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**Order of Service**

**HYMN (see end of document for hymn options)**

***Stand.***

**INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.** (*spoken*)

# LITANY OPTION 1:

# The Opening Litany (Isaiah 60:1-6)

M: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

**C: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,**

M: But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

**C: Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

M: Lift up your eyes and look about you:

**C: Your sons come from afar and your daughters are carried on the arm.**

M: Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah.

C: And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

**The Confession and Absolution (Psalm 51:1-4, 1 Peter 2:9-10)**

M: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins.

**C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

M: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

M: We join our voices in praising our forgiving God.

***Sing: (CW 64)***

#### Let us all with gladsome voice praise the God of heaven,

#### Who, to bid our hearts, rejoice, his own Son has given.

#### To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sadness,

#### That with him in heaven’s fair homes we may reign in gladness.

#### We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a wonder?

#### Therefore praise God evermore here on earth and yonder.

# LITANY OPTION 2:

# DIALOGUE

M: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**C: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

M: Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the people, for every inclination of the thoughts of the heart is only evil all the time.

**C: And the soul that sins shall die.**

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

M: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

C: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

M: Now in Christ Jesus we who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. He came and preached peace to us who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

**C: For we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

M: He was slain, and with his blood he purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

**C: He made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and we will reign on the earth.**

M: I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

C: In Christ we are built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

M: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ﻿Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**C: We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.**

***Sing: (CW 370)***

#### Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe

**On this terrestrial ball**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all.**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all.**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng**

**We at his feet may fall!**

# We’ll join the everlasting song

**And crown him Lord of all.**

**We’ll join the everlasting song**

**And crown him Lord of all.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Lord of the harvest, inspire the hearts of many to offer themselves for the public ministry of your Church. Look with favor on our schools and missions, blessing those who teach the gospel and those who learn it, that many more may come to know you as the only true God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

or

Lord of the church, you have prepared a heavenly banquet for all who dwell on earth—every nation, tribe, language, and people. Renew in us the one, true, and only faith through your eternal gospel and so cause your Holy Spirit to light our hearts on fire to reach the lost of every nation. Look with favor on your people, your pastors, and your missionaries that they may ever more faithfully proclaim your Word through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

***Be seated.***

**FIRST LESSON**

**PSALM OF THE DAY (see end of document for readings options)**

**SECOND LESSON**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

Alleluia! My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL OF THE DAY**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**SERMON**

**CREED**

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (or use the prayer for the Mission of the Church, CW, p. 129)**

M: Loving God, we thank you for all the blessings you have showered on us. You sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to live and die in our place that you could find cause to declare us forgiven and free from sin forever. In the company of the Church you joined us to Jesus in Holy Baptism, and by Word and meal your Spirit strengthens our faith and keeps us safe for eternal life.

**C: Keep our faith in Christ strong, O Lord. Lead us to love your Word and sacraments**.

M: In his great love for us, your Son commissioned us and all his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, to baptize and teach everything that he commanded. What an honor we have! What a privilege!

**C: Thank you for calling us to share the gospel of Jesus with people nearby and far away.**

M: We confess, O Lord, that we have not always taken your Son’s command seriously and personally. We have allowed other duties and pleasures to take priority over making disciples. We have brushed off the Savior’s commission and relied on others to do our work. Forgive all our sins, Lord, and especially the sin of failing to hear and heed your Son’s command.

**C: Give us strength to stand firm against temptation and power to live as your disciples.**

M: We are grateful that you have raised up men and women who are willing to help us carry out the Savior’s commission. We thank you for those in our congregation who proclaim the gospel on our behalf. We praise you for filling young men and women with the courage and enthusiasm to spend years in training and then go around the globe in our place.

**C: Grant success to our work, O Lord, and lead many to believe in the Savior’s forgiveness.**

M: Keep in your care, O Lord, all those who are sick and suffering distress. Comfort those who feel unloved, forgive those bowed down with guilt, open the eyes of those nearing death to see the gates of heaven. According to your will, prosper our economy that we may continue to bring our best offerings for the ministry of the gospel.

*Here special prayers and intercessions may be offered.*

M: Keep in your care our dear synod and all with whom we share a common allegiance to your Word. Keep your Word pure among us, give us purpose as we proclaim the gospel across the world, and free us from whatever burdens weigh us down and limit our work. Fire us with the power of your Spirit, unite us in love, and lead us to long for that day when we will share with all the saints and angels the glory that shines in the throne room of the Lamb.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN**

**PRAYER (option 1)**

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ’s holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**PRAYER (option 2)**

M: For hearing the eternal gospel in your Word,

**C: we praise you, O Lord!**

M: For the joy of serving as the wings of your gospel to every nation,

**C: we praise you, O Lord!**

M: For the blessings of fellowship, support, and encouragement that we receive in the Wisconsin Synod,

**C: we praise you, O Lord!**

M: Almighty God, bless and keep us, your holy people, and bring us with many others to your side through your powerful Word through Jesus Christ our Lord,

**C: Amen.**

**BLESSING**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN**

**HYMN OPTIONS**

CW # 394 “Blessed Are the Saints of God”

CW # 523 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

CW # 556 “Rise, Shine, You People”

CW # 560 “I Hear the Savior Calling”

CW # 562 “I Love to Tell the Story”

CW # 566 “We All Are One in Mission”

CW # 570 “O Christians, Haste”

CW # 579 “Lift High the Cross”

CW # 621 “For Years on Years of Matchless Grace”

CWS # 728 “Jerusalem, the Golden”

CWS # 778 “‘How Shall They Hear,’ Who Have Not Heard”

Let All the People Praise You, p. 270, “Shine, Jesus Shine”

**READINGS OPTIONS**

* First lesson: Isaiah 54:2-5 / Psalm of the Day: Psalm 98 / Second Lesson: Romans 10:12-15 / Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:18-20
* First lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6 / Psalm of the Day: Psalm 133 / Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 1:8-10, 2:1-2 / Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:16-20
* First lesson: Daniel 7:13-14 / Psalm of the Day: Psalm 67 / Second Lesson: Revelation 14:6-7 / Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12