.**

Minister: Consider my affliction and my trouble, and  
forgive all my sins.

**People: O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me**

**be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.**

Minister: May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for  
I wait for you.

**People: Redeem Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 27 *(Selection 37)*

Minister: The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Minister: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**People: "Come," my heart says,  
"Seek God's face."  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

Minister: Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**People: Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up.**

Minister: Teach me your way, O Lord;  
and lead me along a level path,  
because of my enemies.

**People: I believe that I shall see  
the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

Minister: Wait for the Lord; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage;

**People: wait for the Lord!**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 31 *(Selection 38)*

Minister: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me!

**People: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

Minister: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

**People: Into your hand I commit my spirit; for you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.**

Minister: I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction, you have taken heed of my adversities,

**People: and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.**

Minister: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and my body also.

**People: For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

Minister: But I trust in you, O Lord,

**People: I say, "You are my God." My times are in your**

**hand;**

Minister: O how abundant is your goodness that you  
have laid up for those who fear you,

**People: Love the Lord, all you his saints!**

Minister: The Lord preserves the faithful, but abundantly  
requites him who acts haughtily.

**People: Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all  
you who wait for the Lord!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 42 *(Selection 39)*

Minister: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs  
my soul for you, O God.

**People: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

Minister: When shall I come and behold the face of God?

**People: My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually, "Where is  
your God?"**

Minister: These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng, and led them in  
procession to the house of God, with glad  
shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude  
keeping festival.

**People: Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why  
are you disquieted within me?**

Minister: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my  
help and my God.

**People: I will say to God, my rock: "Why hast thou  
forgotten me?"**

Minister: Why go I mourning because the enemy  
oppresses me?"

**People: As with a deadly wound in my body, my  
adversaries taunt me, while they say to me  
continually, "Where is your God?"**

Minister: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why  
are you disquieted within me?

**People: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my  
help and my God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 46 (*Selection 40*)

Minister: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, and though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Minister: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Minister: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

**People: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God utters his voice, the earth melts away.**

Minister: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**People: Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations have been brought on the earth.**

Minister: It is the Lord who makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; breaking the bow, and shattering the spear, and burning the shields

with fire.

**People:** **“Be still, and know that I am God; I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth!”**

**Minister:** The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 51 *(Selection 41)*

Minister: Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy, blot out my  
transgressions.**

Minister: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**People: For I know my transgressions,  
And my sin is ever before me.**

Minister: Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight.

**People: Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Minister: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: Do not cast me away from your presence  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Minister: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**People: O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

Minister: For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering,

you would not be pleased.

**People: The sacrifice acceptable to God  
is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 63 *(Selection 42)*

Minister: O God, you are my God; I seek you,

**People: my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints yearns for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Minister: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding power and your glory.

**People: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.**

Minister: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**People: When I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night, my soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.**

Minister: For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**People: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 67** *(Selection 43)*

Minister: May be gracious to us and bless us,

**People: May the light of God's face shine upon us**

Minister: that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Minister: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Minister: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

**People: May God continue to bless us, let the ends of the earth stand in awe!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 71 *(Selection 44)*

Minister: In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

**People: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.**

Minister: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me; for you are my rock and my fortress.

**People: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.**

Minister: Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

**People: I have been an enigma to many but you are my strong refuge.**

Minister: My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.

**People: Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.**

Minister: O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!

**People: You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 90 *(Selection 45)*

Minister: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to you are God.**

Minister: You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

**People: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like an hour of the night.**

Minister: So teach us to count our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**People: Satisfy us in the morning by your steadfast love so that we may sing for joy and be glad all the days of our life.**

Minister: Let your work appear to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

**People: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and prosper for us the work of our hands.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 95 *(Selection 46)*

Minister: O come let us sing to the Lord;

**People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

Minister: Let us come before the Lord with thanksgiving;

**People: Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**

Minister: For the Lord is a great God, and reigns supreme above all gods.

**People: In God's hand are the caverns of the earth and the heights of the mountains. God also made the sea and molded the dry land.**

Minister: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**People: For the Lord is our God; we are the people of God's pasture, the sheep of God's hand.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 98 *(Selection 47)*

Minister: Sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things.

**People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Minister: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

**People: Sing praises to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of sing.**

Minister: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before, the King, the Lord.

**People: Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.**

Minister: Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for the Lord comes to judge the earth.

**People: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 103 *(Selection 48)*

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul, it is within me, bless the Lord's holy name.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;**

Minister: Who pardons all your iniquities, and heals all your diseases;

**People: Who redeems your life from the destruction, and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Minister: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

Minister: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.

**People: As far as the east is from the west, so far does the Lord remove our transgressions from us.**

Minister: As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field.

**People: For when the wind passes over it, it is gone, and its place knows it no more.**

Minister: But the steadfast love of the Lord is from  
everlasting to everlasting on those who fear  
him,

**People: The righteousness of the Lord extends to  
children's children, to those who keep the  
Lord's covenant and commandments.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 119 *(Selection 49)*

Minister: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**People: I will keep my solemn promise to obey your righteous judgments.**

Minister: I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

**People: Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your commandments.**

Minister: My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.

**People: The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

Minister: Your decrees are my inheritance forever; truly they are the joy of my heart.

**People: I have decided to fulfill your statutes forever and to the end.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 121 *(Selection 50)*

Minister: I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from where  
will my help come?

**People: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of  
heaven and earth.**

Minister: The Lord will not let your foot be moved; the  
One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**People: Behold, the keeper of Israel shall neither  
slumber nor sleep.**

Minister: It is the Lord who watches over you; the Lord is  
your shade at your right hand.

**People: So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor  
the moon by night.**

Minister: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil, and  
shall keep you safe.

**People: The Lord shall watch over your going and  
your coming in from this time and  
forevermore.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 130 *(Selection 51)*

Minister: Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!

**People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

Minister: If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be revered.**

Minister: I wait for the Lord; my soul waits; the word of the Lord is my hope.

**People: My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchers for the morning, more than watchers for the morning,**

Minister: O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.

**People: The Lord shall redeem Israel from all his sins.**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 139 *(Selection 52)*

Minister: O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me!

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

Minister: You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways.

**People: Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

Minister: You press upon me behind and before and lay out your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

Minister: Where can I go from thy Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

**People: If I climb to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

Minister: If I take the wings of the morning, and settle in the farthest limits of the sea,

**People: Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand will hold me fast.**

Minister: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,”

**People: Darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright**

**as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.**

**Minister:** For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**People:** **I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

**Minister:** My body was not hidden from you while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

**People:** **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.**

**Minister:** How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

**People:** **If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with you.**

**Minister:** Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.

**People:** **Make sure I do not follow wicked ways, but lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 145-I *(Selection 53)*

Minister: I will exalt you, O God my ruler, and bless thy name for ever and ever.

**People: Every day I will bless you and praise your name for ever and ever.**

Minister: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; there is no end to the Lord's greatness.

**People: One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

Minister: I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

**People: They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness.**

Minister: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy.

**People: The Lord is loving to everyone, and compassionate to all creation.**

Minister: All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

**People: They make known the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power;**

Minister: That the people may know of your power and

the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**People: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your  
dominion endures throughout all ages.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 145-II *(Selection 54)*

Minister: The Lord is faithful in all his words, and merciful in all his deeds.

**People: The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.**

Minister: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them food in due season.

**People: You open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living creature.**

Minister: The Lord is righteous in all ways and loving in all works.

**People: The Lord is near to all who call, to all who call faithfully.**

Minister: The desire of those who revere the Lord shall be fulfilled; the Lord hears their cry and helps them.

**People: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; let all flesh bless the holy name of the Lord for ever and ever.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 150** *(Selection 55)*

Minister: Praise the Lord!

Give praise in God's holy temple. Praise God's power in the heavens.

**People: Give praise for God's mighty acts and surpassing greatness.**

Minister: Give praise for with the trumpet sound; give praise with the lute and harp!

**People: Give praise with tambourine and dance, with strings and pipe!**

Minister: Give praise with clanging cymbals, with loud clashing cymbals!

**People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Hallelujah!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Isaiah 40 *(Selection 56)*

Minister: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**People: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to them that they have served their term, that their penalty is paid,**

Minister: That they have received from the Lord's hand double for all their sins.

**People: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;**

Minister: Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;

**People: Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"**

Minister: Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

**People: The Lord does not faint or grow weary;**

Minister: The Lord's understanding is unsearchable, giving power to the faint, and to those who have no might, increasing their strength.

**People: Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;**

Minister: But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**People: They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall  
walk and not faint.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Matthew 5 *(Selection 57)*

Minister: Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Minister: Blessed are those who mourn,

**People: for they will be comforted.**

Minister: Blessed are the meek,

**People: for they will inherit the earth.**

Minister: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,

**People: for they will be filled.**

Minister: Blessed are the merciful,

**People: for they will obtain mercy.**

Minister: Blessed are the pure in heart,

**People: for they will see God.**

Minister: Blessed are the peacemakers,

**People: for they will be called children of God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Matthew 6 *(Selection 58)*

Minister: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

**People: Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?**

Minister: Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

**People: And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?**

Minister: And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin;

**People: Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.**

Minister: But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith?

**People: Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?"**

Minister: For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

**People: But strive first for the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING - Romans 8** *(Selection 59)*

Minister: What then are we to say about these things?

**People: If God is for us, who is against us?**

Minister: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or  
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**People: No, in all these things we are more than  
conquerors through him who loved us.**

Minister: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor  
things to come, nor powers,

**People: Nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all  
creation, will be able to separate us from the  
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - 1 Corinthians 13 *(Selection 60)*

Minister: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,  
but have not love,

**People: I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

Minister: And if I have prophetic powers, and understand  
all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have  
all faith, so as to remove mountains,

**People: But have not love, I am nothing.**

Minister: If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my  
body to be burned,

**People: But have not love, I gain nothing.**

Minister: Love is patient and kind;

**People: Love is not envious or boastful;**

Minister: or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its  
own way;

**People: It is not irritable or resentful;**

Minister: It does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

**People: But rejoices in the truth.**

Minister: Love bears all things, believes all things,

**People: hopes all things, endures all things.**

Minister: Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will

come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease;  
**People:**   **As for knowledge, it will come to an end.**

Minister: For we know only in part

**People:**   **And we prophesy only in part;**

Minister: But when the complete comes,

**People:**   **The partial will come to an end.**

Minister: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I  
                  thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;

**People:**   **When I became an adult, I put an end to  
                  childish ways.**

Minister: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we  
                  will see face to face.

**People:**   **Now I know in part; then I will know fully,  
                  even as I have been fully known.**

Minister: And now faith, hope, love abide, these three;

**People:**   **And the greatest of these is love.**

## INVOCATIONS *(Selections 61-67)*

Minister: (#61) Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication; deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#62) Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#63) O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; by the might of your spirit lift us to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#64) O God, Author of eternal light; lead us in our worship this day, that our lips may praise

you, our lives may bless you, and our thoughts may glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#65) Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your Son, Jesus Christ, that when two or three are gathered together in his Name, you will respond to their requests; fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be most helpful for us; granting us in the world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#66) O Lord, we ask you mercifully to hear the prayers of your children who call upon you; grant that we may both see and know the things we ought to do, and that we may also have grace and power to do them faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#67) O God, grant that what we say with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and practice in our lives, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING *(Selections 68-71)*

Minister: (#68) Almighty and most merciful God, we give you thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all peoples. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for your great love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. We ask you to give us such an awareness of all your mercies that our hearts may be thankful; and that we show your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in wholeness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#69) Almighty God, we give thanks that in your great love you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save all who are lost in sickness or despair; and have in this way assured us of your favor and goodness toward us. Your loving strength gives comfort and courage to our hearts; your holy truth gives freedom from blindness and confusion; your mercy brings

forgiveness for regretted words and actions. Give us such a real sense of all your mercies, that we may show forth our praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#70) We thank you, O God, that when we cry out in trouble you hear us. You forgive all our sins, and give us grace to turn our fears into faith, our suffering into victory, and our despair into joyful trust. Therefore we praise you and give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#71) O Lord God, source of love and fountain of comfort and blessing; you fill heaven with your glory and the earth with your goodness. We offer you our heartfelt thanks for all the gifts of nature and of grace, for the support of every moment, and the comforts of every day. As we have received blessings from your hand, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and our lips with praise. So strengthen our good purposes that we may live in the light of your favor and walk in the paths of truth now and forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Selections 72-86)*

Minister: (#72 - *FOR THOSE IN NEED*)

O God, Our Creator and Redeemer, you bid light to shine out of darkness, and waken us to your and ask your grace; accept now our worship and thanksgiving. Remember your whole church; all who join in prayer; all those people, wherever may be, who stand in need of your love and mercy. Pour out upon them the riches of your grace, so that we may ever praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#73 - *FOR THE ABSENT AND INFIRM*)

We remember before you, O God, all who by reason of sickness or infirmity are unable to be with us. By your grace, comfort and strengthen them with your presence.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#74 - *FOR THE LONELY*)

O Lord Christ who was abandoned by your closest friends in your hour of trial, remember all those who feel lonely. When deserted by family and friends, may they feel your near presence; when rejected by the community and the world, may they sense your acceptance; when ignored and hungry, may your empathy

console them and your passion fill them. We hold up lonely persons as reminders of our common responsibility to each other. Bless us in our solitary and may we be upheld.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#75 - FOR THE ADDICTED*)

O God, look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; from them fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding persevering love.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#76 - FOR THE DYING*)

O God, whose days are end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; sustain and comfort all who suffer illnesses from which they cannot recover. May their remaining days be free from unnecessary pain and their moments enriched loving concern and friendships remembered. Strengthen their confidence that neither life nor death nor anything else in all creation can separate them from your made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#77 - *FOR THOSE WHO MOURN*)

Comfort, O Lord, all who mourn the loss of those near and dear to them; be with them in their sorrow; give them faith to look beyond the troubles of the present, and to know that neither life nor death can separate us from the love of God which is Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#78 - *FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A MATE*)

Lord God, eternal Father and Mother, who lost your son in life and gained him forever in eternity, we give our loved one to you for your kingdom. Accept our feelings of loss of one close to us. As our tears show our grief, accept them as a gift of our love. As our hearts are broken, repair them with your tender skill. As our beds are empty and our nights lonely, be our present guide and companion. As our tables show a vacant chair, be our guest as we eat. As our conversation was halted, be our ready listener. As our intimacy has ceased, fill our bodies with warm consolation. For we give our love, along with our-loved one, to you, the giver of to whom we all will at last return.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#79 - *FOR DEATH*)

Lord of reason, we remember all those for

whom life has become unreasonable. We pray for the hopelessly senile, the helpless stroke victim, the terminal cancer patient, and for each and all who cannot recover and live. We ask for them a merciful death, in the name of Jesus Christ who died and rose forever.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#80 - FOR LOVED ONES*)

O Eternal Creator, you have given us the comfort of family and friends; look in love on those dear to us from whom we are separated. Protect and keep them from all harm; prosper and bless them in all good things; comfort them when they are lonely or afraid; and let no misunderstanding come between them and us to divide our hearts. In your own time may we be with them once again; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#81 - FOR HOMES AND FAMILIES*)

Almighty God, you are always present in your power in every place; hear our prayers in behalf of our families, our relatives and friends. May your mighty hand shield and protect them from all evil; may your Holy Spirit guide and bless them; and grant that we all may be drawn closer to one another in the love of Jesus Christ

our Lord. □

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#82 - *FOR A HOSPITAL*)

Almighty God, source of strength and healing, bless this hospital and its work. To those who serve, give wisdom and skill, tenderness and strength, to those who are ill, give patience and courage and the assurance that you desire health and wholeness for us all. Grant that in every hour of trial we may know that you are near; and help us put our trust in your redeeming love, made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#83 - *FOR THE CHURCH*)

O Gracious God, we pray for the church universal; that it may be filled with all truth. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is wrong, reform it. Where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and lives to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#84 - *FOR ALL PEOPLE*)

O God, you have made of one blood all nations to dwell upon the earth, and sent through your son a message of redeeming love to those who are far from us and to those who are near; grant that the good news of acceptance and peace may be realized by all peoples everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#85 - FOR OUR COUNTRY*)

Almighty God, we thank you for this good land which you have given us for our inheritance. May we prove ourselves a people worthy of your blessing and glad to do your will. Bless our land with meaningful work, sound education, and mutual respect. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every kind of oppression. Help us preserve and increase our liberties. Grant that we may recognize and honor the uniqueness of each group of people that has enriched our culture. Fill with the spirit of wisdom those to whom we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that by our actions we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In times of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in days of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail; all

of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#86 - FOR PEACE*)

Almighty God, whose strength is love and whose compassion knows no boundaries; guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and trust, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL TIMES *(Selections 87-110)*

Minister: (#87 - *FOR DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR*)

O God, you invite all of us into the companionship of joy and peace; enable us to lay hold of such a spirit of trust that all fear and foreboding may be cast out, and that calm assurance may be ours. Help us to be increasingly aware of the wise and loving care with which the universe is governed. Grant us the truth that frees us, the strength that endures, and the love that makes all things new; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#88 - *FOR THE DEEPLY TROUBLED*)

Dear God, you know us so well When we hide, you seek and find us. Hear us now when words confuse and alienate us, when the world is both too much and not enough, when we feel too hungry to be filled. You are our Way, our Truth, our Life. Give us courage to deal with our fears and help us find our path again. We pray in the Name of the One who safely leads us all the way home.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#89 - *FOR FORGIVENESS*)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have

sinned in thought, word and deed; and we ask you in your mercy to forgive us; strengthen us in all goodness, and give us the desire to do your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#90 - IN TIME OF DISCOURAGEMENT*)

Lord of the heights and the chasms, hear us when we feel far from you. When we plunge to the depths of despair, when there seems no reason to go on, when the clouds of night and the storms of life overshadow, when the darkness broods deep within us, when the agony of loneliness seems overwhelming, when there seems no firm foundation, hear us, Lord. For in being heard, there is hope, in sharing there is love, in giving there is thanks, in tears there is comfort, in rage there is care, in touching there is warmth. Lord, be with us in our trials as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Support us all the day long and in the night season, till at last we can see your face again and rejoice with you.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#91 - FOR THE EVENING OF LIFE*)

O God, support us all the day long through the troubles of this life until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is

hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#92 - *FOR LATER YEARS*)

Eternal God, you abide though all else passes away. Teach us to bear with patience the infirmities of advancing years. In our growing loneliness, as friend after friend departs, be to us our faithful companion, the same yesterday, today and forever. Take from us all despair of the world, all regret of vanished years, all impatience with the plans and problems of the present time, all undue fear of life and death; that with hearts at rest in you we may await your summons home.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#93 - *FOR MERCY AND FORGIVENESS*)

Almighty and Everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and are willing to give more than either we desire or expect; pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy; forgiving us those things which we find so difficult to forgive in ourselves and giving us those things for which we sometimes feel unworthy to ask; through Jesus Christ our

Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#94 - FOR DIRECTION)*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help; that in all our work, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your Name, and finally obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#95 - FOR GOD'S HELP)*

Grant us, o God, in all our duties your help; in all our perplexities your counsel; in all dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#96 - FOR GUIDANCE)*

O God, grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties the grace to ask what you would have us do; that the spirit of wisdom may keep us from making poor choices; and that in your light we may see light, and in your path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#97 - FOR VICTORY IN DEFEAT)*

Merciful God, whose love embraces all, teach us

to feel that no sin is beyond your forgiveness, no wound of the heart too great for your healing power. Let your Holy Spirit breathe into our lives new hope and courage, that our weakness may be transfused with your strength and our failures converted into victory.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#98 - FOR CONFIDENCE IN TROUBLE*)

O Most Loving God, preserve us from those fears and anxieties that lead us into despair. Grant that no troubles of this mortal life may hide from us your love which is immortal, and which you have shown us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#99 - FOR NEW LIFE*)

O Eternal Creator, you cause a restlessness in our hearts until we rest in you; give us li vision of the person you have created us to be. Fill us with courage, strength, and perseverance when our tasks seem too difficult for us to manage. Deliver us from anxious fears and self-pity so that we may see in ourselves the person you see and love. By your gracious Spirit so enlighten our minds that all of life may come alive with new meaning and new purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#100 - FOR FAITH AND TRUST*)  
Almighty God, when our vision fails and our understanding is darkened, when the ways of life seem hard and the brightness of life is gone, grant us that wisdom which deepens faith and enlarges trust. Whenever your ways in the world or in the soul are hard to understand, increase our patience and our living faith in you. May we at all times and with a quiet mind put our confidence in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#101 - FOR STRENGTH*)  
Almighty and merciful God, to whom the light and the darkness are both alike; strengthen us to meet all the experiences of life with a steadfast and undaunted heart; enable us to go our way bravely whether it be rough or smooth; and when the clouds of life hide you, may we continue patiently till they are dispersed by the sun of your unchanging love; Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#102 - FOR STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT*)  
O God, who gives some of us work up to the

limit of our powers, and to others the task of retaining courage and patience through seasons of pain and weariness; we pray for strength and encouragement. Give us the light of your presence, the power of your life in us, and the joy of your never failing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#103 - FOR STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS*)  
God our Creator, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness; give us the sense of your presence, your love and your strength. Help us to have trust in your protecting love and strengthening power, so that fear and worry may not overwhelm us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#104 - FOR PEACE OF MIND*)  
Eternal God, we turn from the noise and confusion of life to the peace that can be found only in your presence. Forgive us our restlessness and free us from confusion of ideas. Teach us to cultivate the serene mind, which knows how to turn to you in times of turmoil and be at peace.  
Save us from worry and weariness, from irritation over trivialities, and from restless

striving after unworthy goals. Center our efforts upon the ordering of our minds, the strengthening of our characters, and the serving of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#105 – FOR ETERNAL REFUGE*)

O Light that never fails, bless all who face problems of worry, sorrow, and discouragement; and all who may be sick, lonely or afraid. When we walk through dark hours, give us faith to believe in the future and courage to overcome our obstacles. Save us from becoming slaves of our past mistakes. Teach us rather to rise above our failures to firmer character and new achievement; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#106 – FOR GRACE TO USE THE HOLY SCRIPTURES*)

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#107 – FOR WISDOM)

God, give us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#108 – FOR FRIENDLINESS)

Almighty and most merciful God, You have given us a new commandment that we should love one another; give us grace also that we may fulfill it. Make us gentle and courteous and tolerant. Direct our lives so that we may look for the good in others' words and deeds. And hallow our friendships in the spirit of him who loved us and gave himself for us.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#109 – FOR HELP IN SEARCH OF TRUTH)

Grant, O Lord, we pray you, that as we seek for truth, we may have the courage to seek openly and honestly; and when our minds are perplexed, give us patience and perseverance, knowing that all who truly seek you with all their heart will find you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Minister:** (*#110 – FOR INNER PEACE*)

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed; give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from fear, may live with a sense of inner peace and confidence; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People:** **Amen.**

## SEASONAL PRAYERS *(Selections 111-118)*

Minister: (#111 - ADVENT)

Almighty God, by the coming of your Son into the world you opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all who believe in you; grant us your Holy Spirit that we may believe with our whole heart, and so serve you in our daily lives that when Christ Jesus comes again we may be gathered into the Kingdom which abides eternal in the heavens; through your mercy, O God, who lives and reigns one Lord, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#112 - CHRISTMAS)

O God, of whose love the angels sang when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, accept our worship and our hymns of joy. As we celebrate the birth of your Son, grant that we may experience your love, and through him receive your good will, so that being cleansed from sin, we may receive your abiding peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#113 - NEW YEAR)

Almighty God, you have been the dwelling place of your people in all generations, and in your mercy have brought us to the close of

another year; we praise you that we have known the comfort of your presence. So fill our hearts with trust in you, that by night and by day, at all times and in all seasons, we may without fear commit ourselves and others to your never failing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#114 - LENT*)  
We thank you, O God, that you have drawn us to Jesus Christ. By the memory of his cross sustain us in our trials; comfort us in our sorrows; and strengthen us against temptation. Grant that it may be a continuing promise of the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#115 - GOOD FRIDAY*)  
Forbid, O God, that we should forget, amid our earthly comforts, the pains and mortal anguish that our Lord Jesus endured for our salvation. Grant us this day a true understanding of all that he underwent, that remembering his sufferings and death we may give ourselves wholly to you; through Jesus Christ our only Lord and Savior.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#116 - EASTER)

Almighty God, who through your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from death to new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#117 - PENTECOST)

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit; shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#118 - THANKSGIVING DAY)

Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## LITANIES AND MEDITATIONS *(Selection 119-125)*

*(Selection 119 – A LITANY OF INTERCESSION)*

Minister: Almighty God, who loves all and forgets none,  
we bring before you our concerns for all your  
children. For all whom we love;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all who have blessed us with kindness, led  
us with patience, and restored us by their  
empathy and help;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all who suffer, the sick in body or in mind;  
for all who are troubled by the sufferings of  
others.

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all who are perplexed by the deeper  
questions of life, and overshadowed with  
doubt, that light may arise in their darkness;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For the infirm and aged, and for all who are  
passing through the valley of death, that they  
may find strength in you, and light at evening  
time;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all forgotten by us, but dear to you; for all  
your children throughout the earth;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

*(Selection 120 – A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING)*

Minister: Almighty and ever living God, you give us every good and perfect gift; we remember your loving kindness and your tender mercies which are with us always; with grateful hearts we lift up to you our thanksgiving. For the life you have given us, and the world in which we live,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the work we are enabled to do, and the truth we are able to learn; for whatever good there has been in our past lives and for all the hopes and aspirations which lead us toward better things,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For all the comforts and gladness of life; for loved ones and friends; for love, sympathy and good will,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, and all the helps and hopes which are ours as his disciples; for the presence and inspiration of your Holy Spirit, and for all who minister in your name in truth and grace,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For communion with you, our Creator; for the light and peace which are gained through trust and obedience, and for deliverance from the distress which befall us,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the tasks and trials through which we learn patience and which lead us to understanding and a close sympathy with all who suffer; for troubles which have lifted us nearer to you and drawn us into deeper fellowship with our neighbor and with Jesus Christ,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the faith which dispels the shadows of earth, and fills the saddest and the last moments of life with the light of an immortal hope,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: O God of all grace and love, we have praised you with our lips; grant that we may also praise you in consecrated and faithful lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

*(Selection 121 – WE NEED ONE ANOTHER)*

Minister: We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.

**People: We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.**

Minister: We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves again.

**People: We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose, and cannot do it alone.**

Minister: We need one another in the hour of success, when we look for someone to share our triumphs.

**People: We need one another in the hour of defeat, when with encouragement we might endure, and stand again.**

Minister: We need one another when we come to die, and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey.

**People: All our lives we are in need of others, and others are in need of us.**

*(Selection 122 – WE GIVE THANKS THIS DAY)*

Minister: For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies and galaxies beyond galaxies, awe-full and challenging our own creative yearnings:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For this planet we call earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons, its fruitfulness and fragileness:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For our human community, our common dust and destiny, our oneness transcending all narrowness that would divide us, our striving for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding rather than judgment of views not shared:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have sought to lighten the dark places of the earth, who have lived their lives so that others might live with dignity and freedom:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For human rights and holy rites; for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:

**People: We give thanks this day. May we live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds.**

*(Selection 123 – BEATITUDES)*

Minister: Blessed are the upright and the trustworthy, the spirit of whose promise is never broken and the meaning of whose words is sure.

**People: Blessed are they who honor all persons, and speak unto others as they would others should speak unto them.**

Minister: Blessed are the merciful who remember their own need of mercy; who judge not harshly and are slow to take offense.

**People: Blessed are they who are tender in sympathy, in whom the wellsprings of pity and consolation never dry up.**

Minister: Blessed are they who are considerate of all creatures, who never thoughtlessly inflict injury or pain.

**People: Blessed are the patient and the forbearing, the peacemakers, who by timely speech or silence heal the strife of humanity.**

Minister: Blessed are the husbands and wives, friends and companions, who care tenderly for each other while respecting their differences.

**People: Blessed are they who faithfully comfort each other in sorrow and rejoice together in prosperity.**

Minister: Blessed are the fathers and mothers who guide their households well, sharing their children's interests with a sincere mind.

**People: Blessed are they who honor their inheritance, and add to the growing treasure of humankind.**

*(Selection 124 – THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD)*

Hear the commandments of God:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

You shall not make wrongful use  
of the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not be a false witness.

You shall not covet anything  
that belongs to your neighbor.

*(Selection 125 – THE LORD’S PRAYER)*

## **COMMON FORM**

**People: 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. Amen.**

## ALTERNATE FORM

**People: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
Your kingdom come;  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
and rescue us from the evil one.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours, now and forever. Amen.**

# ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR CRUISE SHIP

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*(In a period of silent meditation, let each one prepare for worship, using the guidance such readings and prayers as Selections 87-110, 119-123.)*

**Minister:** As we prepare to celebrate this Ecumenical Service together, let us listen to these words of reflection and ask our Lord to be with us.

*(Selection 94)* Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help; that in all our work, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your Name, and finally obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP *(Selection Four)*

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

Minister: O Lord, open our eyes,

**People: That we may behold wondrous things from  
your word.**

Minister: O Lord, open our lips,

**People: And we shall proclaim your praise.**

Minister: Let us praise the Lord.

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

## INVOCATION *(Selections 61-67)*

Minister: (#61) Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication; deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Let us confess together.

**All:** Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned  
against you and others  
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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *(Selection 29)*

Minister: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy. If we confess our faults, God is faithful and just and will forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Friends, hear the good news: Life is good; the past is over and gone; the future is open. We are free to live in love, in forgiveness, and in newness of life. Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 27 *(Selection 37)*

Minister: The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Minister: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**People: "Come," my heart says,  
"Seek God's face."  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

Minister: Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**People: Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up.**

Minister: Teach me your way, O Lord;  
and lead me along a level path,  
because of my enemies.

**People: I believe that I shall see  
the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

Minister: Wait for the Lord; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage;

**People: wait for the Lord!**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Selection 1)*

**People:** I believe in God, the Father the Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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 life everlasting. Amen.

## **ANTHEM** *(Selections 287-293)*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

## **SERMON**

## **HYMN**

## PRAYERS

*(These may include silent prayers, a pastoral prayer, a litany, prayers for the day, prayers voiced by the people and the Lord's Prayer.)*

### A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING *(Selection 120)*

Minister: Almighty and ever living God, you give us every good and perfect gift; we remember your loving kindness and your tender mercies which are with us always; with grateful hearts we lift up to you our thanksgiving. For the life you have given us, and the world in which we live,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the work we are enabled to do, and the truth we are able to learn; for whatever good there has been in our past lives and for all the hopes and aspirations which lead us toward better things,

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Minister: O God of all grace and love, we have praised you with our lips; grant that we may also praise you in consecrated and faithful lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: Let us pray now to the Father as Jesus taught us:

**People: 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. Amen.**

## SIGN OF PEACE

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ,  
you said to your apostles:  
“I leave you peace, my peace I give you.”  
Look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and grant us the peace  
and unity of your kingdom  
where you live forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**BENEDICTION** (*Selection 30*)

Minister: Go in peace, and in the knowledge that in the goodness of God you were born, in the providence of God you are kept all the day long, and in the mercy and forgiveness of God you are redeemed and made whole; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: Go in the peace of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

# ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR CRUISE SHIP SELECTIONS FOR THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Selection Four*)

INVOCATION (*Selections 61-67*)

**HYMN:**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (*Selection 29*)

RESPONSIVE READING (*Selections 31-60*)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Selection 1*)

**ANTHEM:**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SERMON

**HYMN:**

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (*Selection 120*)

OUR FATHER

SIGN OF PEACE

BENEDICTION (*Selection 30*)

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

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**People:** Amen.

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Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

Minister: O Lord, open our eyes,

**People: That we may behold wondrous things from  
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**People: Amen.**

## HYMN

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Let us confess together.

**All:** Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned  
against you and others  
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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *(Selection 29)*

Minister: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy. If we confess our faults, God is faithful and just and will forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Friends, hear the good news: Life is good; the past is over and gone; the future is open. We are free to live in love, in forgiveness, and in newness of life. Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 27 *(Selection 37)*

Minister: The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Minister: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**People: "Come," my heart says,  
"Seek God's face."  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

Minister: Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**People: Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up.**

Minister: Teach me your way, O Lord;  
and lead me along a level path,  
because of my enemies.

**People: I believe that I shall see  
the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

Minister: Wait for the Lord; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage;

**People: wait for the Lord!**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Selection 1)*

**People:** I believe in God, the Father the Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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 life everlasting. Amen.

## **ANTHEM** *(Selections 287-293)*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

## **SERMON**

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## PRAYERS

*(These may include silent prayers, a pastoral prayer, a litany, prayers for the day, prayers voiced by the people and the Lord's Prayer.)*

### A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING *(Selection 120)*

Minister: Almighty and ever living God, you give us every good and perfect gift; we remember your loving kindness and your tender mercies which are with us always; with grateful hearts we lift up to you our thanksgiving. For the life you have given us, and the world in which we live,

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**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: O God of all grace and love, we have praised you with our lips; grant that we may also praise you in consecrated and faithful lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: Let us pray now to the Father as Jesus taught us:

**People: 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. Amen.**

## SIGN OF PEACE

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ,  
you said to your apostles:  
“I leave you peace, my peace I give you.”  
Look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and grant us the peace  
and unity of your kingdom  
where you live forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**BENEDICTION** (*Selection 30*)

Minister: Go in peace, and in the knowledge that in the goodness of God you were born, in the providence of God you are kept all the day long, and in the mercy and forgiveness of God you are redeemed and made whole; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: Go in the peace of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

# ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR CRUISE SHIP SELECTIONS FOR THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Selection Four*)

INVOCATION (*Selections 61-67*)

**HYMN:**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (*Selection 29*)

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

SERMON

**HYMN:**

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (*Selection 120*)

OUR FATHER

SIGN OF PEACE

BENEDICTION (*Selection 30*)

**HYMN:**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*(Selection 9)* Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
*(Advent) Isaiah 40:3*

*(Selection 10)* They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.  
*(Advent) Isaiah 40:31*

*(Selection 11)* For see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the messiah, the Lord. *(Christmas) Luke 2: 10-11*

*(Selection 12)* Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord, your God; for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. *(Lent) Joel 2: 13*

*(Selection 13)* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. *(Lent) Psalm 51: 10, 12*

*(Selection 14)* Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Hallelujah! *(Easter)*

(*Selection 15*) The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the oppressed; the Lord has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (*Pentecost*) *Isaiah 61:1*

(*Selection 16*) Come to me, all who are weary carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11: 28-30*

(*Selection 17*) Come into the circle of love and justice. Come into the fellowship of those seeking wholeness and holiness. Come, and you shall know peace and joy. *Israel Zangwill*

(*Selection 18*) This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalms 118: 24*

(*Selection 19*) Worship the Lord with gladness!  
Come into the Lord's presence with singing!  
Know that the Lord is God! *Psalms 118: 24*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Selection 20 – Advent)*

Minister: O Lord, open my lips

**People: and our mouths shall declare your praise.**

Minister: Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us,

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Minister: Let your way be known on earth,

**People: Your saving power among all nations.**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Selection 21 – Christmas)*

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a  
great light;

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
on them light has shined.**

Minister: For a child has been born for us,

**People: a son given to us;**

Minister: authority rests upon his shoulders,

**People: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Might  
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Minister: For see – I am bringing you good news of great  
joy for all the people:

**People:** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 22 – Lent*)

**Minister:** With what shall I come before the Lord.

**People:** and bow myself before God on high?

**Minister:** God has showed you what is good;

**People:** and what does the Lord require of you

**Minister:** But to do justice, to love kindness,

**People:** and to walk humbly with your God?

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 23 – Easter*)

**Minister:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People:** The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**Minister:** So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above.

**People:** Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 24 – Pentecost*)

Minister: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts;  
**People: the whole earth is full of God's glory.**

Minister: O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
**People: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Minister: Let us therefore approach the throne of grace  
with boldness,  
**People: so that we may receive mercy and find grace to  
help in time of need.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 25 – Thanksgiving*)

Minister: The Lord is good to all,  
**People: and shows compassion to all creation.**

Minister: The eyes of all look to you,  
**People: and you give them their food in due season.**

Minister: You open your hand,  
**People: and you satisfy the desire of all living things.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 26 – General*)

Minister: Lift up your hearts,  
**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: O Lord, open our eyes,

**People: That we may behold wondrous things out of your law.**

Minister: O Lord, open our lips,

**People: And our mouths will declare your praise.**

Minister: Praise the Lord.

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

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Selection 27 – General)*

Minister: Holy and beautiful the custom which brings us together

**People: in the presence of the most high:**

Minister: To face our ideals,

**People: to remember our loved ones in absence.**

Minister: To give thanks, to make confession, to offer forgiveness,

**People: to be enlightened, and to be strengthened.**

Minister: Through this quiet hour breathes the worship of ages,

**People: the heritage of generations past.**

Minister: Three unseen guests attend,

**People:** faith, hope, and love.

Minister: Let all our hearts prepare them place.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Selection 28 – General*)

Minister: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**People:** Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Minister: For great is the Lord,

**People:** And greatly to be praised.

Minister: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us.

**People:** Even as we hope in you.

## **BENEDICTIONS** *(Selection 30)*

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

Minister: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be among you and remain with you always.

Minister: Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we entrust you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, both now and forever.

Minister: The Lord bless you in your loneliness, the Lord console you in your anxiety, the Lord forgive you in your guilt, the Lord be with you in your despair, the Lord meet in mercy all those who seek peace.

Minister: Go in peace, and in the knowledge that in the goodness of God you were born, in the providence of God you are kept all the day

long, and in the mercy and forgiveness of God you are redeemed and made whole; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Minister: May the truth which makes us free, the hope that never dies, and the love which casts out fear, visit us and redeem us, till the day-spring breaks and the shadows flee away.

Minister: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast 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 the Lord rejoicing the power of the Holy Spirit.

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 8 *(Selection 31)*

Minister: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**People: Out of the mouths of babes and infants your majesty is praised above the heavens.**

Minister: You have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemies and the avenger.

**People: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses.**

Minister: What are human beings that you are mindful of them? Mortals that you care for them?

**People: You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.**

Minister: You give them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

**People: All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,**

Minister: The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**People: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalms 9-10 *(Selection 32)*

Minister: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of your wonderful deeds.

**People: I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

Minister: It is the Lord who rules the world with righteousness and judges the people with equity.

**People: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in time of trouble.**

Minister: For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.

**People: Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.**

Minister: But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your own hands.

**People: The helpless commit themselves to you, you have been the helper of the orphan.**

Minister: The Lord will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear

**People: To do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike**

**terror no more.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 18 *(Selection 33)*

Minister: I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer,

**People: my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

Minister: I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from my enemies.

**People: The cords of the grave encompassed me; , the torrents of perdition assailed me;**

Minister: The cords of the grave entangled me; and the snares of death confronted me.

**People: In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help.**

Minister: The Lord reached down from on high, and took me, and drew me out of many waters.

**People: The Lord delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me.**

Minister: They confronted me in the day of my calamity; but the Lord was my support.

**People: The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock! Exalted be the God of my salvation, the God who**

**gave me victory.**

**Minister:** You delivered me from my enemies; you  
exalted me above my adversaries; you saved  
me from the violent.

**People:** For this I will extol you, O Lord, among the  
nations, and sing praises to your name.

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 19 *(Selection 34)*

Minister: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and  
the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to  
night declares knowledge.**

Minister: There is no speech, nor are there words; their  
voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out  
through all the earth, and their words to the  
end of the world.

**People: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the  
soul;**

Minister: the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise  
the simple;

**People: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the  
heart;**

Minister: the commandment of the Lord is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;

**People: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;**

Minister: The ordinances of the Lord are true and  
righteous altogether.

**People: More to be desired are they than gold, even  
much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, and  
drippings of the honeycomb.**

Minister: Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in  
keeping them there is great reward.

**People: But who can discern his errors? Clear thou me  
from hidden faults.**

Minister: Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous  
sins; let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great  
transgression.

**People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my  
rock and my redeemer.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 23 *(Selection 35)*

Minister: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

**People: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

Minister: He restores my soul; he leads me in paths, for his name's sake.

**People: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;**

Minister: For thou art with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**People: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

Minister: You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 25 *(Selection 36)*

Minister: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, in  
you I trust,

**People: Let me not be put to shame; do not my  
enemies exult over me.**

Minister: Make me to know thy ways, O Lord, teach me  
thy paths.

**People: Lead me in thy truth, and teach me, for you are  
the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the  
day long.**

Minister: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your  
steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**People: Do not remember the sins of my youth, or my  
transgressions; according to your love  
remember me, for your goodness' sake, O  
Lord.**

Minister: Turn to me, and be gracious to me; for I am  
lonely and afflicted.

**People: Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me  
out of my distresses.**

Minister: Consider my affliction and my trouble, and  
forgive all my sins.

**People: O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me**

**be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.**

Minister: May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for  
I wait for you.

**People: Redeem Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 27 *(Selection 37)*

Minister: The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Minister: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**People: "Come," my heart says,  
"Seek God's face."  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

Minister: Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**People: Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up.**

Minister: Teach me your way, O Lord;  
and lead me along a level path,  
because of my enemies.

**People: I believe that I shall see  
the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

Minister: Wait for the Lord; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage;

**People: wait for the Lord!**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 31 *(Selection 38)*

Minister: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me!

**People: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

Minister: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

**People: Into your hand I commit my spirit; for you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.**

Minister: I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction, you have taken heed of my adversities,

**People: and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.**

Minister: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and my body also.

**People: For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

Minister: But I trust in you, O Lord,

**People: I say, "You are my God." My times are in your**

**hand;**

Minister: O how abundant is your goodness that you  
have laid up for those who fear you,

**People: Love the Lord, all you his saints!**

Minister: The Lord preserves the faithful, but abundantly  
requites him who acts haughtily.

**People: Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all  
you who wait for the Lord!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 42 *(Selection 39)*

Minister: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs  
my soul for you, O God.

**People: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

Minister: When shall I come and behold the face of God?

**People: My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually, "Where is  
your God?"**

Minister: These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng, and led them in  
procession to the house of God, with glad  
shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude  
keeping festival.

**People: Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why  
are you disquieted within me?**

Minister: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my  
help and my God.

**People: I will say to God, my rock: "Why hast thou  
forgotten me?"**

Minister: Why go I mourning because the enemy  
oppresses me?"

**People: As with a deadly wound in my body, my  
adversaries taunt me, while they say to me  
continually, "Where is your God?"**

Minister: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why  
are you disquieted within me?

**People: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my  
help and my God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 46 (*Selection 40*)

Minister: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, and though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Minister: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Minister: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

**People: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God utters his voice, the earth melts away.**

Minister: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**People: Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations have been brought on the earth.**

Minister: It is the Lord who makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; breaking the bow, and shattering the spear, and burning the shields

with fire.

**People:** **“Be still, and know that I am God; I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth!”**

**Minister:** The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 51 *(Selection 41)*

Minister: Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy, blot out my  
transgressions.**

Minister: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**People: For I know my transgressions,  
And my sin is ever before me.**

Minister: Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight.

**People: Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Minister: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: Do not cast me away from your presence  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Minister: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**People: O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

Minister: For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering,

you would not be pleased.

**People: The sacrifice acceptable to God  
is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 63 *(Selection 42)*

Minister: O God, you are my God; I seek you,

**People: my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints yearns for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Minister: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding power and your glory.

**People: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.**

Minister: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**People: When I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night, my soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.**

Minister: For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**People: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 67** *(Selection 43)*

Minister: May be gracious to us and bless us,

**People: May the light of God's face shine upon us**

Minister: that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Minister: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Minister: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

**People: May God continue to bless us, let the ends of the earth stand in awe!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 71 *(Selection 44)*

Minister: In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

**People: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.**

Minister: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me; for you are my rock and my fortress.

**People: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.**

Minister: Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

**People: I have been an enigma to many but you are my strong refuge.**

Minister: My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.

**People: Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.**

Minister: O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!

**People: You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 90 *(Selection 45)*

Minister: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to you are God.**

Minister: You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

**People: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like an hour of the night.**

Minister: So teach us to count our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**People: Satisfy us in the morning by your steadfast love so that we may sing for joy and be glad all the days of our life.**

Minister: Let your work appear to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

**People: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and prosper for us the work of our hands.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 95 *(Selection 46)*

Minister: O come let us sing to the Lord;

**People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

Minister: Let us come before the Lord with thanksgiving;

**People: Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**

Minister: For the Lord is a great God, and reigns supreme above all gods.

**People: In God's hand are the caverns of the earth and the heights of the mountains. God also made the sea and molded the dry land.**

Minister: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**People: For the Lord is our God; we are the people of God's pasture, the sheep of God's hand.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 98 *(Selection 47)*

Minister: Sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things.

**People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Minister: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

**People: Sing praises to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of sing.**

Minister: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before, the King, the Lord.

**People: Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.**

Minister: Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for the Lord comes to judge the earth.

**People: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 103 *(Selection 48)*

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul, it is within me, bless the Lord's holy name.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;**

Minister: Who pardons all your iniquities, and heals all your diseases;

**People: Who redeems your life from the destruction, and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Minister: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

Minister: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.

**People: As far as the east is from the west, so far does the Lord remove our transgressions from us.**

Minister: As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field.

**People: For when the wind passes over it, it is gone, and its place knows it no more.**

Minister: But the steadfast love of the Lord is from  
everlasting to everlasting on those who fear  
him,

**People: The righteousness of the Lord extends to  
children's children, to those who keep the  
Lord's covenant and commandments.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 119 *(Selection 49)*

Minister: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**People: I will keep my solemn promise to obey your righteous judgments.**

Minister: I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

**People: Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your commandments.**

Minister: My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.

**People: The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

Minister: Your decrees are my inheritance forever; truly they are the joy of my heart.

**People: I have decided to fulfill your statutes forever and to the end.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 121 *(Selection 50)*

Minister: I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from where  
will my help come?

**People: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of  
heaven and earth.**

Minister: The Lord will not let your foot be moved; the  
One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**People: Behold, the keeper of Israel shall neither  
slumber nor sleep.**

Minister: It is the Lord who watches over you; the Lord is  
your shade at your right hand.

**People: So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor  
the moon by night.**

Minister: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil, and  
shall keep you safe.

**People: The Lord shall watch over your going and  
your coming in from this time and  
forevermore.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 130 *(Selection 51)*

Minister: Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!

**People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

Minister: If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be revered.**

Minister: I wait for the Lord; my soul waits; the word of the Lord is my hope.

**People: My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchers for the morning, more than watchers for the morning,**

Minister: O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.

**People: The Lord shall redeem Israel from all his sins.**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 139 *(Selection 52)*

Minister: O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me!

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

Minister: You trace my journeys and my resting places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**People: Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but  
you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

Minister: You press upon me behind and before and lay  
out your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is  
so high that I cannot attain to it.**

Minister: Where can I go from thy Spirit? Where can I  
flee from your presence?

**People: If I climb to heaven, you are there; if I make  
the grave my bed, you are there also.**

Minister: If I take the wings of the morning, and settle in  
the farthest limits of the sea,

**People: Even there your hand shall lead me, and your  
right hand will hold me fast.**

Minister: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,”

**People: Darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright**

**as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.**

**Minister:** For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**People:** **I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

**Minister:** My body was not hidden from you while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

**People:** **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.**

**Minister:** How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

**People:** **If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with you.**

**Minister:** Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.

**People:** **Make sure I do not follow wicked ways, but lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 145-I *(Selection 53)*

Minister: I will exalt you, O God my ruler, and bless thy name for ever and ever.

**People: Every day I will bless you and praise your name for ever and ever.**

Minister: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; there is no end to the Lord's greatness.

**People: One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

Minister: I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

**People: They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness.**

Minister: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy.

**People: The Lord is loving to everyone, and compassionate to all creation.**

Minister: All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

**People: They make known the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power;**

Minister: That the people may know of your power and

the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**People: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your  
dominion endures throughout all ages.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 145-II *(Selection 54)*

Minister: The Lord is faithful in all his words, and  
merciful in all his deeds.

**People: The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all  
who are bowed down.**

Minister: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you  
give them food in due season.

**People: You open wide your hand and satisfy the need  
of every living creature.**

Minister: The Lord is righteous in all ways and loving in  
all works.

**People: The Lord is near to all who call, to all who call  
faithfully.**

Minister: The desire of those who revere the Lord shall be  
fulfilled; the Lord hears their cry and helps  
them.

**People: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;  
let all flesh bless the holy name of the Lord  
for ever and ever.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 150** *(Selection 55)*

Minister: Praise the Lord!

Give praise in God's holy temple. Praise God's power in the heavens.

**People: Give praise for God's mighty acts and surpassing greatness.**

Minister: Give praise for with the trumpet sound; give praise with the lute and harp!

**People: Give praise with tambourine and dance, with strings and pipe!**

Minister: Give praise with clanging cymbals, with loud clashing cymbals!

**People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Hallelujah!**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Isaiah 40 *(Selection 56)*

Minister: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**People: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to them that they have served their term, that their penalty is paid,**

Minister: That they have received from the Lord's hand double for all their sins.

**People: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;**

Minister: Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;

**People: Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"**

Minister: Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

**People: The Lord does not faint or grow weary;**

Minister: The Lord's understanding is unsearchable, giving power to the faint, and to those who have no might, increasing their strength.

**People: Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;**

Minister: But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**People: They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall  
walk and not faint.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - Matthew 5 *(Selection 57)*

Minister: Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Minister: Blessed are those who mourn,

**People: for they will be comforted.**

Minister: Blessed are the meek,

**People: for they will inherit the earth.**

Minister: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,

**People: for they will be filled.**

Minister: Blessed are the merciful,

**People: for they will obtain mercy.**

Minister: Blessed are the pure in heart,

**People: for they will see God.**

Minister: Blessed are the peacemakers,

**People: for they will be called children of God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING – Matthew 6 *(Selection 58)*

Minister: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

**People: Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?**

Minister: Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

**People: And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?**

Minister: And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin;

**People: Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.**

Minister: But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

**People: Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”**

Minister: For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

**People: But strive first for the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING - Romans 8** *(Selection 59)*

Minister: What then are we to say about these things?

**People: If God is for us, who is against us?**

Minister: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or  
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**People: No, in all these things we are more than  
conquerors through him who loved us.**

Minister: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor  
things to come, nor powers,

**People: Nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all  
creation, will be able to separate us from the  
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## RESPONSIVE READING - 1 Corinthians 13 *(Selection 60)*

Minister: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,  
but have not love,

**People: I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

Minister: And if I have prophetic powers, and understand  
all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have  
all faith, so as to remove mountains,

**People: But have not love, I am nothing.**

Minister: If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my  
body to be burned,

**People: But have not love, I gain nothing.**

Minister: Love is patient and kind;

**People: Love is not envious or boastful;**

Minister: or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its  
own way;

**People: It is not irritable or resentful;**

Minister: It does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

**People: But rejoices in the truth.**

Minister: Love bears all things, believes all things,

**People: hopes all things, endures all things.**

Minister: Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will

come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease;  
**People:**   **As for knowledge, it will come to an end.**

Minister: For we know only in part

**People:**   **And we prophesy only in part;**

Minister: But when the complete comes,

**People:**   **The partial will come to an end.**

Minister: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I  
                  thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;

**People:**   **When I became an adult, I put an end to  
                  childish ways.**

Minister: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we  
                  will see face to face.

**People:**   **Now I know in part; then I will know fully,  
                  even as I have been fully known.**

Minister: And now faith, hope, love abide, these three;

**People:**   **And the greatest of these is love.**

## INVOCATIONS *(Selections 61-67)*

Minister: (#61) Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication; deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#62) Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#63) O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; by the might of your spirit lift us to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#64) O God, Author of eternal light; lead us in our worship this day, that our lips may praise

you, our lives may bless you, and our thoughts may glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#65) Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your Son, Jesus Christ, that when two or three are gathered together in his Name, you will respond to their requests; fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be most helpful for us; granting us in the world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#66) O Lord, we ask you mercifully to hear the prayers of your children who call upon you; grant that we may both see and know the things we ought to do, and that we may also have grace and power to do them faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#67) O God, grant that what we say with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and practice in our lives, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING *(Selections 68-71)*

Minister: (#68) Almighty and most merciful God, we give you thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all peoples. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for your great love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. We ask you to give us such an awareness of all your mercies that our hearts may be thankful; and that we show your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in wholeness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#69) Almighty God, we give thanks that in your great love you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save all who are lost in sickness or despair; and have in this way assured us of your favor and goodness toward us. Your loving strength gives comfort and courage to our hearts; your holy truth gives freedom from blindness and confusion; your mercy brings

forgiveness for regretted words and actions. Give us such a real sense of all your mercies, that we may show forth our praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#70) We thank you, O God, that when we cry out in trouble you hear us. You forgive all our sins, and give us grace to turn our fears into faith, our suffering into victory, and our despair into joyful trust. Therefore we praise you and give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#71) O Lord God, source of love and fountain of comfort and blessing; you fill heaven with your glory and the earth with your goodness. We offer you our heartfelt thanks for all the gifts of nature and of grace, for the support of every moment, and the comforts of every day. As we have received blessings from your hand, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and our lips with praise. So strengthen our good purposes that we may live in the light of your favor and walk in the paths of truth now and forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Selections 72-86)*

Minister: (#72 - *FOR THOSE IN NEED*)

O God, Our Creator and Redeemer, you bid light to shine out of darkness, and waken us to your and ask your grace; accept now our worship and thanksgiving. Remember your whole church; all who join in prayer; all those people, wherever may be, who stand in need of your love and mercy. Pour out upon them the riches of your grace, so that we may ever praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#73 - *FOR THE ABSENT AND INFIRM*)

We remember before you, O God, all who by reason of sickness or infirmity are unable to be with us. By your grace, comfort and strengthen them with your presence.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#74 - *FOR THE LONELY*)

O Lord Christ who was abandoned by your closest friends in your hour of trial, remember all those who feel lonely. When deserted by family and friends, may they feel your near presence; when rejected by the community and the world, may they sense your acceptance; when ignored and hungry, may your empathy

console them and your passion fill them. We hold up lonely persons as reminders of our common responsibility to each other. Bless us in our solitary and may we be upheld.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#75 - FOR THE ADDICTED*)

O God, look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; from them fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding persevering love.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#76 - FOR THE DYING*)

O God, whose days are end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; sustain and comfort all who suffer illnesses from which they cannot recover. May their remaining days be free from unnecessary pain and their moments enriched loving concern and friendships remembered. Strengthen their confidence that neither life nor death nor anything else in all creation can separate them from your made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#77 - *FOR THOSE WHO MOURN*)

Comfort, O Lord, all who mourn the loss of those near and dear to them; be with them in their sorrow; give them faith to look beyond the troubles of the present, and to know that neither life nor death can separate us from the love of God which is Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#78 - *FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A MATE*)

Lord God, eternal Father and Mother, who lost your son in life and gained him forever in eternity, we give our loved one to you for your kingdom. Accept our feelings of loss of one close to us. As our tears show our grief, accept them as a gift of our love. As our hearts are broken, repair them with your tender skill. As our beds are empty and our nights lonely, be our present guide and companion. As our tables show a vacant chair, be our guest as we eat. As our conversation was halted, be our ready listener. As our intimacy has ceased, fill our bodies with warm consolation. For we give our love, along with our-loved one, to you, the giver of to whom we all will at last return.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#79 - *FOR DEATH*)

Lord of reason, we remember all those for

whom life has become unreasonable. We pray for the hopelessly senile, the helpless stroke victim, the terminal cancer patient, and for each and all who cannot recover and live. We ask for them a merciful death, in the name of Jesus Christ who died and rose forever.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#80 - FOR LOVED ONES*)

O Eternal Creator, you have given us the comfort of family and friends; look in love on those dear to us from whom we are separated. Protect and keep them from all harm; prosper and bless them in all good things; comfort them when they are lonely or afraid; and let no misunderstanding come between them and us to divide our hearts. In your own time may we be with them once again; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#81 - FOR HOMES AND FAMILIES*)

Almighty God, you are always present in your power in every place; hear our prayers in behalf of our families, our relatives and friends. May your mighty hand shield and protect them from all evil; may your Holy Spirit guide and bless them; and grant that we all may be drawn closer to one another in the love of Jesus Christ

our Lord. □

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#82 - FOR A HOSPITAL*)

Almighty God, source of strength and healing, bless this hospital and its work. To those who serve, give wisdom and skill, tenderness and strength, to those who are ill, give patience and courage and the assurance that you desire health and wholeness for us all. Grant that in every hour of trial we may know that you are near; and help us put our trust in your redeeming love, made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#83 - FOR THE CHURCH*)

O Gracious God, we pray for the church universal; that it may be filled with all truth. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is wrong, reform it. Where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and lives to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#84 - FOR ALL PEOPLE*)

O God, you have made of one blood all nations to dwell upon the earth, and sent through your son a message of redeeming love to those who are far from us and to those who are near; grant that the good news of acceptance and peace may be realized by all peoples everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#85 - FOR OUR COUNTRY*)

Almighty God, we thank you for this good land which you have given us for our inheritance. May we prove ourselves a people worthy of your blessing and glad to do your will. Bless our land with meaningful work, sound education, and mutual respect. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every kind of oppression. Help us preserve and increase our liberties. Grant that we may recognize and honor the uniqueness of each group of people that has enriched our culture. Fill with the spirit of wisdom those to whom we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that by our actions we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In times of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in days of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail; all

of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#86 - FOR PEACE*)

Almighty God, whose strength is love and whose compassion knows no boundaries; guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and trust, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL TIMES *(Selections 87-110)*

Minister: (#87 - *FOR DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR*)

O God, you invite all of us into the companionship of joy and peace; enable us to lay hold of such a spirit of trust that all fear and foreboding may be cast out, and that calm assurance may be ours. Help us to be increasingly aware of the wise and loving care with which the universe is governed. Grant us the truth that frees us, the strength that endures, and the love that makes all things new; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#88 - *FOR THE DEEPLY TROUBLED*)

Dear God, you know us so well When we hide, you seek and find us. Hear us now when words confuse and alienate us, when the world is both too much and not enough, when we feel too hungry to be filled. You are our Way, our Truth, our Life. Give us courage to deal with our fears and help us find our path again. We pray in the Name of the One who safely leads us all the way home.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#89 - *FOR FORGIVENESS*)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have

sinned in thought, word and deed; and we ask you in your mercy to forgive us; strengthen us in all goodness, and give us the desire to do your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#90 - IN TIME OF DISCOURAGEMENT*)

Lord of the heights and the chasms, hear us when we feel far from you. When we plunge to the depths of despair, when there seems no reason to go on, when the clouds of night and the storms of life overshadow, when the darkness broods deep within us, when the agony of loneliness seems overwhelming, when there seems no firm foundation, hear us, Lord. For in being heard, there is hope, in sharing there is love, in giving there is thanks, in tears there is comfort, in rage there is care, in touching there is warmth. Lord, be with us in our trials as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Support us all the day long and in the night season, till at last we can see your face again and rejoice with you.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#91 - FOR THE EVENING OF LIFE*)

O God, support us all the day long through the troubles of this life until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is

hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#92 - *FOR LATER YEARS*)

Eternal God, you abide though all else passes away. Teach us to bear with patience the infirmities of advancing years. In our growing loneliness, as friend after friend departs, be to us our faithful companion, the same yesterday, today and forever. Take from us all despair of the world, all regret of vanished years, all impatience with the plans and problems of the present time, all undue fear of life and death; that with hearts at rest in you we may await your summons home.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#93 - *FOR MERCY AND FORGIVENESS*)

Almighty and Everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and are willing to give more than either we desire or expect; pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy; forgiving us those things which we find so difficult to forgive in ourselves and giving us those things for which we sometimes feel unworthy to ask; through Jesus Christ our

Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#94 - FOR DIRECTION)*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help; that in all our work, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your Name, and finally obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#95 - FOR GOD'S HELP)*

Grant us, o God, in all our duties your help; in all our perplexities your counsel; in all dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#96 - FOR GUIDANCE)*

O God, grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties the grace to ask what you would have us do; that the spirit of wisdom may keep us from making poor choices; and that in your light we may see light, and in your path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: *(#97 - FOR VICTORY IN DEFEAT)*

Merciful God, whose love embraces all, teach us

to feel that no sin is beyond your forgiveness, no wound of the heart too great for your healing power. Let your Holy Spirit breathe into our lives new hope and courage, that our weakness may be transfused with your strength and our failures converted into victory.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#98 - FOR CONFIDENCE IN TROUBLE*)

O Most Loving God, preserve us from those fears and anxieties that lead us into despair. Grant that no troubles of this mortal life may hide from us your love which is immortal, and which you have shown us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#99 - FOR NEW LIFE*)

O Eternal Creator, you cause a restlessness in our hearts until we rest in you; give us li vision of the person you have created us to be. Fill us with courage, strength, and perseverance when our tasks seem too difficult for us to manage. Deliver us from anxious fears and self-pity so that we may see in ourselves the person you see and love. By your gracious Spirit so enlighten our minds that all of life may come alive with new meaning and new purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#100 - FOR FAITH AND TRUST*)  
Almighty God, when our vision fails and our understanding is darkened, when the ways of life seem hard and the brightness of life is gone, grant us that wisdom which deepens faith and enlarges trust. Whenever your ways in the world or in the soul are hard to understand, increase our patience and our living faith in you. May we at all times and with a quiet mind put our confidence in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#101 - FOR STRENGTH*)  
Almighty and merciful God, to whom the light and the darkness are both alike; strengthen us to meet all the experiences of life with a steadfast and undaunted heart; enable us to go our way bravely whether it be rough or smooth; and when the clouds of life hide you, may we continue patiently till they are dispersed by the sun of your unchanging love; Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#102 - FOR STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT*)  
O God, who gives some of us work up to the

limit of our powers, and to others the task of retaining courage and patience through seasons of pain and weariness; we pray for strength and encouragement. Give us the light of your presence, the power of your life in us, and the joy of your never failing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#103 - FOR STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS*)  
God our Creator, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness; give us the sense of your presence, your love and your strength. Help us to have trust in your protecting love and strengthening power, so that fear and worry may not overwhelm us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#104 - FOR PEACE OF MIND*)  
Eternal God, we turn from the noise and confusion of life to the peace that can be found only in your presence. Forgive us our restlessness and free us from confusion of ideas. Teach us to cultivate the serene mind, which knows how to turn to you in times of turmoil and be at peace.  
Save us from worry and weariness, from irritation over trivialities, and from restless

striving after unworthy goals. Center our efforts upon the ordering of our minds, the strengthening of our characters, and the serving of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#105 – FOR ETERNAL REFUGE*)

O Light that never fails, bless all who face problems of worry, sorrow, and discouragement; and all who may be sick, lonely or afraid. When we walk through dark hours, give us faith to believe in the future and courage to overcome our obstacles. Save us from becoming slaves of our past mistakes. Teach us rather to rise above our failures to firmer character and new achievement; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (*#106 – FOR GRACE TO USE THE HOLY SCRIPTURES*)

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#107 – FOR WISDOM)

God, give us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#108 – FOR FRIENDLINESS)

Almighty and most merciful God, You have given us a new commandment that we should love one another; give us grace also that we may fulfill it. Make us gentle and courteous and tolerant. Direct our lives so that we may look for the good in others' words and deeds. And hallow our friendships in the spirit of him who loved us and gave himself for us.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#109 – FOR HELP IN SEARCH OF TRUTH)

Grant, O Lord, we pray you, that as we seek for truth, we may have the courage to seek openly and honestly; and when our minds are perplexed, give us patience and perseverance, knowing that all who truly seek you with all their heart will find you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Minister:** (*#110 – FOR INNER PEACE*)

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed; give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from fear, may live with a sense of inner peace and confidence; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People:** **Amen.**

## SEASONAL PRAYERS *(Selections 111-118)*

Minister: (#111 - ADVENT)

Almighty God, by the coming of your Son into the world you opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all who believe in you; grant us your Holy Spirit that we may believe with our whole heart, and so serve you in our daily lives that when Christ Jesus comes again we may be gathered into the Kingdom which abides eternal in the heavens; through your mercy, O God, who lives and reigns one Lord, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#112 - CHRISTMAS)

O God, of whose love the angels sang when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, accept our worship and our hymns of joy. As we celebrate the birth of your Son, grant that we may experience your love, and through him receive your good will, so that being cleansed from sin, we may receive your abiding peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#113 - NEW YEAR)

Almighty God, you have been the dwelling place of your people in all generations, and in your mercy have brought us to the close of

another year; we praise you that we have known the comfort of your presence. So fill our hearts with trust in you, that by night and by day, at all times and in all seasons, we may without fear commit ourselves and others to your never failing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#114 - LENT)

We thank you, O God, that you have drawn us to Jesus Christ. By the memory of his cross sustain us in our trials; comfort us in our sorrows; and strengthen us against temptation. Grant that it may be a continuing promise of the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#115 - GOOD FRIDAY)

Forbid, O God, that we should forget, amid our earthly comforts, the pains and mortal anguish that our Lord Jesus endured for our salvation. Grant us this day a true understanding of all that he underwent, that remembering his sufferings and death we may give ourselves wholly to you; through Jesus Christ our only Lord and Savior.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#116 - EASTER)

Almighty God, who through your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from death to new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#117 - PENTECOST)

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit; shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Minister: (#118 - THANKSGIVING DAY)

Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## LITANIES AND MEDITATIONS *(Selection 119-125)*

*(Selection 119 – A LITANY OF INTERCESSION)*

Minister: Almighty God, who loves all and forgets none,  
we bring before you our concerns for all your  
children. For all whom we love;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all who have blessed us with kindness, led  
us with patience, and restored us by their  
empathy and help;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all who suffer, the sick in body or in mind;  
for all who are troubled by the sufferings of  
others.

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all who are perplexed by the deeper  
questions of life, and overshadowed with  
doubt, that light may arise in their darkness;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For the infirm and aged, and for all who are  
passing through the valley of death, that they  
may find strength in you, and light at evening  
time;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Minister: For all forgotten by us, but dear to you; for all  
your children throughout the earth;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

*(Selection 120 – A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING)*

Minister: Almighty and ever living God, you give us every good and perfect gift; we remember your loving kindness and your tender mercies which are with us always; with grateful hearts we lift up to you our thanksgiving. For the life you have given us, and the world in which we live,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the work we are enabled to do, and the truth we are able to learn; for whatever good there has been in our past lives and for all the hopes and aspirations which lead us toward better things,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For all the comforts and gladness of life; for loved ones and friends; for love, sympathy and good will,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, and all the helps and hopes which are ours as his disciples; for the presence and inspiration of your Holy Spirit, and for all who minister in your name in truth and grace,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For communion with you, our Creator; for the light and peace which are gained through trust and obedience, and for deliverance from the distress which befall us,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the tasks and trials through which we learn patience and which lead us to understanding and a close sympathy with all who suffer; for troubles which have lifted us nearer to you and drawn us into deeper fellowship with our neighbor and with Jesus Christ,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: For the faith which dispels the shadows of earth, and fills the saddest and the last moments of life with the light of an immortal hope,

**People: We praise you, O God.**

Minister: O God of all grace and love, we have praised you with our lips; grant that we may also praise you in consecrated and faithful lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

*(Selection 121 – WE NEED ONE ANOTHER)*

Minister: We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.

**People: We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.**

Minister: We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves again.

**People: We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose, and cannot do it alone.**

Minister: We need one another in the hour of success, when we look for someone to share our triumphs.

**People: We need one another in the hour of defeat, when with encouragement we might endure, and stand again.**

Minister: We need one another when we come to die, and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey.

**People: All our lives we are in need of others, and others are in need of us.**

*(Selection 122 – WE GIVE THANKS THIS DAY)*

Minister: For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies and galaxies beyond galaxies, awe-full and challenging our own creative yearnings:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For this planet we call earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons, its fruitfulness and fragileness:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For our human community, our common dust and destiny, our oneness transcending all narrowness that would divide us, our striving for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding rather than judgment of views not shared:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have sought to lighten the dark places of the earth, who have lived their lives so that others might live with dignity and freedom:

**People: We give thanks this day.**

Minister: For human rights and holy rites; for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:

**People: We give thanks this day. May we live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds.**

*(Selection 123 – BEATITUDES)*

Minister: Blessed are the upright and the trustworthy, the spirit of whose promise is never broken and the meaning of whose words is sure.

**People: Blessed are they who honor all persons, and speak unto others as they would others should speak unto them.**

Minister: Blessed are the merciful who remember their own need of mercy; who judge not harshly and are slow to take offense.

**People: Blessed are they who are tender in sympathy, in whom the wellsprings of pity and consolation never dry up.**

Minister: Blessed are they who are considerate of all creatures, who never thoughtlessly inflict injury or pain.

**People: Blessed are the patient and the forbearing, the peacemakers, who by timely speech or silence heal the strife of humanity.**

Minister: Blessed are the husbands and wives, friends and companions, who care tenderly for each other while respecting their differences.

**People: Blessed are they who faithfully comfort each other in sorrow and rejoice together in prosperity.**

Minister: Blessed are the fathers and mothers who guide their households well, sharing their children's interests with a sincere mind.

**People: Blessed are they who honor their inheritance, and add to the growing treasure of humankind.**

*(Selection 124 – THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD)*

Hear the commandments of God:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

You shall not make wrongful use  
of the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not be a false witness.

You shall not covet anything  
that belongs to your neighbor.

*(Selection 125 – THE LORD’S PRAYER)*

## **COMMON FORM**

**People: 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. Amen.**

## ALTERNATE FORM

**People: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
Your kingdom come;  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
and rescue us from the evil one.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours, now and forever. Amen.**