**Opening prayer**

O merciful God, you created the earth and all other creatures for us your children. In your compassion for the world and your children, you sent Jesus Christ your only son as savior in this corrupted world to pay the price for our salvation. Almighty God, grant that we may follow the example of Christ’s patience and be partakers of the ministry that you sent Him for. We pray that your Spirit revives us as we come in your presence to worship and praise your mighty name. Lord our God, we come before you with our needs and weaknesses as children come to their parents for their needs. Almighty God we pray for your mercy to be on us now and days to come. Glory be to you the Eternal King. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**Call to worship**:

Let us praise God in his sanctuary.

**For our Lord is Holy and worthy to be praised.**

Let us therefore approach the throne of the almighty God with praise.

**So that we may receive mercy and find the promised grace in our Lord.**

Our Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**God has blessed us, let us all praise God with hymns and acclamations for He is an Almighty and everlasting father who answers us always.**

Please announce hymn #139 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.” Verses 1, 2 and 5

**Scripture reading**

**Isaiah 55: 8-13**

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it  without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,  so that it yields seed for the Sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”

The words of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**. (Congregation)