

Service of the Word

When God's people gather for worship a service of the Word may be used. It is simple and adaptable, having a three-fold structure based around the reading and exposition of Scripture: preparing to hear God's Word; hearing God's Word and responding to God's Word. The resources which follow provide a variety of material for a service of the Word. They are drawn from a wide range of liturgical voices and are indicated by **the numbers in brackets**.

Preparing to hear God's Word

Call to worship (1)	K2
Hymn/Song	
Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession (2)	K3
Assurance of Pardon (3).....	K6

(1) Call to worship

Let us worship God.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

O God, your loving kindness is better than life itself;
All **our lips shall give you praise.**

So we will bless you as long as we live
All **and lift up our hands in your name.**

or

meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

letting go of our security.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

or

We are God's people.

How good it is that we have all

(2) Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

All-holy God,
you call us together to be your holy people,
and so we join to give you praise
for the joy of our creation;
for our redemption in Christ;
for the empowerment of your Spirit.

Gracious God,
and our lives with your glory
as we come before you in worship and prayer

All **Amen.**

Intimate God,
we praise you because you know each one of us;
the worries that nag us, the achievements we are proud of,
the hopes and expectations that we hold,
half-recognised, in our hearts.

We praise you for what we know of you;
the ways in which you have welcomed and met us,
your quiet, constant, presence in our lives.

And we praise you for what we do not yet know;
the mysteries of your creation,
the wonders of discovery awaiting us.

Unknown God,
may we be open to meet with you in unexpected ways;
discerning your presence in what is strange to us,
and seeing the familiar with newly-opened eyes.

All **Amen.**

or

Wise and Holy One
you are
beyond our imagination
beyond our understanding
beyond our humanity;
and because you are beyond us
we turn to you for sanctuary
we come to you for protection.

Wise and Holy One

you are not completely beyond our imagination,

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you are not completely beyond our understanding

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you are not completely beyond our humanity

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And because you are beside us

we can walk alongside you as a companion

we can speak honestly with you as a friend

we can keep silence with you as a lover.

Wise and Holy One

not completely beyond us,

not only beside us but deep within our being.

Spirit of God

when we feel confused,

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when we feel abandoned,

help us to know your love and share it with others;

when we feel at a loss,

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when we fail to love you,

help us to know your forgiveness and share it with others;

encourage us to leave what is past and travel on,

with you and all your people,

into your glorious future.

All **Amen.**

and/or

God of love and mercy,

we come before you

knowing that we are in need of forgiveness.

We have sinned against you

in our speaking and in our silence;

in our thinking and in our thoughtlessness;

in our actions and in our inaction.

We have sinned against you,

in not loving you with our whole heart

and soul and strength;

in not loving our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Grant us, O Lord, your forgiveness,

restore us in the image of your Son,

and lead us along the way to your kingdom,

to the glory of your name.

All **Amen.**

(3) Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!

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who died,

yes,

who was raised,

who is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

Romans 8:34

So if anyone is in Christ,

there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away;

see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

All **Amen.**

Receive God's gift of forgiveness
and be at peace.

or

O God,

your heart is full of mercy.

May we hear and trust your words to each of us:

'Your sins are forgiven.'

May we forgive each other

and forgive ourselves.

Thanks be to God.

All **Amen.**

(4) Prayer for grace

O Lord, heavenly Father,

in whom is the fullness of grace and wisdom,

enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit,

and give us grace to receive your Word

with reverence and humility,

without which no-one can understand your truth. (it)-6.4 (h)-6.1 (r)-1.4 (e)15.3 (v)or25 Gm

Eternal God,
who longs for us to know all good things
and to walk along a peaceful path,
open the eyes of our hearts
that we may see the way to life,
open our ears that we may hear the truth,
and open our lips that we may praise you,
this day and all our days,

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All

Amen.

(5) Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving God,
we give you thanks and praise
for all that you have done for us.

For your whole created universe
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a universe created and yet still being created.

For the beauty and fragility of our spinning planet,
the blue oceans, swarming with life,
and the green and verdant earth.

For all these things we give you our joyous praise,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

or

God, Maker and Lover of all,
we know that your way is not always easy;
that peace is not given lightly,
that sometimes justice comes only through struggle.

We pray for the places in your world
where we long to see justice
and dream of peace.

We remember especially the peoples of ...
that we cannot imagine resolution;
and we pray for wisdom and reconciliation ...

We remember communities divided by poverty and racism,
especially ...
where the gaps between privilege and powerlessness
seem to grow ever wider;
and we pray for justice and healing.

We remember your church,
sometimes fragmented and confused,
where in spite of division,
your people seek to live out the

Liberating God,
 we bring our prayers for those whose lives are limited,
 by their own attitudes or beliefs,
 by the pain of their circumstances,
 by the actions of others,

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We pray for those worn down by illness,
 or exhausted by caring for others,
 longing to feel the freshness and energy
 of a bright new day.

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 their opportunities limited by prejudice,
 longing to experience the possibility
 of travelling on an open road.

We pray for those limited by their own lack of self-worth,
 held back by doubts and fears, and repeated rejection,
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 of striding out freely along their own path.

We pray for those trapped in poverty,
 their energies sapped by the struggle against greed and injustice,
 longing to know the abundance
 of an earth where resources are freely shared.

All Amen.

(6) Offering prayers

Eternal God
 we come with these gifts
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 and the service of our lives;
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All Amen.

or

Loving God, we bring these our gifts,
 in thanksgiving for all that you have given us;
 asking that we may be servants of others
 and witnesses to your love.

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All Amen.

or

Generous God
we bring our gifts to you
with cheerfulness and joyful hearts.
Give us courage that with these gifts
