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# Worship Service

BY DAVID G. MILLER

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## *Prelude*

### *The Summons to Worship:*

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**People: This is a day for peace and proclamation, for rest and reflection, for working at worship instead of worshipping work.**

Leader: The sabbath day is a holy day, consecrated by the Creator as a gift to creation. We are commanded to honor and preserve it.

**People: The sabbath day is a holy day, wherein we realize that all days are God's days; a day of rest, wherein we realize that all work is God's work; a day of peace wherein we can realize that God is our maker and our mender, too.**

Leader: Together, let us keep the sabbath.

### *Hymn of Praise:*

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

*suggested tune:* ST. THEODULPH

### *Prayer of Confession:*

Lord of the Sabbath, hear our prayer. It is hard for us to stop working, and harder still to stop worshipping work. We confess that our busyness often substitutes for our holiness. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to be still enough to know you. Help us to understand that your sabbath is the seam between the world of work and the work of worship. Help us to know that the sabbath is what keeps us from unraveling, that it knits up the harried and makes them holy, that it even helps to heal creation from the crash. In this quiet, peaceful time, we honor you, we

rest in you, we long to know you as maker and mender. Through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, Amen.

*The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20:1-11*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn of Reflection:*

“Sabbath Sings a Quiet Song”

*Terry W. York (text and tune pp. 43-45 this volume)*

*The Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:1-11*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Sabbath Prayer:*

Leader: Lord God to you, who at the end of six days of creation, hal-  
lowed the seventh day as your special possession, we pray  
three things: Help us, Lord, to know you in this sabbath time.  
From nothing you made this world and all that is in it. You  
spoke and the earth teemed with life, reproducing, reflecting  
your fullness in a commotion of joy. We rejoice in your cre-  
ativity, Lord, but on the seventh day you rested as if you had  
all the world and time. Help us to know you in that satisfied  
rest, that confident reflection, that strong and perfect peace.  
We are invited to be still and know you. And so we follow  
your command, and we cease our striving and struggling.  
Help us to know you.

**People: In this sabbath hour, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Help us, Lord, to know ourselves in this sabbath time. We of-  
ten flee the quiet, preferring the noise and commotion to your  
still, small voice. Our schedules are often so full that when we  
finally stop, we fall asleep; but even in our sleep we toss and

turn. We are restless, Lord, and need to find our rest in you. We need time to explore our inner world and time to build the sanctuary of our heart. Help us to know ourselves.

**People: In this sabbath hour, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Help us, then, Lord, to grant to each and all a sabbath rest, a margin of mercy, a place of grace. Help us to work to free others from endless labor and struggle. We pray for those locked in the grip of sickness, suffering, and addiction who are never free to rest. We pray for those tormented and overturned by the constant ebb and flow of life. We pray for those who are not at peace with themselves or with their neighbors. We pray for all who work and watch and weep today. Help us to help them, Lord. Where we cannot help, we pray your presence, speaking peace.

**People: In this sabbath hour, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, this day is a gift from you, not a burden; an expression of love, not a demand of the law. We thank you, Lord, for this rhythm of rest in our life of work. We hear your heartbeat when we are quiet and we listen.

[A period of silence is kept]

We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God.

**All: Amen.**

### *Offering*

### *Doxology:*

Lord, on this sabbath day of peace,  
in this sweet hour we now release  
our struggles and our strivings, too.  
We stop, we rest, we turn to you. Amen.

*David G. Miller* (suggested tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

### *The Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Sung Response:*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.

*suggested tune:* GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)

*Sermon*

*Hymn of Response:*

"This Day at Thy Creating Word"  
(text and tune pp. 46-47 of this volume)

*Benediction:*

**Leader:** This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad  
in it.

**People:** **We offer it back to the Lord as a tithe of time. This is our of-  
fering: a day spent focused on God, freed from our own  
concerns.**

**Leader:** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy!

**People:** **This is the Lord's day! Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Recessional and Postlude*

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