

REST IN CHRIST

*Jesus is our Great High Priest. Our Elder Brother. Our Sabbath Rest. Our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend.
Our ultimate peace and rest always has and always will reside in Jesus Christ.*

*This service is a combination of the styles of the previous services in this series.
You'll find contemporary worship and traditional hymns.*

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 46

Matthew 6:25-34

CHOOSING MUSIC // for singing

[The Lion and the Lamb \(B\)](#)

Words and music: Benton Brown, Leeland Mooring.

©2015 Meaux Mercy: Thankyou Music; The Devil Is A Liar! Publishing: Bethel Music Publishing

[Mvini \(Rest in You\) \(C\)](#)

Performance by We Will Worship

Words & Music: Langelihle Mbonambi © WWW Music

[Come to the Feast \(B\)](#)

Performance by Sandra McCracken, 2013

Words and music: Jeff Lawson © 2012 Jeff Lawson Music

[Lord, I Need You \(F\)](#)

Performance by Matt Maher

Words and Music: Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher

©2011 sixsteps Music; Sweater Weather Music; Thankyou Music; Valley of Songs Music;

worshiptogether.com songs

[Before the Throne of God Above \(D\)](#)

Traditional, Public Domain

Words and Music: Charitie Lees Bancroft

[The Mercy Song + Passover Song](#)

Performance by iamson

Words and Music: Orlando Palmer © 2020 Orlando Palmer Music

[Nothing to Fear](#)

Performance by The Porter's Gate [C] Words and Music: Audrey Assad, Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach

©2019 Integrity Worship Music, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, Paul Zach Publishing, PG Songs and

Hymns, Fortunate Fall Music

[We Will Feast in the House of Zion \(E\)](#)

Performance by Sandra McCracken

Words and music: Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken

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VISUAL ARTS // for seeing

Rest in Christ, by Joe Cory



- [Come to the Table](#) Exhibition, Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA)
- [Vine and Branches](#), [Chalice and Cross](#), and [Wheat and Cup](#) by Elizabeth Steele Halstead

SPOKEN WORD // for hearing

Call to Worship

Similar to the service on resting in God, consider involving multiple voices around the sanctuary to shout aloud the verses in “polyphonic praise” from Psalm 24:7-10, giving each verse (or even each line) to a different congregant spread throughout the sanctuary. Then have all participants proclaim together verse 10 to conclude.

Another option is to begin the Call to Worship with a call and response reading from Psalm 62, and then invite congregants to pray out loud on their own or in groups of two prayers of adoration, praising God for God’s faithfulness and goodness.

Dramatic Readings

[“This Way to the Banquet: A Reader’s Theater”](#) by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema

[“Redemption: A Choral Reading from Luke 15:11-32”](#) by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May God give you the grace not to sell yourself short,

grace to risk something big for something good,

grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth,
and too small for anything but love.

May God take your minds and think through them;

May God take your lips and speak through them;

and may God take your hearts and set them on fire.

Amen.

-William Sloane Coffin

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

REST IN CHRIST

GATHERING:

Preparation for Worship | from Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence
So that we may receive mercy and final grace to help us in our time of need

Silent Preparation for Worship

Silence

Call to Worship | from Psalm 62

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.

Truly he is our rock and our salvation; he is our fortress, we will never be shaken.

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

Truly he is our rock and our salvation; he is our fortress, we will not be shaken.

My salvation and honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge

Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Prayer of Adoration

Take a few moments with the people you are gathered with, or on your own, to praise God for his goodness and faithfulness.

SINGING: [The Lion and the Lamb \(B\)](#)

[Mvini\(C\)](#).

CONFESSION:

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offense against you.

You alone know how often we have sinned in wondering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you.

Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SINGING:

[Lord, I Need You \(F\)](#)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

From Romans 8:1

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

SINGING: [Before the Throne of God Above \(D\)](#)

LISTENING:

OT Lesson: Exodus 20:2

Psalm 22:25-31

New Testament Lesson: Philippians: 4:6-7

Gospel: John 14:27

Prayer

RESPONDING: COMMUNION

Below is an example of a short communion liturgy that you could use for the Lord's Supper if your tradition does not provide one. Many elements are pulled from The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd edition. Regardless of what form a communion liturgy takes, it should always include certain key elements: 1) God's invitation to the table, 2) Prayer of Thanksgiving, 3) Preparing the bread and cup, 4) Receiving the meal, and 5) Response to the meal.

- **God's Invitation to the Table**

The invitation to the table should always convey that God is the one who invites us to the table and that through the celebration of the Lord's Supper God offers us the promise of the Gospel.

Words of Institution (based on Luke 13:29, 24:30-31):

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from east and west,
From north and south,
And sit at table in the kingdom of God.
When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
He took bread, and blessed and broke it,
And gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.
This is the Lord's table.
Our Savior invites those who trust Him
To share the feast that He has prepared.

Summary of Scriptural Teaching (*from the Heidelberg Catechism*):

With these words Christ has commanded me and all believers
To eat this broken bread and drink this cup
In true faith and in the confident hope of his return in glory.

In this supper God declares to us

That all our sins are completely forgiven

Through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ,

Which he himself accomplished on the cross once for all.

He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ,
Who with his true body
Is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father
Where he wants us to worship him.

Words of Invitation (*from Luke 13:29*):

From east and west, from north and south,
People will come and take their places
At the banquet in the kingdom of God.

- **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The prayer of thanksgiving is one of the oldest traditions of Christian worship. Like a creed, it contains the core teaching of the Christian faith and offers thanksgiving to God, from creation to full coming of God's kingdom. While classical versions of the Prayer of Thanksgiving contain several (wonderful) additional elements, the example below is condensed in keeping with a shorter communion liturgy.

Opening or Sursum Corda (*which means "lift up your hearts"*):

The Lord be with you

And also with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving for God's work in creation:

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
For you created heaven and earth,
Made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
Even when we fell into sin.
We give thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Who by his life, death, and resurrection
Opened to us the way of everlasting life,
Therefore we join our voices
With all the saints and angels and the whole creation
To proclaim the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest!

Thanksgiving for the Work of Christ:

We give thanks to God the Father
That our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered,
Gave us this memorial of his sacrifice,
Until he comes again.
At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread,
And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
“This is my body, which is for you;
Do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way,
He took the cup after supper and said,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood;
Do this in remembrance of me.”
For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
We proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Prayer for the Work of the Spirit:

Lord send your Holy Spirit
So that this bread and cup may be for us
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
May we and all your saints be united with Christ
And rest in him, remaining faithful in hope and love.
Gather your whole church, O Lord,
Into the glory of your kingdom.

Through him, with him, in him,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
All honor and glory are yours,
Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

[The bread and cup are prepared by the minister(s), which often includes the pouring of the wine/juice and the breaking of the bread, called the “fraction”]

Congregational prayer after the breaking of the bread *(called the Agnus Dei, or the “Lamb of God”):*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Amen.

Invitation to the table *(from John 6:35):*

Jesus said,

“I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and

Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

[Communion is served to the congregation, often with the servers saying to each congregant: “the body of Christ, given for you” and “the blood of Christ, shed for you.”]

- Song during Communion: [The Mercy Song + Passover Song \(D\)](#)
- **Post-Communion Acclamation** *(from Ephesians 3:20-21):*
Now to him who by the power at work within us
Is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,
To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
Forever and ever.
- **Post-Communion Prayer** *(based on Luke 2:29-32):*
Now, Master,
You are letting your servants go in peace as you promised;
For our eyes have seen the salvation
That you have made ready in the sight of the nations;
A light of revelation for the Gentiles
And glory for your people Israel.
**Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Ever one God, world without end. Amen.**

SENDING:

Benediction

(from Hebrews 13:20-21)

People of God, receive now the blessing of the Lord:
May the God of peace,
Who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
That great shepherd of the sheep,
By the blood of the eternal covenant,
Equip you with everything good,
Working in you that which is pleasing in His sight,
Through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Sending Song: [Nothing to Fear](#) - The Porter's Gate

Call to Discipleship:

As you have been fed at this table, go to feed the hungry.
As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.
As you have received, give.
As you have heard, proclaim.
And as you have rested in Christ, go to bring rest to the world.
And the blessing that you have received
From Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Be always with you.
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.