

LITURGY FOR SABBATH DIVINE SERVICE

Adventist Society for Religious Studies

prepared by

David Trim

NEW ORLEANS

NOVEMBER 21, 2009

LITURGY FOR SABBATH DIVINE SERVICE, ASRS, NEW ORLEANS, NOVEMBER 21, 2009

[NB: words in italics are information for worshippers and are not to be read aloud.]

Leader May the grace, peace, and joy of God’s presence be with each of you.

All. **And also with you.**

Leader O Lord, open my lips

All **And my mouth shall show forth thy praise**

Leader O God, make speed to save me

All **O Lord, make haste to help me**

Leader Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

All **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

Leader Let us all praise the Lord.

All **Alleluia.**

Leader

We welcome you this Sabbath morning to divine service. Our worship this morning will continue the theme of “Adventism and the healing of the nation”—we will join in prayers and scripture readings that further explore how Seventh-day Adventist Christians ought to relate to “the powers of this world”, and how we can bring literal and figurative healing to the nations of which we are earthly citizens, while remembering that first we are citizens of the kingdom of Heaven.

However, the chief emphasis of this service is on worship—on bringing us into the holy presence of our God and on honoring Him by acknowledging His worthiness to be praised. Since Thursday night, we have been engaged in scholarly discussion and debate; now we seek the sacred and the divine, and we hope to find the “beauty of holiness”. We want to consecrate ourselves anew to

our Creator and Redeemer. With this in mind, as in recent years, we shall be following a set liturgy, one which draws on patterns of worship practiced by Christians for centuries or millennia, and in which we shall share and participate in worship, rather than only listening. Thus we communally enact our faith and preserve the traditions of our faith, and, as one body—the body of Christ—we encounter the Divine and acknowledge that our Lord “alone is worthy ... to receive glory and honor and power” [*Rev. 4:11*].

So please, follow along with the liturgy you have in your hands. Throughout the service, the worship leader or reader will read the light type and the congregation will join in the bold. And in the spirit of worship and of seeking the sacred, we shall honor Our Lord by standing, when praying—we thus express our reverence of the ultimate author of all life; and we shall stand, too, when we join in reading from the Gospel—this reflects both the practice of Christians across many centuries, and the centrality of Jesus in our Christian faith, life, and understanding.

First let us unite in singing praise to our Creator and committing this worship service to Him, by standing and joining in our first hymn, “O Worship the Lord.”

***HYMN* O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
and comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;
for truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,**

**these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
 he will accept for the Name that is dear;
 mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
 trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

Leader

Please be seated.

The apostle Paul wrote: “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and givings of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” [1 Tim. 2:1-2]. We will follow this model and begin by offering “supplications, prayers and intercessions”, first for “all men [and women]”, then for all God’s creation, then for those “who are in authority”, before joining in giving thanks and praise.

We shall use prayers of the Protestant Reformer, John Calvin, and the Puritan leader, Oliver Cromwell: both were leaders of nations and men of great spirituality; both at times fell prey to the temptations of power and were guilty of great intolerance; yet both loved the Lord, and were concerned with the spiritual and material well-being of their countries—we shall join in their prayers for healing and for the nation. We shall also join in a prayer of Albert Schweitzer, who saw past the artificial distinctions of nationality and race, and even beyond the differences between the species, and prayed for the well being of all created life. And we shall end with the prayer that Our Lord taught us to pray.

Leader Let us stand and pray: Lord have mercy upon us.

All Christ have mercy upon us.

A prayer of John Calvin

Leader Grant, Almighty God, that as you kindly and graciously extend your hand to us, not only to show us once for all the right way, but also to lead us through our whole life, and even to sustain us when wearied, heal us when afflicted, and raise us up when fallen—O grant that we be not ungrateful for this your great kindness, but render ourselves obedient to you, and . . . may we suffer ourselves to be ever raised up by your hand, until we shall at last reach that blessed rest, to which you invite us, and are ready to lead us, where we shall enjoy the fullness of those blessings which have been obtained for us by your only-begotten son.

All ***Amen.***

Oliver Cromwell's death-bed prayer (adapted)

Leader Lord, though I am a miserable and wretched creature, I am in covenant with Thee through grace. And I may, I will come to Thee for thy people. Make me, though very unworthy, a mean instrument to do them some good, and Thee service. Lord, continue and go on to do good for them.

All **Pardon Thy foolish people! Forgive their sins, and do not forsake them, but love and bless them. Give them consistency of judgement, one heart, and mutual love; and go on to deliver them, and continue the work of reformation; and make the name of Christ glorious in the world.**

Leader Teach those who look too much on Thy instruments to depend more upon Thyself. For Jesus Christ's sake, to whom, with Thee and Thy Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever!

All ***Amen***

A prayer for animals by Albert Schweitzer

Leader Hear our humble prayer, O God,
for our friends the animals,
especially for animals who are suffering;
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted
or frightened or hungry;
for all that are to be put to death.

All **We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,
and for those who deal with them
we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words.
Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals
and so to share the blessings of your mercy.
Amen.**

Leader At this conference we have considered Adventism and the nations.
Let us pray now for this nation, its president, its government, and for
the whole state of Christ's church, as our Lord Jesus and his apostles
taught us.

All **Almighty God and Father of mankind, whose kingdom is
everlasting and power is infinite, have mercy, we pray, upon this
nation.**

Leader We are taught by your holy word that the hearts of kings and
presidents are in your rule and dominion. We give thanks for Barack
Obama and for the example of his faith in you; and we pray that you
will rule his heart and that you will so dispose and govern the hearts
of him, his ministers, and of all those who are in positions of authority
in the United States, that in their thoughts, words and actions they
may work to preserve the people committed to their charge in
prosperity, peace and godliness.

All **Grant this, we pray, for the sake of Him who humbled himself before spiritual and political leaders so that all men and women might be saved, Amen.**

Leader We also pray, O Father, your blessing on the heads of state and government, and all officials and judges, of all the nations from which members of this congregation come. Bless them and give them wisdom; may all leaders and all those in authority under them truly and impartially administer justice. We especially pray that you grant a spirit of good will among those in positions of power in Israel, Palestine, Pakistan, Afghanistan, [ADD HERE, IF ONE HAS BROKEN OUT BY LATE NOVEMBER] and Somalia, where there is conflict, sometimes forgotten by the rest of the world. We ask for peace in those regions and throughout the world,

All **praying in the name of your Son, who died on the cross and desires that none should suffer, Amen.**

Leader Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all pastors or ministers of the gospel, in any and all Christian denominations, but particularly in the Seventh-day Adventist church, that they may effectively set forth your true and holy word. May all of us who worship in your name have a right heart and mind, so that we may hear and receive your holy word, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. Comfort and help, O Lord, all those who are in distress, sorrow, sickness, or suffering any adversity—especially those who are suffering because they honor and worship you.

All **We are grateful and more than grateful, O God, for the blessings of peace and religious freedom in this nation.**

Leader We offer gratitude and thanks, too, that you have redeemed us. We praise and give thanks to our saving God: we laud and magnify your glorious name, saying with all the angels and archangels,

All **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: heaven and earth are full of your glory; hosanna in the highest. Blessed is our savior Jesus Christ, who came in the name of the Lord. Glory be to God in the Highest. Amen**

Leader Finally we commend to your merciful goodness this congregation, assembled here in your name, on your Sabbath, to worship you and to give thanks for the blessings we have received. We thank you most of all for the most glorious, redeeming, death of your Son, who taught us to pray

All ***Lord's prayer.***

The congregation should be seated

Leader Let us now join in reading, from Scripture, the Lord's words on the nations of the earth.

The word of the Lord to the Patriarchs [*Genesis 12:1-3 NIV*]

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you.

All **"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.**

Leader "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Leader The word of the Lord in poetry [*Psalms 33:8-13, 15-16, 18-21 NKJV adapted*]

Let all the earth fear the LORD;
 Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
 For He spoke, and it was done;
 He commanded, and it stood fast.

All **The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
 He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.
 The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
 The plans of His heart to all generations.**

Leader Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
 The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

All **The LORD looks from heaven;
 He sees all the sons of men.**

Leader He fashions their hearts individually;
 He considers all their works.

All **No king is saved by the multitude of an army;
 A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.**

Leader Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
 On those who hope in His mercy,
 To deliver their soul from death,
 And to sustain them in time of weakness.

All **Our soul waits for the Lord;
 He is our help and our shield.
 For our heart shall rejoice in Him,
 Because we have trusted in His holy name.**

Leader The words spoken by Our Lord when He was on this earth [*Matthew 22:15-21 NKJV*]. Let us stand as we read.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him.
All ... **And they sent to him their disciples ... saying “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God in truth; nor do you care about anyone, for you do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Cæsar or not?”**

Leader But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show me the tax money.”

All **So they brought him a denarius. And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this? They said to him “Cæsar’s.”**

Leader And He said to them, “Render therefore to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Please be seated, and let us conclude with the word of the Lord spoken to the apostles [*Romans 13:3-8, NIV/NKJV*]

Rulers are not a terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

All **For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do ill, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath on him who practices evil.**

Leader Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possibly punishment but also because of conscience.

All **This is why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants,
attending continually to governing.
Render therefore to all their due:
if you owe taxes, pay taxes;
if revenue, then revenue;
if respect, then respect;
if honor then honor.**

Leader Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for he who loves
another has fulfilled the law.

SERMON ***The Maturing of Adventism***
Richard Hart, Loma Linda University

Leader [*invite congregation to stand and join in final hymn*]

HYMN **O worship the King, all glorious above
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space,
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

A benediction of the Protestant Reformer, Heinrich Bullinger [adapted]

Leader And now, lifting up our minds to heaven, let us give thanks to the Lord our God, who through his beloved Son has purified us and gathered us together, to be a chosen people to Himself, to be witnesses to the nations, and to be heirs of all his heavenly treasures. To him be all praise and glory, for all eternity.

All **Amen**