

# Lent



the Episcopal Church  
in Wyoming

O True God, You are my God, the One whom I trust.  
I seek You with every fiber of my being.  
In this dry and weary land with no water in sight,  
my soul is dry and longs for You. *Psalm 63:1*

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## This Service

This eucharist was created and put forward by the Wyoming Worship Committee for use by congregations in this upcoming Lenten season. Words were chosen for this service to reflect the season of Lent, and to incorporate fresh, new elements into worship that speak to us today. It draws from a variety of sources outside of the Episcopal tradition. Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler encourages us to use words and liturgies that may engage congregations in a new understanding of their faith and the Lenten season.

## Sources

**Gathering, Call to Confession and Kyrie** are from *Common Worship*, © 2002 Church House, London. *Common Worship* is a family of volumes which, together with the Book of Common Prayer, make up the official liturgical resource of the Church of England. It is available online at [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org).

**The Prayers** are from Susan McEvoy and Diana Anderson, St. John's, Powell.

**Affirmation** Nathan Nettleton (©2000) [laughingbird.net](http://laughingbird.net). The responses at the end come from *Stages on the Way* by the Wild Goose Worship Group. ©1998, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland.

**Offertory, Great Thanksgiving, Prayer of Thanks, and Sending** are from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky.

## Gathering

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

**O my God, in you I trust.**

You are the God of my salvation;

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

In you I hope all the day long.

**O my God, in you I trust.**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;**

**O my God, in you I trust.**

## Call to Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to God, though we have rebelled.

Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask God's mercy  
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

## Kyrie

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit. Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:

fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

God forgives you. Be at peace.

**Amen.**

## Hebrew Bible

O Lord, may the words of your mouth be our daily bread,  
and may your leading Spirit become our way; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*After the Reading*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

## Epistle

A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*After the Reading*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Prayers

Let us join our hearts and pray together for strength on our Lenten journey: God our Maker, hear our prayers as we take our steps together into the wilderness. By the binding of our hearts and souls to You and to one another, may we know Your saving power.

Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

*The leader continues to offer intercessions, concluding with*

O God, we know well our fragility and weakness. We know how we lose our way and forget our true identity in You. Help us this Lent to be open to Your grace that strengthens, renews, and restores us. We pray together in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## Affirmation

**We believe in God, creator of all that is and shall be,  
redeemer of all that is less than it could be,  
sustainer of our living, our loving, our being.**

**We believe in the cross of Christ,  
drenched in hatred and cruelty,  
yet overflowing with God's unquenchable love.**

**We believe in the bread of life:  
broken and shared it opens our eyes to the presence of Christ  
and strengthens us for the journey.**

**We believe in the pain suffered by Christ: all our hurts, torments and  
betrayals  
magnified in the purity of love, and embraced that we might be free.**

**We believe in the joy of the Holy Spirit, poured into the hearts of  
those  
who, with courage and resolve, refuse to trade integrity for  
popularity.**

**We believe in the Gospel, good news offered to us in Jesus,  
despised by the world but leading us in the way of life.**

**We believe in love: the nature of God, a gift unsurpassed,  
but a mystery only fulfilled when all else is relinquished.**

**We believe in light shining from darkness,  
in mercy vanquishing bitterness,  
in life bursting free where death reigned.**

How then shall we live?  
How shall this faith take flesh in the world?

The cross?

**We will take it.**

The bread?

**We will break it.**

The pain?

**We will bear it.**

The joy?

**We will share it.**

The Gospel?

**We will live it.**

The love?

**We will give it.**

The light?

**We will cherish it.**

The darkness?

**God shall perish it.**

**Amen.**

## The Peace

*We stand.*

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Offertory

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy One, in this dry and weary land we give you thanks and praise. You provide for us in our need; you set a table for us in the wilderness. Even when we despair and complain against you, you feed us with bread from heaven. Even when we quarrel and question your grace, you give us water from a stone. How can we keep silent? Even dry bones in the valley of death stand to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus, our way in the wilderness, our companion in the desert. He knows our hunger and thirst; he gives us the bread of life to eat and living water to drink. He leads us beside still waters and prepares this table for us, even in the presence of our enemies. The cup of blessing overflows!

On the night he was betrayed,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
This is my body, given for you.

On that same night he took the cup, saying,  
This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Now pour out your Holy Spirit upon this bread, this cup,  
this dry and weary land. By the power of your Spirit,  
breathe life into our dust and hope into our bones.

As we receive this bread and cup, make us one flesh and one blood,  
one in the body of Christ. Let us live to sing your praise  
and show your love to all, until our wilderness wandering is over,  
and we feast with you forever in the land that you have promised.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, O God,  
now and always. **AMEN.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The Leader breaks the consecrated bread. Silence is kept.*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup  
**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## **Invitation**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **Communion**

# Prayer of Thanks

Let us pray.

**Loving God,**

**you have given us the gifts of this day,  
the bread of heaven, the wine of new promise,  
and the mystery of truth and grace.**

**As we are so nourished,**

**help us to seek understanding in our wilderness  
with a sense of wonder and faith.**

**Whatever this day may hold,**

**we trust that you will keep us in all our comings and goings.**

**In the name of our companion in the desert,**

**Jesus your son. Amen.**

# Blessing

May the mercy of God ground you,

The love of Christ take root in you,

And the Holy Spirit grow in you,

That you may be ready for the coming of the kingdom.

And may the blessing of this triune God

be with you now and in all the days to come.

**Amen.**

# Hymn

## Sending

May the steadfast love of God surround you

throughout these forty days and into everlasting life.

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**