

# THE PRESENT WORD

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

W O R S H I P L E A F L E T S

**GOD'S JUST SERVANT**\*Responses are in **bold**.**PASSION SUNDAY: OPENING SENTENCES**

Psalm 98:1a, 3-4, 8-9

O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things. . . .

**He has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel. . . .**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy

**at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.**

**He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

**MORNING HYMN**

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
all who feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see;  
watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away;  
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" (*GtG*, 220)

Follow to the judgment hall;  
view the Lord of life arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall!  
O the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering shame or loss;  
learn from him to bear the cross.

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 42:1-9

**42:1** Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them  
out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes  
from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

**BIBLE STUDY**

To be led using the Participant's Book, p. 32, and Leader's Guide, p. 34.

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people and the ways of our world in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love. Show us again the image of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience, so that self-emptying may be our pathway.

Merciful God, you chose Jesus Christ as your Servant, who suffered for us, and because of his obedience, you have crowned him King of kings. May your spirit rest upon us as it came to rest on Jesus, empowering us to continue his ministry of justice in this world.

**Amen.**

*Individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may be offered. There may be silent prayer.*

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray *(select a version of the 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, assured of God's presence with you, with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide, and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

W O R S H I P L E A F L E T S

**RESURRECTION HOPE**\*Responses are in **bold**.**EASTER DAY: OPENING SENTENCES**

Brothers and sisters, behold the victory of our God:  
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Sin and death shall reign no more.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Let this place resound with joy.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**MORNING HYMN**

*Refrain:*

*Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.*

Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-cloths  
where thy body lay.

*Refrain*

“Thine Is the Glory” (*GtG*, 238)

Lo! Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,,  
for the Lord now liveth;  
death has lost its sting.

*Refrain*

**SCRIPTURE**

**15:1** Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

<sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. . . .

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no

1 Corinthians 15:1–8, 12–14, 20–23, 42–45

resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. . . .

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. . . .

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

To be led using the Participant's Book, p. 38, and Leader's Guide, p. 40.

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!"

God of life, you raised Jesus from the dead: because he lives, we live. Help us to live in the hope of Jesus' resurrection, to work to establish the justice his resurrection makes possible, and to live lives so full of hope that we become an encouragement to others.

**Amen.**

*Individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may be offered. There may be silent prayer.*

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray (*select a version of the 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Now may the truth of the empty tomb— the astonishing reality of Jesus' resurrection— keep you fearless and sure that you will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life. May the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always.

**Amen.**

# THE PRESENT WORD

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

W O R S H I P L E A F L E T S

## INJUSTICE WILL BE PUNISHED

\*Responses are in **bold**.

### OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 46:1-3, 7

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. . . .

**The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

### MORNING HYMN

God is our refuge and our strength,  
our ever-present aid,  
and therefore though the earth be moved,  
we will not be afraid.

“God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength” (*GtG*, 329)

Though hills amid the seas be cast,  
though foaming waters roar,  
yea, though the mighty billows shake  
the mountains on the shore.

### SCRIPTURE

Esther 7:1-10

7:1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup>On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup>For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” <sup>5</sup>Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” <sup>6</sup>Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was

terrified before the king and the queen. <sup>7</sup>The king rose from the feast in wrath and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that the king had determined to destroy him. <sup>8</sup>When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman had thrown himself on the couch where Esther was reclining; and the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” As the words left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman’s face. <sup>9</sup>Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” <sup>10</sup>So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

### BIBLE STUDY

To be led using the Participant’s Book, p. 44, and Leader’s Guide, p. 46.

## PRAYER

Almighty God, you brought forth the world for the love of Christ, yet we have lived in rebellion and turned away from our created purpose. We have acknowledged the Lordship of Christ with our lips, but we have not honored him with our lives. We have served the idols of wealth and privilege; we have sought the protection of violence to oppose violence; we have lived in fear of death and loss; we have not loved our neighbors, nor sought reconciliation with our enemies. Therefore we pray: Break our rebellious will.

Instruct our hearts in the ways of peace.  
Expose our insincere thoughts.  
Give us integrity in our quest for truth.  
Release us from the fear of death.  
Grant us courage in the face of evil.  
Free us for joyful service in Christ our Lord.  
Empower us to live as citizens of your kingdom.

God of our salvation, give us confidence to bring all our petitions to you, knowing that you hear and answer us because of your great love for us. During this Eastertide, help us to celebrate with gratitude the redemption accomplished for us by Jesus Christ.

*Individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may be offered. There may be silent prayer.*

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray *(select a version of the 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

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Forgive us our sins  
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Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

May the grace of Jesus Christ our risen Lord, the love of God who raised him from the dead, and the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the world with new life bless and keep you.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

# THE PRESENT WORD

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

W O R S H I P L E A F L E T S

## THE LORD LOVES JUSTICE

\*Responses are in **bold**.

### OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 42:5a, 6, 9a

Thus says God, the LORD,  
**I have called you in righteousness,  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,**  
See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare.

### MORNING HYMN

Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.

*Refrain:*  
*Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

“Standing on the Promises” (*GtG*, 838)

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear  
assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God.  
*Refrain*

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:8–11; 62:2–4a

**61:8** For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with  
them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the  
nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has  
blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of  
salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of  
righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to  
spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and  
praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

.....  
**62:2** The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of  
the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
<sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed  
Desolate.

### BIBLE STUDY

To be led using the Participant’s Book, p. 50, and Leader’s Guide, p. 52.

## **PRAYER**

O God, you have embraced us with an everlasting love and have made covenant with us. Give us grateful hearts and open eyes to recognize the cries of those who are oppressed. Stir our will to a fresh commitment to respond to those cries. By your Spirit, we will serve them in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may be offered. There may be silent prayer.*

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth in peace and joy, with confidence in God's everlasting love and the hope of living more intentionally as God's covenant people.

**Amen.**