

A love that surprises and disrupts.
A love that reveals the way of liberation.
May it be so among us. Amen.

A HYMN is said or sung

**O God of truth, O Lord of might,
You order time and change aright,
And send the early morning ray
And light the glow of perfect day.**

**Extinguish every sinful fire
And banish all our ill desire;
And, while you keep the body whole,
Shed forth your peace upon the soul.**

**O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son,
Who, with the Spirit, reigns above,
Three Persons in one God of love. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 54

- 1 Save me, O God, by your name *
and vindicate me by your power.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God; *
give heed to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For strangers have risen up against me,
and the ruthless seek after my life; *
they have not set God before them.

- 4 Behold, God is my helper; *
it is the Lord who upholds my life.
- 5 May evil rebound on those who lie in wait for me; *
destroy them in your faithfulness.
- 6 An offering of a free heart will I give you *
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is gracious.
- 7 For he has delivered me out of all my trouble, *
and my eye has seen the downfall of my enemies.

**Glory to God, Creator, Word, Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And shall be forever. Amen**

THE READING

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Isaiah 40.1

THE RESPONSE:

Unless the Lord builds the house,
Those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord defends the city,
The guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early
And go so late to rest.

Vain, also, to eat the bread of toil,
For God gives to God's beloved sleep.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
Your Maker will guard your life.

God will keep your going out and your coming in,
Now and for evermore.

THE PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE KYRIES may be used as part of the intercessions

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT:

God of timeless grace,
you fill us with joyful expectation:
make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy
we may eagerly await the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

As we look for the coming of God's reign in fullness,

Lord, teach us to pray:

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.

And forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Keep us from the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory, are yours
now and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May God bless the work of our hands. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.