

## Order of Service

### Opening Prayer

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Judaism, Psalm 23*

### First Reading

...material water does not purify the heart of man; no, it cleanses his body. But the heavenly water and spirit, which are knowledge and life, make the human heart good and pure; the heart which receives a portion of the bounty of the Spirit becomes sanctified, good and pure -- that is to say, the reality of man becomes purified and sanctified from the impurities of the world of nature.

In reality thou art spiritually hungry and athirst for the Water of Life. Therefore I send thee spiritual food and bestow upon thee the Water of Life Eternal. That food is the divine advices and exhortations revealed in the Tablets and the spiritual outpourings of the Breath of the Holy Spirit. I hope ere long it will reach thee and thou wilt behold what an exhilaration and beatitude it produceth and what cheerfulness and serenity and what heavenly emotions it createth!

*Bahá'í Faith, `Abdu'l-Bahá*

Ever I proclaim the Law, engaged in naught else; going, coming, sitting, standing, never am I weary of pouring it copious on the world, like the all-enriching rain. on honored and humble, high and low, law-keepers and law-breakers, those of perfect character, and those of imperfect, orthodox and heterodox, quick-witted and dull-witted, equally I rain the Law-rain unwearingly."

Buddhism. Lotus Sutra 5

### *Music*

## *Music*

### **Second Reading**

Do not think lightly of good - that not the least consequence will come of it. A whole water pot will fill up from dripping drops of water and a wise man fills himself with good, just a little at a time.

*Buddhism, Dhammapada*

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

*Judaism, Habakkuk*

This is the Day whereon the rushing waters of everlasting life have gushed out of the Will of the All-Merciful. Haste ye, with your hearts and souls, and quaff your fill, O Concourse of the realms above! ... Let your ears be attentive unto His Word, so that ye may, by His grace and mercy, drink your fill from the crystal waters of constancy, and become as steadfast and immovable as the mountain in His Cause.

The Best-Beloved is come. In His right hand is the sealed Wine of His name. Happy is the man that turneth unto Him, and drinketh his fill, and exclaimeth: Praise be to Thee, O Revealer of the signs of God! By the righteousness of the Almighty! Every hidden thing hath been manifested through the power of truth. All the favors of God have been sent down, as a token of His grace. The waters of everlasting life have, in their fullness, been proffered unto men. Every single cup hath been borne round by the hand of the Well-Beloved. Draw near, and tarry not though it be for one short moment.

*Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh*

Love is the firstborn, loftier than the gods, the Fathers and men.  
You, O Love, are the eldest of all, altogether mighty.  
To you we pay homage!  
Greater than the breadth of earth and heaven, or of waters and Fire,  
You, O Love, are the eldest of all, altogether mighty.  
To you we pay homage!

In many a form of goodness, O Love, you show your face.  
Grant that these forms may penetrate within our hearts.  
Send elsewhere all malice!

*Hinduism. Atharva Veda*

## **Music**

*Music*

**Third Reading**

Ah, Lord! I worship Thee, the Undivided, the Uttermost of thought, ... the Fount whence Life's stream draws all waters of all rivers of all being.

*Hinduism, Bhagavad-Gita*

Unto Thee be praise, O Lord my God! I entreat Thee, by Thy signs that have encompassed the entire creation, and by the light of Thy countenance that hath illuminated all that are in heaven and on earth, and by Thy mercy that hath surpassed all created things, and by Thy grace that hath suffused the whole universe, to rend asunder the veils that shut me out from Thee, that I may hasten unto the Fountain-Head of Thy mighty inspiration, and to the Day-Spring of Thy Revelation and bountiful favors, and may be immersed beneath the ocean of Thy nearness and pleasure. Suffer me not, O my Lord, to be deprived of the knowledge of Thee in Thy days, and divest me not of the robe of Thy guidance. Give me to drink of the river that is life indeed, whose waters have streamed forth from the Paradise Ridván in which the throne of Thy Name, the All-Merciful, was established, that mine eyes may be opened, and my face be illumined, and my heart be assured, and my soul be enlightened, and my steps be made firm.

*Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh*

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

*Revelation 7:16-17*

**Music**

**Open Prayers**

**Music**

## Fourth Reading

O peoples of the earth! God, the Eternal Truth, is My witness that streams of fresh and soft-flowing waters have gushed from the rocks, through the sweetness of the words uttered by your Lord, the Unconstrained; and still ye slumber. Cast away that which ye possess, and, on the wings of detachment, soar beyond all created things. Thus biddeth you the Lord of creation, the movement of Whose Pen hath revolutionized the soul of mankind.

*Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh*

The illimitable Lord in His unattributed state of void assumed might;  
He, the infinite One, remaining detached:  
Displaying his power, He himself from the void created inanimate things.  
From the unattributed void were created air and water.  
Raising creation, He dwells as monarch in the citadel of the body.  
Lord! In the fire and water [of the body] exists Thy light;  
In Thy [original] state of void was lodged [unmanifest] the power of creation.

*Sikhism. Adi Granth, Maru Sohale,*

## Closing Prayer

Magnified be Thy name, O Lord my God! Thou art He Whom all things worship and Who worshipeth no one, Who is the Lord of all things and is the vassal of none, Who knoweth all things and is known of none. Thou didst wish to make Thyself known unto men; therefore, Thou didst, through a word of Thy mouth, bring creation into being and fashion the universe. There is none other God except Thee, the Fashioner, the Creator, the Almighty, the Most Powerful. I implore Thee, by this very word that hath shone forth above the horizon of Thy will, to enable me to drink deep of the living waters through which Thou hast vivified the hearts of Thy chosen ones and quickened the souls of them that love Thee, that I may, at all times and under all conditions, turn my face wholly towards Thee. Thou art the God of power, of glory and bounty. No God is there beside Thee, the Supreme Ruler, the All-Glorious, the Omniscient.

Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh