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Sent Forth for This: A Scriptural Litany on the Preaching of the Gospel

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Sent Forth for This

A Scriptural Litany on the Preaching of the Gospel

LEE MAGNESS

This choral reading on the power of preaching the gospel is organized for five voices. Worship leaders should feel free to adapt the reading for as many voices as are appropriate in their setting.

PROLOGUE

- 1 The word is near you,
2 on your lips
3 and in your heart
1 (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
4 because if you confess with your lips
All that Jesus is Lord
5 and believe in your heart
All that God raised him from the dead,
1 you will be saved.
- 2 For one believes with the heart
3 and so is justified,
4 and one confesses with the mouth
5 and so is saved.
All For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- 1 But how are they to call on
 one in whom they have not believed?
1,2 And how are they to believe
3 in one of whom they have never heard?
1,2,3 And how are they to hear
4 without someone to proclaim him?
1,2,3,4 And how are they to proclaim him
5 unless they are sent?
1 As it is written,
All "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
- 2,3 So faith comes from what is heard,
4,5 and what is heard through the word of Christ. (*Rom 10:8-17*)

JESUS CAME PREACHING

- 1 Jesus came preaching
2 From that time, Jesus began to preach (*Matt 4:17*)
3 The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach
 good news (*Luke 4:18*)

4 I must preach the good news of God's kingdom in different cities as well,
 5 because I was sent forth for this (*Luke 4:43*)
 2,3 So he came and preached peace to you who were far off
 4,5 and peace to those who were near (*Eph 2:17*)
 1 To be like Jesus we must preach—
 2 preach in the Spirit
 3 preach the good news
 4 preach God's kingdom
 5 preach peace—
 1 because
 All Jesus came preaching

AND JESUS SENT PREACHERS

1 And Jesus sent preachers
 2 As you go, preach the good news (*Matt 10:7*)
 3 And he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God (*Luke 9:2*)
 4 But as for you, go and preach the kingdom of God (*Luke 9:60*)
 5 He commanded us to preach to the people (*Acts 10:42*)
 1 What I say to you in the dark,
 2,3 tell in the light;
 1 what you hear whispered,
 2,3,4,5 preach from the housetops (*Matt 10:27*)
 2,3 For Christ did not send me to baptize
 4,5 but to proclaim the gospel (*1 Cor 1:17*)
 1 Those of us who are sent by Jesus must preach—
 2 preach what he was sent to preach
 3 preach to those to whom he was sent
 4 preach what we hear
 5 preach where we are—
 1 because
 All Jesus sent preachers

PREACHING IS A CALLING

1 So preaching is a calling
 2 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me (*Luke 4:18*)
 3 And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him,
 2,3,4,5 and to be sent out to preach (*Mark 3:14*)
 4 And he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God (*Luke 9:2*)
 5 He commanded us to preach to the people (*Acts 10:42*)
 1 Those of us who are called by Jesus are called to preach—
 2 appointed
 3 sent
 4 commanded
 5 called—
 1 because
 All Preaching is a calling

PREACHING IS A CONVICTION

- 1 But preaching is also a conviction
 2 Let us go elsewhere, to the neighboring towns so that I might preach the
 message there, for that is what I came out to do (*Mark 1:38*)
 3 I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God ... because I was sent
 forth for this (*Luke 4:43*)
 4 And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and
 preach Jesus as the Messiah (*Acts 5:42*)
 5 ... being convinced by God that we should preach the good news to them
 (*Acts 16:10*)
 2,3,4,5 ... so I strive to preach the good news (*Rom 15:20*)
 1 ... woe is me if I do not preach the gospel (*1 Cor 9:16*)
 1 Those of us who are called are under compulsion to preach—
 2 let us go
 3 I must
 4 every day
 5 we should—
 1 because
 All Preaching is a conviction

PREACHING HAS A CONTENT

- 1 Preaching has a content
 2 He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor,
 to preach deliverance to the captives,
 to preach the year of the Lord's favor (*Luke 4:18*)
 3 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. (*Matt 4:17*)
 4 The kingdom of God has come near (*Matt 10:7*)
 5 Go and preach the kingdom of God (*Luke 9:60*)
 1 ... they were teaching the people and preaching
 2,3,4,5 that in Jesus there is the resurrection from the dead (*Acts 4:2*)
 1 And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to...preach
 2,3,4,5 that Jesus is the Messiah (*Acts 5:42*)
 1 You know the message he has sent ... preaching peace by Jesus Christ—
 2,3,4,5 he is Lord of all (*Acts 10:36*)
 1 We preach good news to you,
 2,3,4,5 that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God,
 (*Acts 14:5*)
 All We proclaim Christ crucified (*1 Cor 1:23*)
 1 Although I am the very least of all the saints,
 this grace was given to me, to preach to the nations the good news
 of the boundless riches of Christ (*Eph 3:8*)
 1 Those who are sent to preach have something to preach—
 2 good news to the poor
 3 the boundless riches of Christ
 4 deliverance to the downtrodden
 5 the year of jubilee

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2 repentance and resurrection
 3 Jesus is the Christ
 4 Christ crucified
 5 Jesus Christ is Lord of all—
 1 because ...
 All Preaching has a content

PREACHING HAS A CONSEQUENCE

1 And preaching has a consequence
 2 The poor have the good news preached to them (*Matt 11:15*)
 3 And this good news of the kingdom will be preached throughout the
 world as a testimony to the nations (*Matt 24:14*)
 4 Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on
 the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins will be
 preached to all the nations (*Matt 28:46-47*)
 5 Let it be known to you therefore, ... that through this man forgiveness of
 sins is preached to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set
 free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the
 law of Moses (*Acts 13:38-39*)
 1 Now I would remind you ... of the good news that I preached to you,
 1,2 which you in turn received,
 1,2,3 in which also you stand,
 1,2,3,4 through which also you are being saved,
 All if you hold firmly to the message that I preached to you (*1 Cor 15:1-2*)
 1 It is he whom we preach ...
 so that we may present everyone mature in Christ (*Col 1:27-28*)
 1 Those who hear the good news that is preached are
 2 forgiven and freed
 3 in it they stand
 4 by it they are saved
 5 through it they grow because
 All Preaching has a consequence

EPILOGUE

1 For we do not proclaim ourselves;
 All we preach Jesus Christ as Lord
 2,3 and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
 1 For it is the God who said,
 All Let light shine out of darkness,
 1 who has shone in our hearts
 1,2 to give the light
 1,2,3 of the knowledge
 1,2,3,4 of the glory of God
 All in the face of Jesus Christ. (*2 Cor 4:5-6*)
 1 For we do not proclaim ourselves;
 All we preach Jesus Christ as Lord