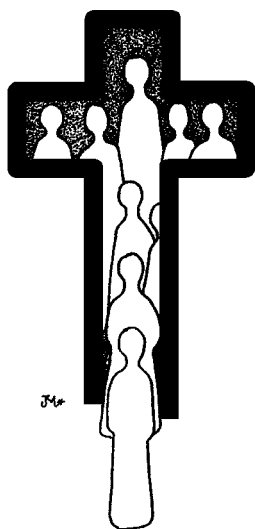


**Prayer  
with  
the Sunday Readings**

**for individuals and small groups**

**Holy Family Sunday 2008  
through  
Lent 2009**



*Everyday Witnesses*  
**Holy Family Sunday**  
**December 28, 2008**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader: Holy and loving God,  
you make your presence known to us,  
surrounding us with love and holiness every day.  
Open our eyes to the wonders around us;  
open our hearts to see the wisdom of your ways;  
open our mouths to sing your praises.  
We ask this in the name of the One who is Love Incarnate, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

*Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22, 25-40*

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. Where have you witnessed the glory of God revealed within our community?
2. How have you praised God for this gift?
3. How can we help others see the wonders of God's presence in our midst and become everyday witnesses to God's presence in our world?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: In gratitude for the church that helps us be increasingly aware of the fulfillment of God's promises, we pray:

**All: Our eyes have seen your salvation.**

Leader: In gratitude for the beauty of the world around us and with a pledge that we will be good stewards of all that is entrusted to our care, we pray:

**All: Our eyes have seen your salvation.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers)

For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts, we pray:

**All: Our eyes have seen your salvation.**

### *Closing Prayer*

Leader: Let us pray Simeon's song of praise together:

**All: "Now, Lord, let your servant go in peace, according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."**

Leader: May God grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.

**All: Amen.**



*Heirs of the Promise*  
**Epiphany Sunday**  
**January 4, 2009**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader:        Loving God,  
                  You have called us to be your children,  
                  heirs of the promise made in Christ Jesus.  
                  Grant us your grace and your guidance during all our days.  
                  Help us to reveal your love to all we encounter.  
                  We ask this in the name of the One who is Love Incarnate, Jesus Christ.

**All:            Amen.**

*Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:1b-7*

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly earlier.

When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to human beings in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this I became a minister by the gift of God's grace that was granted me in accord with the exercise of his power.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Silent Reflection*

*Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. Do you truly feel like an heir of the promise revealed in Christ? What privileges and responsibilities does this give you?
2. We have just celebrated the feast of Epiphany. How have you revealed the good news with others, inviting them to become an integral part of the body of Christ?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: For the people we work with and the people we serve, we pray:

**All: Lord, help us reveal your love.**

Leader: For those who are sick or suffering, those who are lonely or in need of any kind, we pray:

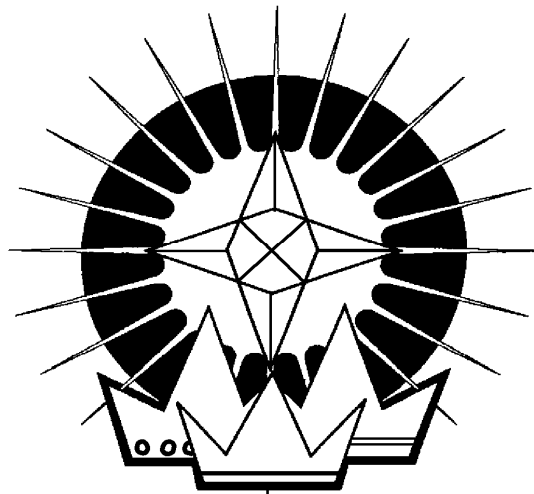
**All: Lord, help us reveal your love.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers) For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts, we pray:

**All: Lord, help us reveal your love.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: Gracious and merciful God, the magi traveled far to see your glory, revealed in Jesus. Help us appreciate the gift we have been given: the revelation that we are your beloved children, your holy apostles, your prophets by the Spirit. Give us the courage and strength we need to act as members of the same body, coheirs and copartners in the promise revealed by Christ Jesus. Grant that we might live the good news of the gospel and share that news with all we meet. We ask this, as we ask all things, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.**



***God's Word Takes Root in Our Lives***  
**The Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord**  
**January 11, 2009**

***Invitation to Prayer***

Leader: Holy and loving God,  
you have invited us to the waters of baptism and made us your own,  
caring not for what we have, but what we are.  
Guide us to invite others to these waters of life through gentle words and  
loving care.  
We ask this as we ask all things, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

***Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11***

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!  
Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?  
Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare.  
Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.  
As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations,  
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,  
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,  
because of the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.  
Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near.  
Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts;  
let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.  
For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down  
and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful,  
giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats,  
so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will,  
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Silent Reflection***

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. How has my baptism made a difference in my life? How does it make a difference in the way I treat others?
2. How do I help God's word achieve its purpose in my family and community?
3. What are some signs it has take root in my life, in this community?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: Lord, our thoughts are too often not your thoughts, nor are our ways your ways; that we may know your mercy and forgiveness, we pray:

**All: Let your word take root in our lives.**

Leader: That we may hear your word and heed it, letting it be fertile and fruitful in our families and communities, we pray:

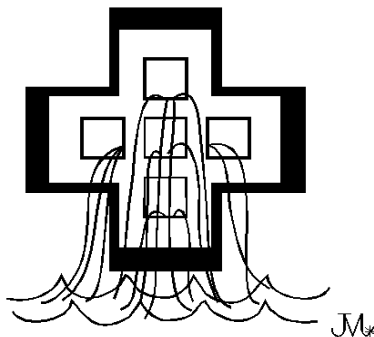
**All: Let your word take root in our lives.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers) That God may answer these prayers in kindness and compassion, achieving the purpose God intends, we pray:

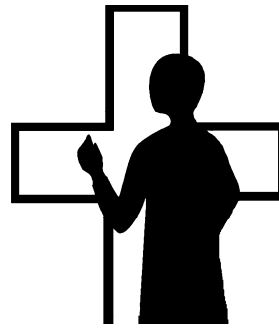
**All: Let your word take root in our lives.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: Gracious and merciful God,  
let us be the seed of your word in the world. Help us to see with your eyes, to think with your mind, to act with your compassion.  
Strengthen our baptismal commitment to you so that, at the end of this life, we may have achieved the end for which you sent us. We ask this through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



*Discerning Our Call*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 18, 2009**



*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader: O Holy God,  
many voices call our names; many paths invite us to follow.  
Only your call invites us to true life.  
Help us to listen carefully, to discern your voice,  
to have the courage to follow you.  
We ask this as we ask all things, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

*Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19*

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. The Lord called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am."

He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep.

Again the Lord called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet. The Lord called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the youth.

So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. Many voices--from our families, friends, merchants, and media--call out to each of us every day. How are you able to discern the voice of God among them?
2. How do you, as a follower of Christ, help others to hear the voice of God and follow?
3. We hear of a vocations crisis, yet some would insist the call is for new ways of serving God in the world today. What are some new ways God may be calling you or the people of this community? How will you answer?

*You may want to end the meeting with the song "Here I Am Lord" instead of or in addition to the following prayers of petition and closing prayer.*

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: God calls each of us to love and service. Let us take some time to think about the ways God is calling us today and how we might best listen to that call.

Lord, in the midst of many voices, we long to hear your one, true summons. Teach us to listen and respond to whatever you ask of us, we pray:

**All: Here we are. You called us.**

Leader: When we see situations of injustice or need, may we be your instruments of mercy and compassion, we pray:

**All: Here we are. You called us.**

Leader: When we see distress of body, mind, or spirit, may we be your instruments of healing, we pray:

**All: Here we are. You called us.**

Leader: When we encounter disagreements and divisions, may we be your instruments of peace, we pray:

**All: Here we are. You called us.**

Leader: When we see death, mourning and despair, may we be your instruments of gentleness and hope, we pray:

**All: Here we are. You called us.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: Gracious and merciful God,  
help us to hear your voice every day, every moment of our lives.  
Be with us and do not permit any word of ours to be without effect as long as it is spoken in your name. We ask this, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Seeking God's Guidance*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 25, 2009**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader:           Compassionate and loving God,  
                          everything we are comes from you. Everything we have is your gift.  
                          Guide us to become the people you intended us to be. Teach us to use our  
                          gifts and our material goods to help others and to bring about your reign.  
                          We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, and your Holy Spirit.

**All:                Amen.**

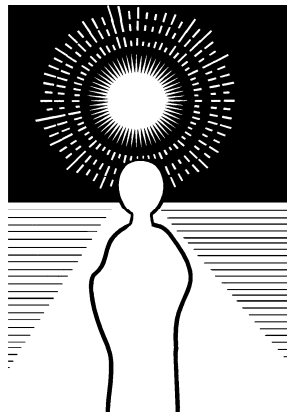
*Scripture Reading: Psalm 25: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9*

*Read this passage slowly...pause for silent reflection. Reread it and ask people to write down a word or phrase that struck them in a special way. Reread it a third time and have people share a word or phrase that struck them in a special way.*

Make known to me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.  
For you I wait all the long day, because of your goodness, Lord.  
Remember your compassion and love, O Lord; for they are ages old.  
Remember no more the sins of my youth;  
remember me only in light of your love.  
Good and upright is the Lord, who shows sinners the way,  
guides the humble rightly, and teaches the humble the way.

*Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. Why do you think this word or phrase was so significant to you at this time?
2. What do you believe God is telling you through this?



### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: We believe God answers all who humbly ask for guidance. When shades of doubt cross our hearts and minds:

**All: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.**

Leader: When we are challenged by unkind words or hateful actions:

**All: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.**

Leader: When faced with the challenges of sickness, aging or death:

**All: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray? (When all are finished offering prayers)  
God, answer these prayers of our hearts in kindness and compassion:

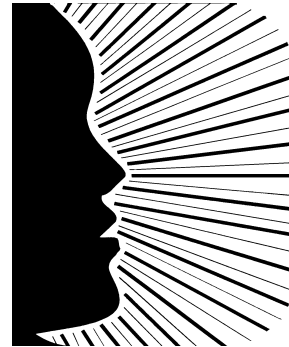
**All: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.**

### *Closing Prayer*

Leader: Let us pray Psalm 25 slowly together, remembering the words and phrases that spoke to us in a special way earlier:

**All**  
**Make known to me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths.**  
**Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.**  
**For you I wait all the long day, because of your goodness, Lord.**  
**Remember your compassion and love, O Lord; for they are ages old.**  
**Remember no more the sins of my youth;**  
**remember me only in light of your love.**  
**Good and upright is the Lord, who shows sinners the way,**  
**guides the humble rightly, and teaches the humble the way.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**who is, who was, and is to come at the end of the ages. Alleluia.**

*Discerning the Voices of True Prophets*  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 1, 2009**



*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader: Holy and loving God,  
in every age you call your people to speak out  
against wrongdoing and injustice in order to defend your truth.  
Help us to recognize these prophets  
and grant us the courage to follow their call.  
We ask this as we ask all things, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

*Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-22*

A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the Lord, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the Lord, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.'

And the Lord said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. If any man will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'

"If you say to yourselves, 'How can we recognize an oracle which the Lord has spoken?', know that, even though a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if his oracle is not fulfilled or verified, it is an oracle which the Lord did not speak. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously, and you shall have no fear of him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. What prophets have you heard in your lifetime (famous and not)? How has their message affected you?
2. Have you ever acted as a prophet to others? What was their reaction?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: We ask God for the wisdom to recognize and heed the voices of the true prophets in our midst. When the cries of prophets rise up among us to fight injustice, we pray:

**All: Guide us in your truth and help us do your will.**

Leader: When we are challenged by those who oppose God's life-giving ways, we pray:

**All: Guide us in your truth and help us do your will.**

Leader: When we face persecution for proclaiming our Christian values, we pray:

**All: Guide us in your truth and help us do your will.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray...

(When all are finished offering prayers)

For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts,

**All: Guide us in your truth and help us do your will.**

Leader: God, grant us the ability to hear the true prophets among us and to follow the call that reflects your will. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

### *Closing Prayer*

Leader: Let us pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit:

**All: Breath into me, Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.  
Move in me, Holy Spirit,  
that my work too, may be holy.  
Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,  
that I may love only what is holy.  
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may defend all that is holy.  
Protect me, Holy Spirit,  
that I always may be holy. Amen.**



*Doing God's Will with Urgency*  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 8, 2009**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader:       Healing God,  
                  you sent Jesus, the Word Incarnate, to dwell among us  
                  and to bring your healing, peace and promise to all.  
                  Help us to imitate him in his total willingness to serve others.  
                  We ask this as we ask all things, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**All:            Amen.**

*Scripture Reading: Mark 1:29-39*

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. Jesus moves quickly from healing Simon's mother-in-law and healing those of the town to other villages. How eager have I been to do God's will and to move on to new places to spread the Good News? How can I be more like Jesus in this?
2. Jesus took time to go off to a deserted place and pray. When I am busy and filled with urgency, do I find time to pray? How can I do so?
3. How can we help our community be eager to bring healing and peace to others while remaining rooted in prayer?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: When we see people in need, help us to be eager to assist them, we pray:  
**All: Lord, let us fulfill your purpose in our lives.**

Leader: When we are overcome with stress and the pressures of everyday life, remind us that we are your own and call us to pray:  
**All: Lord, let us fulfill your purpose in our lives.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts:  
**All: Lord, let us fulfill your purpose in our lives.**

### *Closing Prayer*

*(Note: the Prayer of St. Francis may also be sung.)*

Leader: Let us pray the words of St. Francis together, praying that we might truly fulfill God's will for our lives:

**All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

*Serving the Greater Good*  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
February 15, 2009

**Prayer at the Beginning of the Meeting**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just.  
All: **Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just.**

Leader: Happy are those who forgive.  
All: **Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just.**

Leader: Happy are those who are forgiven.  
All: **Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just.**

*Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 31- 11:1*

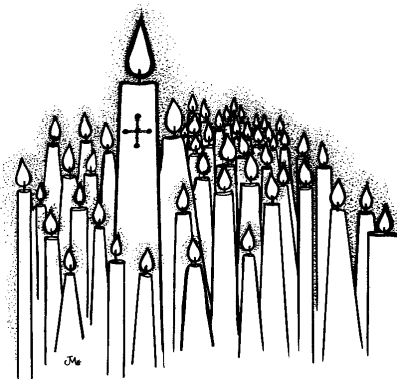
Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.  
Avoid giving offense,  
whether to Jews or Greeks or the church of God,  
just as I try to please everyone in every way,  
not seeking my own benefit but that of the many,  
that they may be saved.  
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Silent Reflection*

*Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. What does it mean for us to glorify God?
2. What are the ways that we glorify God in our parish or community?



*Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: In gratitude for good people, compassionate hearts and new ideas, we pray...

**All: Glory to God!**

Leader: For our loved ones, who bring us such joy, we pray...

**ALL: Glory to God!**

Leader: For the beauty of God's world that lifts our hearts...

**All: Glory to God!**

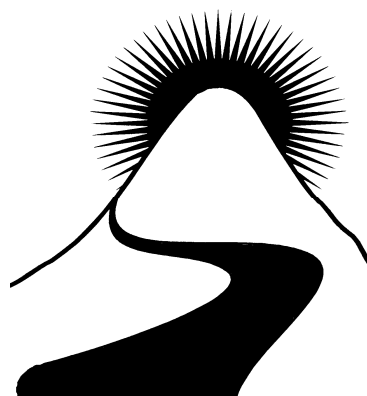
Leader: For what else shall we praise God today...  
(When all are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts:

**All: Glory to God!**

*Closing Prayer*

**All: God of all goodness,  
we rejoice in the good gifts you give to us, your people.  
Create in us hearts of gratitude and praise.  
We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen**

*The Lord Makes a Way*  
**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 22, 2009**



**Prayer at the Beginning of the Meeting**

*Invitation to Prayer:*

Leader: I know my Lord will make a way.

**All: I know my Lord will make a way.**

Leader: The past holds memories of what we once were and where we have struggled.

**All: I know my Lord will make a way.**

Leader: There is something new for us.

**All: I know my Lord will make a way.**

Leader: Like a river running through the wasteland.

**All: I know my Lord will make a way.**

*Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43: 18-19, 21-22, 24b-25*

Thus says the Lord:  
remember not the events of the past,  
the things of long ago consider not;  
see, I am doing something new!  
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
In the desert I make a way,  
in the wasteland, rivers.  
The people whom I formed for myself,  
that they might announce my praise.  
Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob,  
For you grew weary of me, O Israel.  
You burdened me with your sins,  
and wearied me with your crimes.  
It is I, I who wipe out,  
for my own sake your offences;  
your sins I remember no more.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## *Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. What stories from our past hold us back and prevent us from moving forward as a community?
2. In what areas of our community life do we need God to make a way for us?
3. What do we yearn for, for the future of this community?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, keep us strong in our faith...  
**All: Lord, you are our way.**

Leader: God of all nations, bringer of peace, be with those who suffer in areas of conflict in our world...  
**All: Lord, you are our way.**

Leader: God of our lives, bring healing to those who are sick among us and strength to those who care for them...  
**All: Lord, you are our way.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray...  
(When all are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts:  
**All: Lord, you are our way.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: God who saves,  
be our strength when the way gets tough;  
be our hope in troubled times and good times.  
Keep the vision of your kingdom always before us.  
Bless us always, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Beginning Lent*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**March 1, 2009**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader: Teach us your ways, Lord.

**All: Teach us your ways, Lord.**

Leader: Teach us truth.

**All: Teach us your ways, Lord.**

Leader: Teach us goodness.

**All: Teach us your ways, Lord.**

Leader: Teach us kindness.

**All: Teach us your ways, Lord.**



*Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 12-15*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.  
He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of  
God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent,  
and believe in the gospel."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### *Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. What do we need to fast from as a community this Lent?
2. What do we need to pray for as a community this Lent?
3. How might we share the resources of this community to improve the life of another community this Lent?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: For those who hunger, we pray...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the homeless in our streets, we pray...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those overwhelmed with grief or anger, we pray...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: God who calls us to new life,  
be our strength through this season of Lent.  
Open our hearts to a greater awareness and  
understanding of the gift of salvation  
that comes through the self-giving life,  
death and resurrection of Jesus.  
We make our prayer in his name. Amen.**

***“This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him”***  
**2nd Sunday of Lent**  
**March 8, 2009**

***Invitation to Prayer***

Leader: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

**All: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.**

Leader: Jesus leads us up the mountains of goodness and truth.

**All: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.**

Leader: We stand side by side with our ancestors in faith.

**All: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.**

Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**All: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.**

***Scripture Reading: Mark 9:2-10***

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.

Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## *Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. Where have we heard the Good News of Jesus this past week?
2. How can we prepare ourselves to listen carefully to the Word of God that will be spoken in this gathering?
3. How might I proclaim the living Word to others?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: For what shall we pray...  
(When all who choose are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: God who speaks to us,  
open our hearts and ears to truly listen  
to your words of guidance and truth.  
Keep us faithful always to your ways,  
as we exercise our ministries of care and leadership.  
We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**



*Christ is the Wisdom of God*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**March 15, 2009**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

**All: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.**

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul;  
the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

**All: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.**

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye.

**All: This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.**

*Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25*

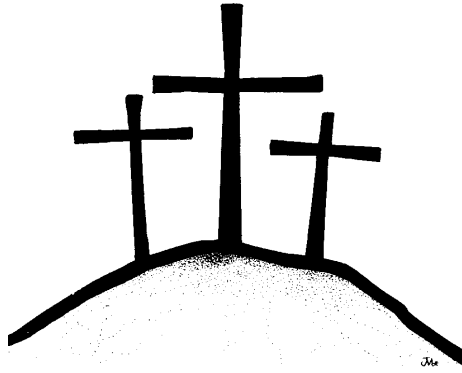
The Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,  
but we proclaim Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  
but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,  
Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.  
For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Silent Reflection*

*Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. Who are the “wisdom keepers” in this parish/community?
2. What things happening in our life/world can distract us from doing the right thing?
3. How can I let God’s power have a stronger hold in my life?



### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: As we seek to find new ways to proclaim your word...

**All: Give us wisdom, Lord.**

Leader: As we seek to respond to the needs of the poor in our community...

**All: Give us wisdom, Lord.**

Leader: As we weep with those who mourn...

**All: Give us wisdom, Lord.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts...

**All: Give us wisdom, Lord.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: Grant us your true wisdom, Lord,  
as we your servants reflect on the needs of our community.  
May our ministry always reflect your word,  
your truth, and your compassion.  
We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*We are God's Handiwork*  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**March 22, 2009**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Leader: We are God's handiwork.

**All: We are God's handiwork.**

Leader: Created in Christ,

**All: We are God's handiwork.**

Leader: Made for a life of good  
deeds,

**All: We are God's handiwork.**

Leader: God's dream made flesh,

**All: We are God's handiwork.**



*Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10*

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## *Silent Reflection*

### *Questions for Faith Sharing*

1. What gifts did God give me to share with this community?
2. For what aspects of who I am would I like to thank God?
3. From looking around the people at this gathering, what do we learn about the God who made us?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: In thanksgiving for all this day has brought to us we pray...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: In compassion for those with low self-esteem, unaware of the gifts you have given them...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those seeking new gifts of strength and courage at this time...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: Creator God,  
we offer you this day  
the works of our hearts, hands and minds.  
We know that all our good gifts come from you.  
We pray we may always use them to the glory of your name. Amen.**

***We Need Clean Hearts***  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**March 29, 2009**

***Invitation to Prayer***

Leader: Create a clean heart in me, O God.  
**All: Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**All: Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Leader: Show us your compassion.  
**All: Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Leader: Fill us with a new Spirit.  
**All: Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Leader: Give us true joy.  
**All: Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

***Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34***

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God,**

***Silent Reflection***

***Questions for Faith Sharing***

What gifts do we need to be able to see God more clearly:

- a) in our lives?
- b) In our community?
- c) In our town/city?

### *Intercessory Prayers*

Leader: For compassion when faced with our suffering and the suffering of others,  
we pray...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For courage to see the face of Christ where we might not normally look,  
we pray...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For hope where others have given up, we pray...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For what else shall we pray?  
(When all are finished offering prayers)  
For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts...

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### *Closing Prayer*

**All: God everlasting light, help us to “see you more clearly,  
follow you more nearly,  
and love you more dearly,  
day by day.” Amen.**

