

Midweek Lenten Series 2021: Open My Life, Lord

Week of Lent 1: Open My Eyes, Lord

Welcome and Invocation

We gather today in the name of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Introduction

Paul saw the light of Christ shining around him on the road to Damascus. As individuals and communities, what do we have difficulty seeing? How does our perspective change when we view the world through the eyes of Christ?

Open my eyes, Lord.
Open my hands, Lord.
Open my ears, Lord.
Open my heart, Lord.
Open my life, Lord.
Amen.

Opening Dialogue

Week 1

(Based on Isaiah 59:10; 42:16-18)

We look but do not see.
Lord, open our eyes.

We stumble at noon as in the twilight.
Lord, open our eyes.

God turns our darkness into light.
Lord, open our eyes.

We are not forsaken: look up and see!
Lord, open our eyes.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer

Open our eyes, Lord, to perceive your desire for the world. Remove those things that block our vision and widen our gaze to encompass all you would have us see. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Reading 1

Isaiah 42:5-9

5 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:
6 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]
 a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the Lord, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
9 See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

Reading 2

Acts 26:4-18

⁴“All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. ⁵They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived as a Pharisee. ⁶And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, ⁷a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, [a] that I am accused by Jews! ⁸Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

⁹“Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. [b] ¹⁰And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. ¹¹By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to

blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

¹²“With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³ when at midday along the road, your Excellency,^[c] I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. ¹⁴ When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew^[d] language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The Lord answered, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me^[e] and to those in which I will appear to you. ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Reflection

Pastor Hardenstine

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Be Glorified

ELW 744

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.

Prayers

Lord of all life,

when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,
open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.

When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,
open our hands to do your work in the world.

When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,
open our ears, that all will know your love.

When we are hardened against our neighbor,
open our hearts and heal our resentment.

When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,
open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.

(Here other prayers may be offered.)

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

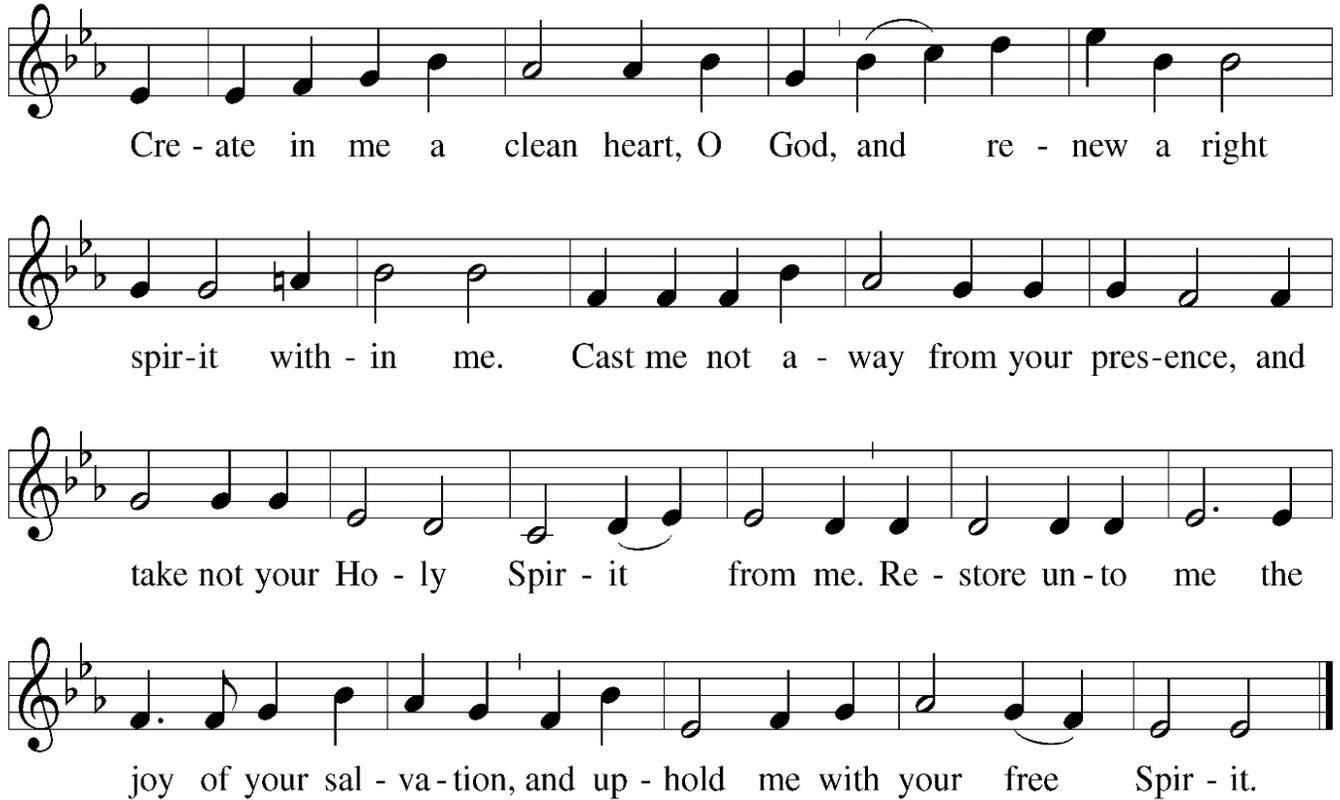
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Together we pray,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offering



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross.

The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are as follows:

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
 3 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
 take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.