

A Liturgy on the Bible

(standing)

Almighty God, we worship you as the One who has spoken this world into being.

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, we admire your glory and greatness and the power of your word.

We praise you for your grace and know that it is sufficient for all of our needs, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Hear us as we gather to remember you and thank you for all the insights and guidance that you have given to us through the Bible.

Southampton Montgomery-John Chetham's *Psalmody*
Lord, teach us how to pray aright
With reverence and with fear;
Through dust and ashes in Thy sight,
We may, we must draw near.

Hear us as we confess to you our belief in you and the Bible:

We believe you are a God of words and action, a God who uses language and personal involvement to communicate with us. We believe in the authority, power, and truth of the Scriptures that you have placed in our hands. We believe that you have revealed to us the very nature of your own self through the stories and history contained in the Bible. We find you to be a very loving and merciful God. You want us to be your faithful people, a servant Church. You expect us to trust fully in you and your leading in our lives. You are a God who listens to us and draws us patiently and yet purposefully unto the wisdom of your way through the Scriptures and through Jesus Christ and the working of your Holy Spirit. You are a God who holds onto us when we cry out with our needs or make confession of our failure to love you, others, and ourselves as you have asked us to do. You teach us through the testimony of many voices in the Bible how we are to live and move and have our being. You inspire rightly to interpret the Scriptures and apply them to our daily concerns so that those words become our words and a light unto our path.

Des Herrn Wort Herbert/Kampmann-Bohemian Brethren/Lipkis
The word of God, which ne'er shall cease,
Proclaims free pardon, grace, and peace,
Salvation shows in Christ alone,
The perfect will of God makes known.

(Seated)

Forgive us, O Lord, when we fail to trust in you or be honest with you about who we are and what we need. Remind us that you know us more deeply than we know ourselves and that we need not flee from you.

Help us to hear again what the psalmist said: "O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away."

Encourage us when we are worried and troubled by the trials and tribulations of life.

Help us to hear again what Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Restore our faith in your great power to deliver us and make all things new and redemptive in our lives.

Remind us that your words in the past are also words to us, as when Isaiah said, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low."

Assure us of your desire to comfort us when we struggle with pain and loss and seek to remain steadfast in our faith.

May we know that we also are part of that great company of saints who realize that the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd, and that he will guide us to the springs of living water, and that you will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

And when we fall short of your intentions for us, may we stand under the corrective judgment of your words and repent.

Open our hearts as we listen to your Son who says to us, "No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

(Standing)

Holy Lord
Schmidt/Gregor

Gregor/Clemens/Swertner-

Lord, our God, Lord, our God,
May your precious saving word,
Till our days on earth are ended,
Light unto our path afford;
Then, among your saints ascended,
We for your redeeming love shall raise
Ceaseless praise, ceaseless praise.

May your Word be a light unto our path all the days of our life,

That we may be your obedient people who love you and abide in you and keep your commandments willingly. Amen.