

# **Midweek Lenten Series 2021: Open My Life, Lord**

## **Week of Lent 3: Open My Ears, Lord**

### **Welcome and Invocation**

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

### **Introduction**

Ancient Greek philosophy notes that we have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak. Jesus reminds us that we sometimes hear but don't listen, listen but don't understand. Opening our ears isn't as easy as it sounds.

Open my eyes, Lord.

Open my hands, Lord.

Open my ears, Lord.

Open my heart, Lord.

Open my life, Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Opening Dialogue**

#### **Week 3**

As children, we hear:

**Don't touch! Slow down!**

As teenagers, we hear:

**Your curfew begins in an hour.**

As adults, we hear:

**Cash or credit?**

In the water and the word, we hear:

**You are loved, my precious child.**



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 ears, Lord, to heed your will for our lives. Help us not only to hear, but to listen and understand with our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### Reading 1

Isaiah 50:4-5

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,<sup>[a]</sup>

that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he awakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

## **Reading 2**

Matthew 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets<sup>[a]</sup> of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup> For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>13</sup> The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ <sup>14</sup> With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

‘You will indeed listen, but never understand,  
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

<sup>15</sup> For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and their ears are hard of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes;  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and listen with their ears,  
and understand with their heart and turn—  
and I would heal them.’

<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

## **Reflection**

**Pastor Hardenstine**

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.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

## 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



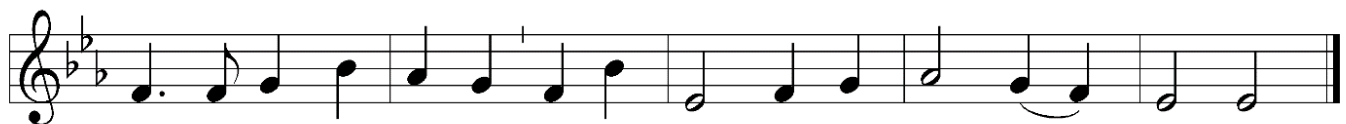
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



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.**

**Sending Song**

**Take My Life, That I May Be**

ELW 685

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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, with the first system containing three numbered verses. The music concludes with a double bar line.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**