

## Service of Worship

### Thought before Worship

Taken from the Book of Order W-1.1001

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world.

### **A Time of Praise and Giving Thanks**

#### Call to Worship

ONE: God is our refuge and strength,

**ALL: A present help in trouble.**

ONE: Therefore we will not fear

**ALL: Though the earth should change,**

ONE: Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

**ALL: Though the waters roar and threaten to overtake us,**

ONE: Though the winds thunder and lightning strikes,

**ALL: Though fires leap.**

ONE: In God we place our trust.

**ALL: On God we call in prayer.**

ONE: The Lord of hosts is with us.

**ALL: The God of all creation is our refuge.**

#### Hymn

O God, Our Words Cannot Express

ST. ANNE CM

**1)** O God, our words cannot express  
The pain we feel this day.

Enraged, uncertain, we confess  
Our need to bow and pray.

**2)** We grieve for all who lost their lives...  
And for each injured one.  
We pray for children, husbands, wives  
Whose grief has just begun.  
**3)** O Lord, we're called to offer prayer  
For all our leaders, too.

May they, amid such great despair,  
Be wise in all they do.

**4)** We trust your mercy and your grace;  
In you we will not fear!  
May peace and justice now embrace!  
Be with your people here!

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Carolyn Winfrey Gillette gives free one-time use of this hymn to congregations that support Church World Service.

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### Call To Confession

Habakkuk 3:17-18

"Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, {18} yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation.

### Prayer of Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon

Habakkuk 3:19

{19} GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights."

### The Lord's Prayer

### The Old Testament Reading

Psalms 23

"A Psalm of David. The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. {2} He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. {3} He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. {4} Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. {5} Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. {6} Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

## The Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being {4} in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. {5} The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

## Hymn

## Amazing Grace

1) Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me....  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now, I see.

2) T'was Grace that taught..  
my heart to fear.  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear...  
the hour I first believed.

3) Through many dangers, toils and snares...  
we have already come.  
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far...  
and Grace will lead us home.

4) The Lord has promised good to me...  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be...  
as long as life endures

## Meditation

## Words of Hope

(Isa 55:10-11 NRSV) "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, {11} so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

Here I Am Lord

**1)** I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

**Chorus**

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

**2)** I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

**Chorus**

**3)** I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

**Chorus**

Charge and Benediction

Isaiah 6:1-8

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. {2} Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. {3} And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." {4} The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. {5} And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" {6} Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. {7} The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." {8} Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"