

**VIA DE CRISTO
(WAY OF CHRIST)
GUIDE**

**VIA DE CRISTO
COMMUNITY OF UTAH**

Re-created print master April 2011
Corrections and additions May 2014
JB

CONTENTS

Foreword ...	3
Morning Prayer...	4
The Holy Communion ...	6
Prayer at the Close of Day ...	11
Spiritual Exam and Celebration of Forgiveness ...	16
Psalms ...	20, 21, 22, 23
Preparation for Examination of Conscience ...	24
De Colores (Spanish) ...	28
De Colores (English) ...	29
Guide for Renewal Meetings ...	30

The texts of Holy Communion, Morning Prayer (Matins), and Prayer at End of Day (Compline), are reprinted from Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright 1978 by permission of Augsburg Publishing. The Psalms are printed from the Book of Common Prayer (1979).

Reflections on the life in Grace

- Piety: When have I been especially close to Christ?
- In church?
 - At home?
 - In the world?
 - Alone?
- Study: What have I studied that has increased my understanding of the Faith?
- The Bible?
 - Other religious books?
 - Secular books?
 - Sermons?
 - Lectures?
 - Nature?
 - People?
- Action: What have I done as an apostle of the Lord to share Christ with the world?
- In my family?
 - At work?
 - In my parish?
 - In the community?
- What are my plans for next week?
Consider plans that group might have.

"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage one another to love and do good deeds. And let us not hold aloof from meetings of the community, as some do. Let us do all we can to help one another's faith, and this the more earnestly as we see the final day drawing ever nearer."

Hebrews 10:24-25

GUIDE FOR RENEWAL MEETINGS

Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.

Matthew 18:20

Prayer for the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit does instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by that same Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(then may follow)

- a reading
- meditation
- reflections on the life in grace (see next page)
- the Lord's Prayer

A Closing Prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your Holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our deepest thanks are offered to our brothers and sisters in the Minnesota Via de Cristo community. Not only did they seed our community by putting on the first Utah Via de Cristo weekends in 1995, they have continued to offer prayerful love and support, including permitting us to borrow heavily from their Pilgrim Guides.

"We who belong to the company of the Cursillos celebrate the joy of life. It has been experienced and expressed through the companionship of a weekend committed to knowing Christ through Word and Sacrament, and through discussion and learning. We have met Christ anew in the loving concern of those who have fed us in body, mind and spirit. We have found him in the friendship and faith of others. In that company we have seen the 'servant church' for which the world hungers. We have been moved by the Holy Spirit to become workers with Christ, turning our hearts and sensitivities outward to the world we meet every day - to workers, friends, associates, enemies, husbands or wives, children, those we love and those who need our love."

The above words by Bishop Philip McNairy of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota also describe our feeling for the Utah Via de Cristo Community, and indeed the greater Via de Cristo community around the world. We are grateful to our many friends for sharing this gift with us.

In God's grace, may the meditations of the following pages renew in us a deeper Christian life.

De Colores!

The Lutheran Via de Cristo Council of Utah

MORNING PRAYER

The Greeting

Minister: O Lord, open my lips.

People: AND MY MOUTH SHALL DECLARE YOUR PRAISE.
GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON AND TO
THE HOLY SPIRIT: AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS
NOW AND WILL BE FOREVER. AMEN.
ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA.

Minister: Give Glory to God, our light and our life.

People: OH, COME, LET US WORSHIP HIM. OH COME, LET US
SING TO THE LORD: LET US SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE
ROCK OF OUR SALVATION. LET US COME BEFORE HIS
PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND RAISE A LOUD
SHOUT TO HIM WITH PSALMS. FOR THE LORD IS A
GREAT GOD AND A GREAT KING ABOVE ALL GODS.
IN HIS HAND ARE THE CAVERNS OF THE EARTH: THE
HEIGHTS OF THE HILLS ARE ALSO HIS. THE SEA IS
HIS. FOR HE MADE IT. AND HIS HANDS HAVE
MOLDED THE DRY LAND. OH, COME, LET US BOW
DOWN AND BEND THE KNEE. AND KNEEL BEFORE
THE LORD, OUR MAKER. FOR HE IS OUR GOD, AND
WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE AND THE
SHEEP OF HIS HAND. GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO
THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT: AS IT WAS IN
THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER.
AMEN.

Minister. Give glory to God, our light and our life.

People: OH, COME LET US WORSHIP HIM.

THE HYMN

One or two LESSONS are read. Silence for meditation follows each reading.

A RESPONSE to the readings may follow the silence. The leader then
continues:

De Colores (English)

De colores: bright with colors the rainbow is
splendid with light and with promise;
De colores; bright with colors the birds of the
air build their nests in the branches;
De colores; bright with colors the fields are
arrayed in the glory of spring;

//And a love bright with colors has
found me with others around me,
and makes my heart sing. // (Repeat)

Hear the rooster; hear the rooster at dawn crow
his warning, kiri; kiri, kiri;
Gently calling; gently calling her brood, hear
the hen sing, cara, cara, cara:
Hear the peeping: hear the peeping of chicks,
pio, pio, pio, pio, pi;

//And a love bright with colors has
found me with others around me,
and makes my heart free. //

De Colores (Spanish)

De colores, de colores se visten
los campos en la primavera,
De colores, de colores son los
pajaritos que vienen de afuera.
De colores de colores es el,
arco iris que vemos lucir

//Y por eso los grandes amores
de muchos colores
me gustan a mi. //

With rejoicing with rejoicing in God let us live,
in his life and his friendship;
With rejoicing, with rejoicing we'll bring him
our own lives and thousands of others.
Satisfying, satisfying the thirst of the true King
who never can die,

//Shining out in the world's lonely night with
the colorful light of the love we live by. //

Canta el gallo canta el gallo con el
Quiri quiri quiri quiri quiri ,,,,,
La gallina, la gallina con el
Cara cara cara cara cara ,,,,,
Los polluelos, los polluelos con el
pio, pio, pio, pio, pi.

//Y por eso los grandes amores
de muchos colores
me gustan a mi. //

Minister: In many and various ways, God spoke to his people of old by
the prophets.

People: BUT NOW IN THESE LAST DAYS, HE HAS SPOKEN TO US
BY HIS SON.

GOSPEL is read.

A HOMILY

The PRAYER OF THE DAY is said.

People: AMEN

CLOSING PRAYER

Minister: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ
your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night
from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us,
this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts,
words, and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands
we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your
holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no
power over us.

People: AMEN.

Minister: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY
NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON
EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR
DAILY BREAD; AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS
WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US;
AND, LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER
US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE
POWER. AND THE GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER.
AMEN.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD.

The BENEDICTION

Minister: The Lord Almighty bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in
his peace.

People: AMEN.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Confession and Forgiveness

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: AMEN.

Minister: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: AMEN.

Minister: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Minister: Most merciful God,

People: WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE IN BONDAGE TO SIN AND CANNOT FREE OURSELVES. WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU WITH OUR WHOLE HEART; WE HAVE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES. FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US. FORGIVE US, RENEW US, AND LEAD US, SO THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS, TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

The Minister stands and addresses the congregation.

Minister: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

People: AMEN.

The ENTRANCE HYMN or Psalm is sung.

By Omission:

Not tried to make the Church more vital.

Failed to contribute sacrificially to the Church for her material needs.

Neglected to pray for those in authority.

(Silence for reflection)

Toward God, Have I:

Waited for God to be manifest, instead of looking for God in the realities of life.

Not relied on God to do the rest, after I've done all I can.

Not seen or loved God in other persons.

Not loved others in God.

Not thought of Jesus Christ as fully human; given up trying to make Him my model.

Not made an effort to bear with Him the burdens of the world, especially those of my own social group.

Centered the Cross on my walls but not in my life.

Talked about Christ, without really trying to live the Gospels.

Not found the time to pray.

Prayed only to ask, seldom to adore, seldom to thank, seldom to seek forgiveness, seldom to act as a member of the mystical body.

Thought of spiritual life as something to do only after everything else has been taken care of.

People: FOR THE ABSOLUTION AND REMISSION OF MY SINS AND OFFENSES, I PRAY TO THE LORD.
LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Minister: But while (the Prodigal Son) was still a long way off, his father saw him, and his heart went out to him. He ran to meet him, flung his arms round him, and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)

Given scandal by the split between the life I lead and the principles
I advertise as mine.

(Silence for reflection)

In Regard to My Family, Have I:

Failed to be a source of strength to my spouse and those close to me.
Taken for my own use an unfair share of what our family has (clothes,
car, and free time).
Failed to respect the individuality of another, even a child.
Expected more of others than I have courage to expect of myself.
Talked idly and indiscreetly about the faults of those close to me.

(Silence for reflection)

In Regard to the Church, Have I:

By Thought

Thought of the Church as a sect or party rather than as the mystical
Body of Christ.
Seldom read or reflected on the Scriptures.
Not held myself responsible for my part in the inadequacy of the
Christian Community.

By Words

Spoken of the clergy as "them" instead of "us".
Criticized irresponsibly the leadership of the church, both clerical and lay.
Ignored the teaching authority of the Church, replacing it with my own
authority.

By Acts

Used church organizations to justify my own personal desires. Run away
from trying to solve the Church's internal problems. Acted to support the
Church only when it met my approval.

The PRAYER OF THE DAY is said - the salutation precedes it.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Minister: Let us pray ...

People: AMEN.

First Lesson

Second Lesson

People: ALLELUIA. LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE
THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA.

The GOSPEL Is Announced

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to St. _____, the ___ chapter.

People: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Minister: Reads the Gospel ..."The Gospel of the Lord."

People: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

The HOMILY

The HYMN of the Day

The Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, THE FATHER, THE ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF
HEAVEN AND EARTH, OF ALL THAT IS, SEEN AND UNSEEN.

WE BELIEVE IN ONE LORD, JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY SON OF GOD,
ETERNALLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER, GOD FROM GOD, LIGHT
FROM LIGHT, TRUE GOD FROM TRUE GOD, BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE,
OF ONE BEING WITH THE FATHER. THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE
MADE. FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION HE CAME DOWN FROM
HEAVEN: BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HE BECAME INCARNATE
FROM THE VIRGIN MARY, AND WAS MADE MAN. FOR OUR SAKE HE
WAS CRUCIFIED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE; HE SUFFERED DEATH AND
WAS BURIED. ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE SCRIPTURES; HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED
AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. HE WILL COME AGAIN IN GLORY
TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD, AND HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE
NO END.

WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE,
WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON. WITH THE FATHER
AND THE SON HE IS WORSHIPED AND GLORIFIED. HE HAS SPOKEN
THROUGH THE PROPHETS. WE BELIEVE IN ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND
APOSTOLIC CHURCH. WE ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM FOR THE
FORGIVENESS OF SINS. WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE
DEAD, AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME. AMEN.

The PEACE may be shared at this time.

The INTERCESSIONS

Minister: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all according to their needs.

(a series of biddings is offered)

Lord in your mercy:

People: HEAR OUR PRAYER

Minister: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREPARATION of the MEAL

Minister: Let us pray.

People: MERCIFUL FATHER, WE OFFER WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING WHAT YOU HAVE FIRST GIVEN US – OURSELVES, OUR TIME, AND OUR POSSESSIONS - SIGNS OF YOUR GRACIOUS LOVE. RECEIVE THEM FOR THE SAKE OF HIM WHO OFFERED HIMSELF FOR US, JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

The PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE HIM THANKS AND PRAISE.

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymns.

People: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT: HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA, HOSANNA, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

Through Pride and Vanity

Been vain, praise-loving, arrogant.

Indulged in allowing my feelings to be hurt.

Acted out of ambition or the desire to be noticed.

Failed to recognize my limits and accept them.

Made comments to give the impression I know all about a subject.

(Silence for reflection)

In Regard to Others, Have I:

Against Charity

Loved others selfishly; wanted to monopolize other's affections, been jealous.

Considered no one but myself.

Never felt anguish for the misery of others.

Passed by, indifferent to others' troubles.

Had habitual contempt for others: less educated people, people of different racial, national or economic groups.

Stifled the personal development of another.

Sought to be respected without respecting others.

Often kept others waiting.

Not paid entire attention to a person speaking to me.

Talked too much of myself, and not given others a chance to express themselves.

Failed to try to understand others.

Out of selfishness or pride, expected to be served.

Failed to help a person in distress.

Seen only those whose friendship might prove profitable.

Abandoned my friends in their difficulties.

Said hurtful things.

Done harm, by remarks (false or true) that blacken others' character.

Betrayed a trust; violated a confidence.

PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Jesus, my Master ... show me the attachments and cravings which draw me away from you. Show me the things that prevent me from being filled with Your life and power.

What are they? People? Ambitions? Interests? Comforts?
Anxieties? Self-chosen aims?

Take from me all that hinders and teach me to accept in its place all that You accept: the ceaseless demands, needs, conflicts, pressures, misunderstandings even of those who loved You best.

Help me to discern the cost of discipleship. You ask and help me to pay the particular price.

For the absolution and remission of my sins and offenses, I pray to the Lord.

Examination of Conscience

In Regard to Myself, Have I:

Through Mediocrity

Excused myself from guilt because a sin is habitual, or caused by social pressure.

Acted because of whims and feeling.

Used time ineffectively.

Organized myself so intensely that I'm no longer capable of spontaneous generosity.

Through Disorder and Lack of Planning

Used goods improperly.

Been weak in making and holding to decisions.

Lacked perseverance and logic in carrying things out.

Left work half-done, without serious reason.

Been discouraged by difficulties or setbacks.

Failed to take time for being alone, for reflection, for recollection.

Minister: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father; endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes.

People: CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

Minister: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

People: AMEN, COME, LORD JESUS.

Minister: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of our Lord and of this resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

People: AMEN, COME, HOLY SPIRIT.

Minister: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

People: THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM, IN HIM, IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ALL HONOR AND GLORY IS YOURS, ALMIGHTY FATHER, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

The LORD'S PRAYER

The DISTRIBUTION

(Hymns may be sung)

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

People: AMEN.

People: THANK THE LORD AND SING HIS PRAISE:
TELL EVERYONE WHAT HE HAS DONE.
LET ALL WHO SEEK THE LORD REJOICE
AND PROUDLY BEAR HIS NAME.
HE RECALLS HIS PROMISES AND LEADS
HIS PEOPLE FORTH IN JOY WITH SHOUTS
OF THANKSGIVING.
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

PRAYER

Minister: Let us pray:

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: AMEN.

Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 150

- 1 Praise him for his mighty acts; Praise God in his holy temple; praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn; Praise him with lyre and harp.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 32

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye."
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

PRAYER AT THE CLOSE OF THE DAY

Compline

Psalm 91

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
2 He shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."
3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence.
4 He shall cover you with his pinions, and you shall find refuge under his wings; his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;
6 of the plague that stalks in the darkness, nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
7 A thousand shall fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.
8 Your eyes have only to behold to see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
10 there shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.
12 They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
13 You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
14 Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
16 With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

The GREETING

The congregation assembles in silence.

Minister: The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

People: AMEN.

Minister: It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

People: TO SING PRAISE TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH.

Minister: To herald your love in the morning.

People: YOUR TRUTH AT THE CLOSE OF THE DAY.

A HYMN may be sung.

The CONFESSION follows:

Minister: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for Self-examination.)

Minister: Holy and gracious God.

People: I CONFESS THAT I HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU THIS DAY. SOME OF MY SIN I KNOW - THE THOUGHTS AND WORDS AND DEEDS OF WHICH I AM ASHAMED - BUT SOME IS KNOWN ONLY TO YOU. IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, I ASK FORGIVENESS. DELIVER AND RESTORE ME, THAT I MAY REST IN PEACE.

Minister: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in his peace and rise in the morning to serve him.

The PSALMODY: One or more psalms (1, 4, 23, 46, 63, 73, 91, 136, 150 or other suitable psalm) are sung or said. Silence for meditation follows each psalm.

As a BRIEF LESSON, one or more of the following are read:

You are in our midst, O Lord, and you have named us yours; do not forsake us, O Lord our God. (Jer. 14:9)

Come to me, all whose work is hard, whose load is heavy, and I will give you rest. Bend your necks to my yoke, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble - hearted; and you will find rest. For my yoke is good to bear, my load is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears. (John 14:27)

For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths - nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38-39)

Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand and he will lift you up in due time. Cast all your cares on him, for you are his charge. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith. (1 Peter 5:6-9a)

The HYMN may be sung.

Minister: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

People: LISTEN TO MY CRY.

Minister: Keep me as the apple of your eye;

People: HIDE ME IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS.

Minister: In righteousness I shall see you;

People: WHEN I AWAKE, YOUR PRESENCE WILL GIVE ME JOY.

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, and a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day.
- 6 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 8 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 9 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- 10 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 63

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.
- 9 May those who seek my life to destroy it go down into the depths of the earth;
- 10 let them fall upon the edge of the sword, and let them be food for jackals.
- 11 But the king will rejoice in God; all those who swear by him will be glad; for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

Psalm 1

1. Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners. nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
2. Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night.
3. They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
4. It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
5. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous,
6. for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Psalm 4

1. Answer me when I call. O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
2. "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"
3. Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
4. Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
5. Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord.
6. Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" Lift up the light of your countenance upon us. O Lord.
7. You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
8. Lie down in peace; At once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

One or more of the following PRAYERS are said.

Minister: Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: AMEN.

(OR)

Minister: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over; and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(OR)

Minister: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

(OR)

Minister: Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace: and let your blessing be upon us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD; AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US; AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN.

The GOSPEL CANTICLE

Minister: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

People: LORD, NOW YOU LET YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE: YOUR WORD HAS BEEN FULFILLED. MY OWN EYES HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED IN THE SIGHT OF EVERY PEOPLE: ALIGHT TO REVEAL YOU TO THE NATIONS AND THE GLORY OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL. GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT: AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. AMEN.

GUIDE US WAKING, OH LORD, AND GUARD US SLEEPING: THAT AWAKE WE MAY WATCH WITH CHRIST AND ASLEEP WE MAY REST IN PEACE.

The BENEDICTION concludes the service.

Minister: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

People: AMEN.

For discriminating against our neighbors,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World ...
HAVE MERCY ON US

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World ...
HAVE MERCY ON US

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World ...
HAVE MERCY ON US

YES, I SHALL ARISE AND RETURN TO MY FATHER.

Prayer - Spiritual Director

SERVICE OF THE CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS

Silent Examination of Conscience

Community Confession

WE CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD AND TO THOSE OF YOU HERE JOINED WITH US IN THIS COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED BY OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS, DEEDS, AND OMISSIONS.

Community Absolution - Spiritual Director

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to life everlasting.

AMEN.

May the Almighty and Merciful Lord grant us pardon, absolution, and remission of our sins.

AMEN.

THEY THAT FIND THEIR LIFE SHALL LOSE IT;
AND THEY THAT LOSE THEIR LIFE FOR
MY SAKE SHALL FIND IT.

For the times we presented bad examples to others by actions or words,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the times we have let ourselves commit sin,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the times we were unjust toward our neighbor,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the times we have abused our neighbor by lying to him,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

YES, I SHALL ARISE AND RETURN TO MY FATHER.

For the times we might have downgraded human love,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For ridiculing those who act according to their convictions,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For being sluggish and lazy in temptation,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the times we have been the cause of ill-feeling between others,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the times we have spoken of others without consideration,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For having neglected our human dignity and that of others,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

YES, I SHALL ARISE AND RETURN TO MY FATHER.

For the lack of devotion and attention at worship,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For neglecting and abusing the Sacraments of Christ,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

LORD, MAKE US INSTRUMENTS OF YOUR PEACE. WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET US SOW LOVE; WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON; WHERE THERE IS DISCORD, UNION; WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH; WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE; WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT; WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY. GRANT THAT WE 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; AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.

AMEN.

**COMMUNAL SPIRITUAL
EXAMINATION
and
CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL, AND KINDLE IN US THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE. SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND WE SHALL BE CREATED. AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

O GOD, WHO BY THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, DOES INSTRUCT THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL; GRANT THAT BY THAT SAME SPIRIT, WE MAY BE TRULY WISE AND EVER ENJOY YOUR CONSOLATIONS, THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

Meditation - Spiritual Director

SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading - Isaiah 58:1-3, 5-9 God speaks to us of repentance.

Prayer -

Second Reading - Philippians 2:1-11 We are reconciled to each other.

Prayer -

Gospel - Luke 15:11-24 Christ reveals God's love of the sinner.

Homily on the Gospel - Spiritual Director

LITANY OF EXAMINATION

For the many times we did not seek to discover God's plan in our lives.

HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the lack of trust and confidence in God.

HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For failing to see God in others,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For praying mechanically and without conviction,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For failing to recognize our part in the Church of Christ,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the times we might have been ashamed to show our Christian convictions,

HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

YES, I SHALL ARISE AND RETURN TO MY FATHER.

For being ignorant and uninformed in our faith through our own faults,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the gifts and talents which we have failed to cultivate,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For lack of responsibility concerning our duties,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For not seriously preparing our future,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For lack of interest in the welfare of others,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For the times we have refused our help to those who need us,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

YES, I SHALL ARISE AND RETURN TO MY FATHER.

For having spoken untruthfully about others,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.

For having revealed secret things about others,
HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD.