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Holy Holy Holy: A Service of Worship from Isaiah

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

A Service of Worship from Isaiah

ARRANGED BY LEE MAGNESS

The service below, drawn entirely from scriptural texts in the book of the prophet Isaiah, is arranged for a leader (a single voice), a chorus (a select group of readers or choir), and "all" (the worshipping congregation). Scripture references are noted at the right. Worship planners should reconfigure the readings as their needs dictate.

Invocation: *Calling on God*

- Leader:** I am the Lord, your Holy One,
the creator of Israel, your King. (43:15)
- Chorus:** Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory. (6:3)
- All:** Arise, shine; for your light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. (60:1)

Hymns: *Praising God*

Hymns and choruses with texts from Isaiah may be chosen and sung throughout the service as suits the custom of the congregation. The leader or song leader may introduce each song by saying:

- Leader:** Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth. (42:10a)

Confession of Sin: *The Mercy of God*

- Leader:** *We consider the mercy of God.*
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- Chorus:** Speak comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry to her,
that her warfare is accomplished,
- All:** that her iniquity is pardoned:
- Chorus:** for she has received of the Lord's hand
double for all her sins. (40:1-2)
- Leader:** I blot out your transgressions for my own sake,
All: and I will not remember your sins. (43:25)
- Leader:** Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near:
- Chorus:** Let the wicked forsake their ways,
and the unrighteous their thoughts:
and let them return to the Lord,

All: and he will have mercy upon them;
Chorus: and to our God,
All: for he will abundantly pardon. (55:6-7)

Leader: *We confess our sins to God.*
Chorus: A sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity:
All: we have forsaken the Lord
 we have provoked the Holy One to anger,
 we are gone away backward. (1:4)

Leader: Woe is me! for I am undone;
 because I am a person of unclean lips,
Chorus: and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: (6:5)

All: But we are all unclean,
Chorus: and all our righteousness is as filthy rags;
All: we all fade as a leaf;
Chorus: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Leader: But now, O Lord, you are our father;
All: we are the clay,
Leader: and you are our potter;
All: and we are all the work of your hand.
Chorus: Do not be angry, O Lord,
 neither remember our iniquity for ever:
All: behold, we are all your people. (64:6-9)

Leader: Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Chorus: put away the evil of your doings
 from before my eyes;
All: cease to do evil; learn to do good seek judgment,
 relieve the oppressed, show justice to the orphan,
 plead for the widow.
Leader: Come now, and let us reason together,
 says the Lord:
Chorus: though your sins be as scarlet,
All: they shall be as white as snow;
Chorus: though they be red like crimson,
All: they shall be as wool. (1:16-18)

Leader: *We celebrate the forgiveness of God.*
 And in that day you shall say,
All: O Lord, I will praise you:
Chorus: though you were angry with me, your anger is turned away,
 and you comforted me.

Leader: Behold, God is my salvation;
All: I will trust, and not be afraid:
Chorus: for the Lord is my strength and my song;
 he also is become my salvation.
Leader: Therefore with joy you shall draw water out of the wells of salvation.
 And in that day you shall say,
All: Praise the Lord, call upon his name,
Chorus: declare his deeds among the people, say that his name is exalted.

Leader: Sing to the Lord; for he has done excellent things.
Chorus: Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion:
All: for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst. (12:1-6)

Confession of Faith: *Trusting God*

Leader: Trust in the Lord for ever:
 for in the Lord is everlasting strength.
Chorus: You will keep them in perfect peace,
 whose mind is stayed on you:
All: because we trust in you. (26:3-4)

Prayers of the Church: *Beseeking God*

Leader: O Lord, be gracious to us;
All: we have waited for you:
Chorus: be our arm every morning, our salvation
 in time of trouble.
All: The Lord is exalted. (33:2)

Leader: *So now we lift our praises to you, O God.
 You are exalted, O God.*

(a period of silent or spoken prayers of *praise* from the people of God)

Leader: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
All: my soul shall be joyful in my God;
Chorus: for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
Men: as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,
Women: and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
Chorus: For as the earth brings forth her bud,
 and as the garden causes seed to spring forth;
Leader: so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
All: to spring forth before all the nations. (61:10-11)

Leader: *So now we offer our thanksgivings for your good gifts, O God.
You are gracious, O God.*

(a period of silent or spoken prayers of *thanks* from the people of God)

Leader: O Lord, restore me to health,
All: and make me to live. (38:16)

Leader: *O God, now we raise our petitions for health, and healing, and help.
You restore us, O God.*

(a period of silent or spoken prayers of *petition* from the people of God)

Scripture: *The Word of God*

Before the reading(s) of scripture

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades:
All: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. (40:8)

Sermon: *Proclaiming God*

Invitation: *The Call of God*

Leader: Thus says the Lord God,
Chorus: he who created the heavens, and stretched them out;
who spread forth the earth, and all that comes out of it;
who gives breath to the people, and spirit to those who walk in it:
All: I the Lord have called you in righteousness,
and will hold your hand and keep you,
and give you for a covenant to the people, for a light to the Gentiles;
Chorus: to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison,
those who sit in darkness out of the prison house. (42:5-9)

Leader: For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel;
Chorus: In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. (30:15)

Leader: And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
Chorus: Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Leader: Then I said,
All: Here am I; send me. (6:8)

Benediction: *The Blessing of God*

Leader: Fear not: for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name;
you are mine.

Chorus: When you pass through the waters,

All: I will be with you;

Chorus: and through the rivers,

All: they shall not overflow you.

(43:1-2)

Leader: Go through,

Chorus: go through the gates;

All: prepare the way of the people;

Leader: cast up,

Chorus: cast up the highway;

All: gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

Leader: And we shall be called,

Chorus: The holy people,

All: The redeemed of the Lord.

(62:10-12)

Leader: *Amen.*

