

## The Call of the Lord

This prayer service is best used at the conclusion of Chapters 1 and 2 of *Jesus Christ: God's Revelation to the World*.

### Gathering

**Leader:** Draw us together, Lord. Help us grow closer to one another. Then, together, help us set our sights on you.

**All:** Amen.

### The Word of the Lord (based on Isaiah 49)

**Reader:** Listen, all who can hear. The Lord God called me before I was born. From my mother's womb, God pronounced my name. God promised to make me a beacon for the nations, so that all people might take up the search for the Lord. Therefore, rejoice heaven and earth! Be glad mountains and hills! The Lord cares for all creation and showers us with love. Listen to what God says: "In my heart, have I carved your names. On the palms of my hands are your names branded. You are mine. You belong to me.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm Response (based on Psalm 33:4, 6-9, 11-12, 14-15, 20-22)

**Group 1:** The LORD's word is upright;  
all his works are trustworthy.  
By the LORD's word the heavens were made;  
by the breath of his mouth all their host.

**Group 2:** He gathered the waters of the sea as a mound;  
he sets the deep into storage vaults.  
Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all who dwell in the world show him reverence.

**Group 1:** For he spoke, and it came to be,  
commanded, and it stood in place.  
The plan of the LORD stands forever,  
the designs of his heart through all generations.

**Group 2:** Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people chosen as his inheritance  
From his dwelling place he surveys

all who dwell on earth.

**Group 1:** The One who fashioned together their hearts  
is the One who knows all their works.  
Our soul waits for the LORD,  
he is our help and shield.

**Group 2:** For in him our hearts rejoice;  
in his holy name we trust.  
May your mercy, LORD, be upon us;  
as we put our hope in you.

**Dayenu Prayer (a prayer of thanksgiving in the spirit of the Jewish Passover)**

**Leader:** If you, O Lord, had called us from our birth, but had not carved our names in your heart . . .

**All:** It would have been enough.

**Leader:** If you had carved our names in your heart, but had not made our own hearts restless . . .

**All:** It would have been enough.

**Leader:** If you had given us all restless hearts, but had not shown us that you are our deepest heart's desire . . .

**All:** It would have been enough.

**Leader:** If you had become our heart's desire, but had not revealed yourself to us in the wonders of creation . . .

**All:** It would have been enough.

**Leader:** If you had revealed yourself to us in the wonders of creation, but had not deigned to covenant with us . . .

**All:** It would have been enough.

**Leader:** If you had covenanted with us, but had not given us your Holy Word in the Scriptures to guide us on our search for you . . .

**All:** It would have been enough.

**Leader:** If you had given us your Holy Word in the Scriptures, but had not sent us Jesus, your Holy Word-in-the-flesh . . .

**All:** It would have been enough.

**Leader:** But as it is, you have done all this, and given all this and given the gift as faith as well. We thank you, gracious God, and we promise not only to treasure your Holy Word but to follow it until we meet you face to face.

**All:** Amen.

### **Concluding Hymn**

*Sing a hymn of praise.*