

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

### **Week of Lent 4: Open My Heart, Lord**

#### **Welcome and Invocation**

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

#### **Introduction**

Listening to Paul's teaching, Lydia opened her heart to God and was baptized. Her willing, trusting faith echoes down through the centuries as we witness her "open heart procedure."

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

#### **Opening Dialogue**

**Week 4** (*Based on Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471, The Imitation of Christ, trans. Richard Whitford, ca. 1530*)

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.  
**Teach us to walk in your commandments.**  
Grant us grace to know and understand your will,  
**for all that we are in body and soul is a gift from you.**  
Lord, you are the everlasting Truth,  
**the one who speaks the words of eternal life.**  
Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.  
**Teach us to walk in your commandments.**



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 hearts, Lord, and fill us with your love. Grant us strength and  
courage, remove our hard-heartedness, and turn us always to you. In  
Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### Reading 1

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

**6:1** As we work together with him,<sup>[a]</sup> we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

<sup>11</sup> We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. <sup>12</sup> There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. <sup>13</sup> In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

## **Reading 2**

Acts 16:11-15

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district<sup>[a]</sup> of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

## **Reflection**

**Pastor Armen**

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.

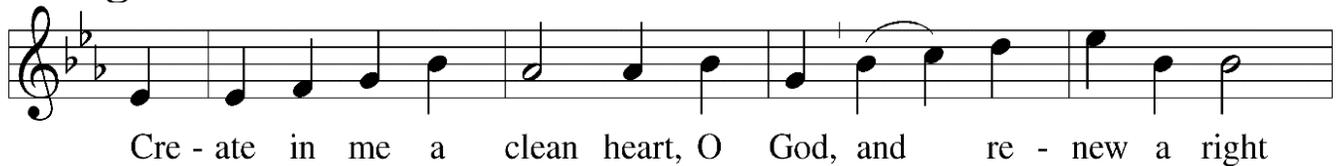
**Amen.**

## 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



## 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 in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are placed between the staves. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the song.

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**