

Opening Hymn

537 Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks your Fa - ther's love, one with him be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
loose our tongues to tell your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

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Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Declaration of Grace

CW 155

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

CW 154

♪ In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

♪ For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

♪ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

♪ For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

♪ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

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Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: EWING



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Text: Michael D. Schultz

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The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6–11

Seek the LORD while he may be found!

Call on him while he is near!

⁷Let the wicked man abandon his way.

Let an evil man abandon his thoughts.

Let him turn to the Lord,

and he will show him mercy.

Let him turn to our God,

because he will abundantly pardon.

⁸Certainly my plans are not your plans,

and your ways are not my ways, declares the Lord.

⁹Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways,

and my plans are higher than your plans.

¹⁰Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky

and do not return there

unless they first water the earth, make it give birth,

and cause it to sprout,

so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth

will not return to me empty.

Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,

and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65

Every Heart Its Tribute Pays

Psalm 65B



1 Ev - 'ry heart its trib - ute pays, ev - 'ry tongue its
2 Ev - er while his deeds en - dure our sal - va - tion
3 Year by year, the sea - sons' round sees the land with



song of praise; sin and sor - row, guilt and care, brought to
stands se - cure; he whose fin - gers spun the earth, gave the
bless - ing crowned, where ca - ressed by sun and rain bar - ren



him who an - swers prayer; there by grace may hu - man - kind
seas and moun - tains birth, tamed the o - cean, formed the land,
earth gives life a - gain; sun - lit val - leys burn with gold,



full and free for - give - ness find; called and cho - sen,
spread the skies with might - y hand: far - off shores re -
na - ture smiles on field and fold, gifts of God in



loved and blest, in his pres - ence be at rest.
vere his name, day and night his pow'r pro - claim.
plen - ty poured: all things liv - ing, praise the Lord!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Tune: George J. Elvey

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5–11

⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are ministers through whom you believed, and each served as the Lord gave him his role. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but it is God who causes the growth. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters are united, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For God is the one whom we serve as coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ In keeping with the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. But let each person be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 55:11

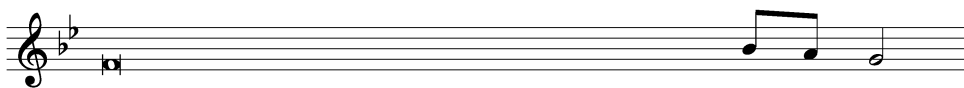


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I de - sire



and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9,18–23

¹ That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ² A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ He told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. ⁶ But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. ⁸ But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁸ “So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²² The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³ But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

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Hymn of the Day

644 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, abr., alt. Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Isaiah 55:6–11

“A Miraculous Message”

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

CW 182

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.
Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

981 In This Place Your Word Is Planted



1 In this place your Word is plant - ed; on our
2 Let your plant - ing not be wast - ed, wilt - ed
3 Help us trea - sure ho - ly wis - dom, sa - vor
4 Blest are they who, truth re - ceiv - ing, know its



path the seed is sown. To the Church your
soon in ston - y field. Let our world - ly
ev - 'ry word you give. Help us cher - ish
val - ue more than gold. Blest are they who,



Word is spo - ken; in our hearts a light has shone.
cares not choke it, rob - bing you of right - ful yield.
Je - sus' gos - pel, bread by which your peo - ple live.
per - se - ver - ing, bear good fruit a hun - dred - fold.

Text: Delores Dufner, b. 1939. Tune: Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716

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Stand

How can I thank you, Father, for allowing me to worship in your house today! I have heard the promises of your love in the gospel. I have praised you, confessed you, and prayed for your blessings. I have been strengthened by the witness and worship of others. Keep my faith strong as I live out the tasks of my life, take away my doubts and fears, and give me courage to share the good news of your Son wherever I go and however I can.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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 and ever. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

925 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing, Lord, be -
2 To you our wants are known; from you are all our
3 O grant that each of us now met be - fore you



stow; the pow'r is yours a - lone to make it
pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own and par - don
here may meet to - geth - er thus when you and



spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest
what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -
yours ap - pear and fol - low you to heav'n, our



raise and you a - lone shall have the praise!
ceive and to your Word a bless - ing give.
home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!