

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASTOR: HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL!

THIS STATEMENT IS COMPLETELY RELIABLE AND SHOULD BE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED: CHRIST JESUS ENTERED THE WORLD TO RESCUE SINNERS.

HE PERSONALLY BORE OUR SINS IN HIS BODY ON THE CROSS, SO THAT WE MIGHT BE DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO ALL THAT IS GOOD.

WHO IS IN A POSITION TO CONDEMN? ONLY CHRIST, AND CHRIST DIED FOR US, CHRIST ROSE FOR US, CHRIST REIGNS IN POWER FOR US, AND CHRIST PRAYS FOR US.

IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THAT PERSON BECOMES A NEW PERSON ALTOGETHER - THE PAST IS FINISHED AND GONE, EVERYTHING HAD BECOME FRESH AND NEW.

FRIENDS: BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASTOR: HEAR THE GOOD NEWS!

THIS SAYING IS SURE ^{And} Worthy OF
TO ^{FULL} ACCEPTANCE, ^{THAT} CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD
TO SAVE SINNERS.

HE ^{himself} BORE OUR SINS IN HIS BODY ON THE CROSS,
THAT WE MIGHT BE DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO ALL THAT
IS GOOD.

WHO IS IN A POSITION TO CONDEMN? ONLY CHRIST, AND
CHRIST DIED FOR US, CHRIST ROSE FOR US, CHRIST REIGNS
IN POWER FOR US, CHRIST PRAYS FOR US.

ANYONE ^{WHO} IS IN CHRIST, is a new creation.
the Old Life has gone; a new life has begun.

FRIENDS: BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN.

or

Lord Jesus, be our holy Guest
Our morning Joy, our evening Rest;
And with our daily bread impart
Thy love and peace to every heart.
Amen.

A COLLECT

O LORD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, WHO HAS SAFELY BROUGHT US TO THE BEGINNING OF THIS DAY; DEFEND US IN THE SAME WITH THY MIGHTY POWER; AND GRANT THAT THIS DAY WE FALL INTO NO SIN, NEITHER RUN INTO ANY KIND OF DANGER; BUT THAT ALL OUR DOINGS, BEING ORDERED BY THY GOVERNANCE, MAY BE RIGHTEOUS IN THY SIGHT.

WE THANK YOU THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT US AGAIN FROM THE PARISHES OF OUR LIVES AND INTO YOUR HOUSE TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN AND TO EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND THE GLORIOUS FELLOWSHIP OF YOUR CHILDREN; HELP US THROUGH THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE, THE PREACHING OF THE WORD, THE SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING AND THE PRAYERS WHICH WE RAISE UNTO YOU, THAT HAVING ENTERED TO PRAY, WE MAY DEPART TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

A COLLECT

**GOD OF ALL GLORY, ON THIS FIRST DAY YOU
BEGAN CREATION, BRINGING LIGHT OUT OF
DARKNESS.**

**ON THIS FIRST DAY YOU BEGAN YOUR NEW
CREATION, RAISING JESUS CHRIST OUT OF THE
DARKNESS OF DEATH.**

**ON THIS LORD'S DAY GRANT THAT WE THE PEOPLE
YOU CREATE BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT, MAY BE
JOINED WITH ALL YOUR WORKS IN PRAISING YOU
FOR YOUR GREAT GLORY.**

**WE THANK YOU THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT US
AGAIN FROM THE PARISHES OF OUR LIVES AND
INTO YOUR HOUSE TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN AND
TO EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND THE GLORIOUS
FELLOWSHIP OF YOUR CHILDREN;
HELP US THROUGH THE READING OF THE
SCRIPTURE, THE PREACHING OF THE WORD, THE
SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING AND THE
PRAYERS WHICH WE RAISE UNTO YOU, THAT
HAVING ENTERED TO PRAY, WE MAY DEPART TO
SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST,
(OUR LORD. AMEN.)
(IN UNION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (AS WE PRAISE
YOU,) NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN)**

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER #2 & #3

**WE PRAISE YOU, GOD,
FOR YOU ARE GRACIOUS.
YOU HAVE LOVED US FROM THE BEGINNING OF
TIME AND REMEMBER US WHEN WE ARE IN
TROUBLE. YOUR MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.**

**WE PRAISE YOU, GOD,
FOR YOU CAME TO US IN JESUS CHRIST,
WHO REDEEMED THE WORLD
AND SAVED US FROM OUR SINS.
YOUR MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.**

**WE PRAISE YOU, GOD,
FOR YOU SEND US YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,
TO MAKE US HOLY
AND TO LEAD US INTO ALL TRUTH.
YOUR MERCY ENDURES FOREVER. AMEN.**

**ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD,
FROM WHOM COMES ALL THAT IS GOOD,
WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR MERCIES,
FOR YOUR GOODNESS THAT HAS CREATED US,
YOUR GRACE THAT HAS SUSTAINED US,
YOUR DISCIPLINE THAT HAS CORRECTED US, YOUR
PATIENCE THAT HAS BORNE WITH US,
AND YOUR LOVE THAT HAS REDEEMED US.**

**HELP US TO LOVE YOU,
AND TO BE THANKFUL FOR ALL YOUR GIFTS
BY SERVING YOU AND DELIGHTING TO DO YOUR
WILL, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

General Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for Your universal church and for God's people throughout the world and for our own United Evangelical Church; that we may be filled with your Holy Spirit and that through the power of your Son Jesus, we all may be one.

We pray for all ministers, priests, and apostles; that they may be faithful ministers of Your Word and Sacraments and with joy and thanksgiving go forth to tell the great things you have done for us all.

Lord, in the quiet of this hour, we bring to you our prayers and petitions with the certainty that you will ~~grant whatever we ask in your name.~~ ^{hear us} We leave each of our burdens at the foot of your cross knowing that only You are strong enough to carry these. ~~(Let us pause for a moment of silent prayer as we bring our concerns to our Father.....)~~ ^{for a moment of Time we pause inside} ~~time~~ ^{Pray silently before you God} Hear, now, the prayers of your servants that they may go home from this ~~hour~~ ^{time} of worship rejoicing in your victory over any trouble or distress which may befall them.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world and especially for the President of the United States; guide him in these moments of ~~peril~~ ^{great need} and lead him in the fight for justice and peace.

* special
Lamp

Lord,* we pray now for the economy of our great country. Move us forward as a nation that we may recover our strength and once again be a land of plenty. We pray for all those who are unemployed and who now seek work.

* Fisher Day

Open up new opportunities for them to find purpose in the dignity of labor, a way to use the skills you have given them, and the capacity to support and care for loved ones. Be with all who are hungry and homeless, those who are struggling to pay bills, and those whose lives are filled with anxiety. Free them now to follow your guidance as you work to protect them from harm. Give wisdom and direction to those within and without government who lead our nation to recovery.

Lord God, as we remember the promise of your prophet Isaiah that "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; and that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more", (Isaiah 2:4) work through the leaders of the world that one day your children will live together in peace across the world.

Have compassion on those in this ^{congregation} parish who suffer from any grief or trouble; that they may be delivered from their distress and find a happy issue out of every affliction.

For the healing of your saints ^{O God we pray read names} whom we remember today; that they ~~being surrounded~~ ^{that they may be} with the white healing light of Your Spirit ^{may} claim the health, wholeness, and abundant life which You have promised to all Your children. ^{who attempt to be faithful to you}

^{O God we praise you in} Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored by a lively faith and especially ^{at this day we lift up our hearts to say} whom we raise up and honor today; that his/her faith may continue to be the light of the world. We pray that we, too, may have grace to glorify Christ in our way and in our own day.

Thou our God - to whom shall we turn thou hast given us all things to richly enjoy as we pray in Jesus's Holy name

This day, O God, we pray for.....(read names)

For the healing of your saints O God, we pray that they may be surrounded with the white healing light of Your Spirit that they may claim the health, wholeness, and abundant life which You have promised to all who attempt to be faithful to you.

**O God, we praise you in every generation and this day we lift up our hearts to say, “thou art God” --
“To whom shall we turn?”
“Our help comes from you, O God, who created heaven and earth”, for you have given us all things to richly enjoy
as we pray in Jesus’ Holy Name. Amen.**

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**ETERNAL GOD, CREATOR OF THE WORLD
AND GIVER OF ALL GOOD,
WE THANK YOU FOR THE EARTH, OUR HOME,
AND FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE.
WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST,
WHO CAME TO HEAL THIS BROKEN WORLD,
WHO DIED REJECTED ON THE CROSS
AND ROSE TRIUMPHANT FROM THE DEAD.
BECAUSE HE LIVES, WE LIVE TO PRAISE YOU,
OUR GOD FOREVER.**

**GRACIOUS GOD,
WHO CALLED US FROM DEATH TO LIFE,
WE GIVE OURSELVES TO YOU;
AND WITH THE CHURCH THROUGH ALL AGES
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAVING LOVE
IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

GENERAL PRAYER # 1

O GOD OF LOVE,
WE ARE WAYFARERS IN THE WORLD,
PRONE TO ERRATIC CHANGE OF COURSE,
TO LOSING SIGHT OF OUR GOALS,
TO BECOMING SO DISCOURAGED BY THE JOURNEY
THAT WE WILL HITCH A RIDE ON ANYTHING THAT
COMES ALONG.
HELP US ON OUR WAY, O GOD.
IF WE CHANGE OUR COURSE,
LET IT BE NOT IN SELF-INTEREST,
BUT IN ORDER TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST
WITH ANOTHER SOJOURNER.
IF WE LOSE SIGHT OF OUR GOALS,
LET OUR QUEST
BRING US AS YOUR CURIOUS PEOPLE
TO HONEST SEARCHING OF OUR FAITH.
IF WE BECOME WEARY AND DISCOURAGED
AND FORGET YOU ARE WITH US,
LET IT LEAD TO RECOGNITION
OF OUR NEED FOR YOU.
AS WE TRAVEL IN A WORLD
THAT SOMETIMES SEEMS A TRACKLESS,
HOSTILE WILDERNESS,
WE ASK THAT YOUR SPIRIT SUSTAIN,
ENCOURAGE, AND ENABLE US TO GO ON.
IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST,
WHO WALKED BEFORE US. AMEN.

GENERAL PRAYER #2

O GREAT AND KIND SPIRIT,
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN,
AND BEFORE YOU NOTHING HAS BEEN.
THERE IS NO ONE TO PRAY TO BUT YOU.
THE STAR NATIONS
ALL OVER THE HAVENS ARE YOURS,
AND YOURS ARE THE GRASSES OF THE EARTH.
YOU ARE OLDER THAN ALL NEED,
OLDER THAN ALL PAIN AND PRAYER.

O GREAT AND KIND SPIRIT,
ALL OVER THE WORLD
THE FACES OF LIVING ONES ARE ALIKE.
WITH TENDERNESS
HAVE THEY COME OUT OF THE EARTH
FROM WHICH YOU GIVE US FOOD.
LOOK ON YOUR CHILDREN.
WITH CHILDREN IN THEIR ARMS,
THEY FACE THE WIND
AND WALK THE RED ROAD TO THE DAY OF QUIET.

O GREAT AND KIND SPIRIT, FILL US WITH LIGHT.
GIVE US STRENGTH TO UNDERSTAND
AND EYES TO SEE DEEPLY.
TEACH US TO WALK ON SOFT EARTH
AS RELATIVES TO ALL THAT LIVE.
HELP US! WITHOUT YOU, WE ARE NOTHING. AMEN.

GENERAL PRAYER #3

THE HUNGRY

O LORD JESUS CHRIST,
HELP US ALWAYS TO REMEMBER
THAT IT IS YOU WHOM WE BEHOLD
IN THE WEAKENED BODIES AND HAUNTING FACES
OF THE HUNGRY OF THE WORLD.
GRANT THAT WE MAY NOT TURN AWAY
BUT RATHER
THAT WE MAY RECEIVE YOUR BLESSING
AS A MINISTER TO THE LEAST
OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AMEN.

GENERAL PRAYER #4

WORDS

GOD, GRACIOUS WORD BEYOND WORDS,
LET THE WORD WE HEAR
BE IN THE WORDS WE CHOOSE,
THE WORDS WE USE,
AND JOIN IN CHORUS THE WORDS
OF THOSE WHOSE SONG AND SPEECH
TUMBLE WALLS OF STERILE SILENCE
AND MEANINGLESS NOISE;
IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. AMEN.

GENERAL PRAYER #5

HEALING

**GOD OF ALL,
YOU HAVE SO FASHIONED THE WORLD
THAT IT POSSESSES THE POTENTIAL
TO REPAIR ITS IMPERFECTIONS.
AND, O ETERNAL ONE,
YOU HAVE FASHIONED HUMANKIND
BY ENDOWING US,
AS YOUR PARTNERS,
WITH THE CREATIVE ABILITY
TO HELP THE REPAIRING.**

**YOU GAVE US THE INSIGHT
TO TRANSFORM THE SIMPLE HERB
INTO A HEALING BALM FOR THE BODY.
MAY WE, AS YOUR SERVANTS,
REALIZE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TRANSFORM
THE HERB OF HUMAN CARING
INTO A HEALING BALM FOR THE ACHING SOUL.
LIKE OURSELVES, MANY ARE IN NEED.
WE KNOW THE INNER YEARNING
FOR FULFILLMENT, FOR PURPOSE,
FOR MEANING IN OUR LIVES.
MAY WE WEVER COME TO KNOW
THAT AS WE HELP OTHERS TO FEEL FULFILLED,
SO SHALL WE.
AND THEN, MAY WE RECOGNIZE THE STRENGTH,
THE WILL, THE DEDICATION,
AND THE COMMITMENT TO DO THAT FOR WHICH
WE WERE CREATED:
TO SERVE YOU**

GENERAL PRAYER # 6

THE POOR

THEY SLEEP IN DOORWAYS;
THEY SLEEP AT HOME.
THEY WEAR RAGGED CLOTHES
AND CARRY SHOPPING BAGS;
THEY LOOK LIKE US.
THEY USE POOR GRAMMAR AND SMELL;
THEY HAVE GOOD EDUCATIONS AND ARE WELL-
GROOMED.

ALL-KNOWING GOD, SHOW US THE POOR ---
NOT JUST THE ONES
WHO HAVE BEEN PUSHED ASIDE
IN THE WAKE OF COMPETITION,
BUT THE ONES
WHO ARE LOSING SELF-CONFIDENCE,
THE ONES WHO ARE VICTIMS OF THE SYSTEM
THEY HELPED TO BUILD,
THE ONES WHOSE JOBS NO LONGER EXIST.
SHOW US
THAT THERE ALSO IS A POVERTY OF THE HEART
WHEN SAVING
IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SHARING.
HELP US TO FIND SECURITY
IN SHARING ALL OUR RESOURCES
SO THAT THROUGH OUR TOTAL EFFORT
WE WILL HAVE ANSWERED YOUR CALL
TO BE A FRIEND IN NEED. AMEN.

GENERAL PRAYER #7 MYSTERY AND HOPE

**BE WITH US THROUGH ALL THE UNKNOWN DAYS
LYING BEFORE US: DAYS WHEN THE BLACK
OF NIGHT SETTLES EARLY IN THE WEST,
DAYS WHEN THE STRONG WHITE OF WINTER
COMES FROM THE NORTH,
DAYS WHEN WE LOOK FOR THE RED OF SUNRISE IN
THE EAST,
DAYS WHEN THE YELLOW NOONDAY
LINGERS IN THE SOUTH.**

**TOUCH US THAT WE MAY TRUST YOU AND BE
STRONG, SO THAT WE GROW IN UNION WITH
ALL OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS,
SO THAT WE MAY SEE MORE DEEPLY INTO
OURSELVES.**

**WE SEEK A VISION FROM YOU,
A VISION OF YOUR MYSTERY,
A VISION OF OURSELVES
AND THE LOVE YOU HAVE FOR US.**

**MAY WE ANSWER YOU HONEST AND TRUE,
GENEROUS AND BRAVE.**

**HELP US UNDERSTAND THAT FOR THOSE WHO ARE
FAITHFUL TO YOU**

LIFE IS NOT ENDED BUT ONLY CHANGED.

**HELP US JOIN TOGETHER WITH ALL YOU HAVE
CREATED TO SAY: GREAT AND POWERFUL IS OUR
GOD. GOD FILLS ALL HEAVEN AND EARTH WITH
BEAUTY. WE HAVE DEEP HOPE BECAUSE GOD
HAS PROMISED EVERLASTING LIFE TO GOD'S
FAITHFUL PEOPLE.**

IN CHRIST'S NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

CALL TO THE OFFERING # 1

**REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS -
IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE**

**LET US RETURN TO GOD THE OFFERINGS
OF OUR LIFE AND THE GIFTS OF THE EARTH.**

OFFERING PRAYER

**BLESSED ARE YOU,
GOD OF ALL CREATION,
THROUGH YOUR GOODNESS
WE HAVE THESE GIFTS TO SHARE.
ACCEPT AND USE OUR OFFERINGS
FOR YOUR GLORY
AND THE SERVICE OF YOUR KINGDOM.
AMEN.**

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING #4
COMMUNION

**ALMIGHTY GOD,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR THE
GIFT OF OUR SAVIOR'S PRESENCE IN
THE SIMPLICITY AND SPLENDOR OF THIS MEAL.
UNITE US WITH ALL WHO ARE FED
BY CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD
THAT WE MAY FAITHFULLY
PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS
OF YOUR LOVE AND THAT YOUR
UNIVERSAL CHURCH MAY BE
A RAINBOW OF HOPE
IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD;
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR REDEEMER. AMEN.**

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING #5
COMMUNION

**BOUNTIFUL GOD,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS
THAT YOU HAVE REFRESHED US AT YOUR TABLE
BY GRANTING US THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST.
STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH,
INCREASE OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
AND SEND US FORTH INTO THE WORLD
IN COURAGE AND PEACE,
REJOICING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN.**

Thanksgiving - Robert Day
Pastoral Prayer

Let us Pray O God We ^{thank} ~~thank~~ you

We ~~thank~~ you Father for the gift of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and especially for the service to this church as shown in the work of all those past and present *who have given so much* which has been such a ~~blessing~~ to our community of faith.

Now we remember those who have gone before us in the faith and those who now live eternally with Thee. We remember especially those in whose names memorials have been given this day and for whom love gifts have been presented..... *(some people who memorials given for) say*

As we say:

names → O God before whom generations rise and pass away; we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you. Especially we thank You for Your servant memorial, for the gift of his/her life, for the grace you have given him/her, for all in him/her that was good and kind and faithful. We thank you that for him/her death is past, and pain is ended, and he/she has entered the joy You have prepared; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *love gift*

~~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. Amen.~~

Go forth, faithful Christian:
In the name of God who created you,
In the name of Christ who died for you,
In the name of the Holy Spirit which was given to you.
Go forth upon your journey from this world.
In communion with all the saints and the Church
Triumphant
May you live in peace this day
May your dwelling be in endless light,
And may you find your place in God's Kingdom.

May he/she rest in peace, and rise in Glory!

Unity Candle
Jesus said "Whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my mother, my sister, and brother" In the presence of our spiritual family we have lighted this unity candle today in thanks to our Heavenly Father:

..... for consecrating the union of _____ and _____ in the name and by the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's teaching, for including them as brother and sister in the larger family of this household of faith.

Most Gracious God, we give You thanks for Your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be our way of life. Pour out the abundance of Your blessing upon them. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other and for each of us as members of their spiritual family be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work among us, in their companionship, in their sorrows, in their life and in their death. Finally, in Your mercy, bring them to that table where Your saints feast for ever

in Your Heavenly Home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that as members of this household of faith, your spiritual family, you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION # 1

O GOD, THE REFUGE OF THE POOR,
AND THE HOPE OF THE HUMBLE,
THE SALVATION OF THE NEEDY;
HEAR US AS WE PRAY FOR THOSE
WHO ARE WORN BY ILLNESS,
FOR ALL WHO ARE WRONGED OR OPPRESSED,
AND FOR THE WEARY AND HEAVY-LADEN,
THAT THEY MAY BE STRENGTHENED
BY YOUR GRACE AND HEALED
BY YOUR CONSOLATIONS.
LET THE DAYSPRING FROM ON HIGH
VISIT THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS
AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
TO GUIDE THEIR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE;
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, AMEN.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION # 2

**O GOD, ETERNAL SPIRIT,
YOU HAVE CALLED US INTO RELATIONSHIP
TO FULFILL A MISSION
WHOSE MEANING WE YET DIMLY SEE,
GRANT TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A SECURE SENSE OF OUR IDENTITY
AS PEOPLE OF RICH HUMAN LINEAGE,
AS CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE,
AS NOBODIES UNLESS YOU CLAIM US AS YOUR
OWN.
AND MAKE US IMPATIENT WITH ANY IDENTITY
THAT DOES NOT PROPEL UN INTO THE STRUGGLE
FOR JUSTICE, LIBERATION, AND PEACE.
DISTRIBUTE AMONG US GIFTS OF FAITH AND
PRAYER,
OF PROPHECY AND DISCERNMENT,
OF LOVE AND HOPE
THAT WE MAY NEVER CEASE DOING YOUR WILL;
IN JESUS; NAME. AMEN.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION # 3

ALMIGHTY GOD,
THE FOUNTAIN OF ALL WISDOM,
ENLIGHTEN BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT
THOSE WHO TEACH AND THOSE WHO LEARN,
THAT, REJOICING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR
TRUTH,
THEY MAY WORHSIP YOU AND SERVE YOU
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION;
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

GO OUT INTO THE WORLD IN PEACE;
HAVE COURAGE;
HOLD ON TO WHAT IS GOOD;
RETURN NO ONE EVIL FOR EVIL;
STRENGTHEN THE FAINTHEARTED;
SUPPORT THE WEAK, AND HELP THE SUFFERING;
HONOR ALL PEOPLE;
LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD,
REJOICING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD,
REJOICING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD.

THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THE LOVE OF GOD,
AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BE WITH YOU ALL. ALLELUIA! AMEN.

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU.
THE LORD BE KIND AND GRACIOUS TO YOU.
THE LORD LOOK UPON YOU WITH FAVOR
AND GIVE YOU PEACE. ALLELUIA! AMEN.

WORDS OF COMFORT, FAITH AND AFFIRMATION

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. Those who believe in me will never be hungry: those who believe in me will never thirst." John 6:35

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

Jesus said; "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Jesus said: "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." John 6:65

Jesus said: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:54

Jesus said: "This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." John 6:58

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:1-5

"I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three but the greatest of these is love." I Cor 13:13

Jesus said: "And I, when I am lifted up will draw all people to myself." John 12:22

Jesus said; "for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." John 12:47

"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" Ephesians 2:19-22

Jesus said:"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me." John 14:6

Jesus cried out:"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture had said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."" John 7:37-38

Jesus said:"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me?" John 14:9-10

Jesus said "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.....I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:9

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

DEARLY BELOVED: WE HAVE COME TOGETHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF THIS MAN AND WOMAN IN HOLY MATRIMONY. THE BOND AND COVENANT OF MARRIAGE WAS ESTABLISHED BY GOD IN CREATION, AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ADORNED THIS MANNER OF LIFE BY HIS PRESENCE AND FIRST MIRACLE AT A WEDDING IN CANA OF GALILEE. IT SIGNIFIES TO US THE MYSTERY OF THE UNION BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, AND HOLY SCRIPTURE COMMENDS IT TO BE HONORED AMONG ALL PEOPLE.

THE UNION HUSBAND AND WIFE IN HEART, BODY, AND MIND IS INTENDED FOR THEIR MUTUAL JOY; FOR THE HELP AND COMFORT GIVEN ONE ANOTHER IN PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY; AND, WHEN IT IS HIS WILL, FOR THE PROCREATION OF CHILDREN AND THEIR NURTURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD. TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE UNION OF _____ AND _____. FOR _____ YEARS THEY HAVE LIVED TOGETHER VICTORIOUSLY AND IN FAITH AND NOW RENEW THE VOWS WHICH THEY AFFIRMED SO LONG AGO.

N., YOU HAVE TAKEN N. TO BE YOUR WIFE. IN RENEWING YOUR VOWS PLEASE REPEAT AFTER ME;

IN THE NAME OF GOD, I, N., TAKE YOU, N. TO BE MY WIFE, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, FOR BETTER FOR WORSE, FOR RICHER FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, TO LOVE AND TO CHERISH, UNTIL WE ARE PARTED BY DEATH. THIS IS MY SOLEMN VOW.

N., YOU HAVE TAKEN N. TO BE YOUR HUSBAND. IN RENEWING YOUR VOWS PLEASE REPEAT AFTER ME;

IN THE NAME OF GOD, I, N., TAKE YOU, N. TO BE MY HUSBAND, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, FOR BETTER FOR WORSE, FOR RICHER FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, TO LOVE AND TO CHERISH, UNTIL WE ARE PARTED BY DEATH. THIS IS MY SOLEMN VOW.

BLESS, O LORD, THIS RING TO BE A SIGN OF THE VOWS BY WHICH THIS MAN AND THIS WOMAN HAVE BOUND THEMSELVES AGAIN TO EACH OTHER; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

N., IN RENEWING OUR VOWS, I GIVE YOU THIS RING AS A SYMBOL OF MY VOW, AND WITH ALL THAT I AM, AND ALL THAT I HAVE, I HONOR YOU, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WILL YOU WHO HAVE WITNESSED THESE PROMISES DO ALL IN YOUR POWER TO UPHOLD THESE TWO PERSONS IN THEIR MARRIAGE? WE WILL.

NOW THAT N. AND N. HAVE GIVEN THEMSELVES AGAIN TO EACH OTHER BY RENEWAL OF THEIR SOLEMN VOWS, WITH THE JOINING OF HANDS AND THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF A RING, I DECLARE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE BLESSED IN THE SACRED COVENANT WHICH THEY AFFIRMED SOME _____ YEARS AGO. IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THOSE WHOM GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER LET NO ONE PUT ASUNDER.

AMEN

LET US PRAY:

ETERNAL GOD, CREATOR AND PRESERVER OF ALL LIFE, AUTHOR OF SALVATION, AND GIVER OF ALL GRACE: LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON THE WORLD YOU HAVE MADE, AND FOR WHICH YOUR SON GAVE HIS LIFE, AND ESPECIALLY UPON THIS MAN AND THIS WOMAN WHOM YOU HAVE MADE ONE FLESH IN HOLY MATRIMONY. AMEN

GRANT THAT THEIR WILL MAY BE SO KNIT TOGETHER IN YOUR WILL, AND THEIR SPIRITS IN YOUR SPIRIT, THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE TO GROW IN LOVE AND PEACE WITH YOU AND ONE ANOTHER ALL THE DAYS OF THEIR LIFE. AMEN.

THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING CEREMONY

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

THE TWO OUTSIDE CANDLES OF THE CANDELABRA HAVE BEEN LIGHTED BY YOUR FAMILIES TO REPRESENT LIFE GIVEN TO YOU THROUGH EACH OF THEM. YOU HAVE EXPRESSED YOUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR THAT LIFE BY PRESENTING TO EACH OF YOUR FAMILIES A ROSE.

THESE CANDLES ARE TWO INDIVIDUAL LIGHTS. IN THIS MARRIAGE YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO MERGE THESE LIGHTS INTO ONE LIGHT. THIS IS WHAT THE LORD MEANT WHEN HE SAID, "ON THIS ACCOUNT A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED WITH HIS WIFE AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." AT THE SAME TIME YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT IN THE UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER YET MEMBERS OF THE SAME BODY. THAT IS WHY WE LEAVE BOTH OF THE OUTSIDE CANDLES LIGHTED. (IN YOUR SITUATION, IN LIGHTING THE CENTER CANDLE, YOU ARE ALSO CHOOSING TO CELEBRATE YOUR UNITY WITH YOUR CHILDREN AS ALL OF YOU HAVE BECOME A NEW FAMILY IN CHRIST).

NOW TAKE YOUR CANDLE AND (WITH YOUR CHILDREN) LIGHT THE CENTER CANDLE. MAY THE RADIANCE OF THIS ONE LIGHT BE A TESTIMONY OF YOUR UNITY IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

NOW REMEMBER HOW JESUS SAID "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN". AMEN.

IN THE NAME OF HIM WHO TAUGHT US WHEN WE GATHER
TOGETHER TO SAY:

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, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN

BENEDICTION:

YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE!

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.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM
AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER. AMEN

Blessing:

May God the Father bless you.
May God the Son heal you.
May God the Holy Spirit enlighten you.
May God protect you from harm
and grant you salvation.
May He shine on your heart
And lead you to eternal life.
And may Almighty God,
The Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit.
Bless you all. Amen

This service of anointing was adapted from "To Heal
Jesus Healed:", Barbara Leahy Shelemon, Dennis Linn
Matthew Linn. 6-18-92

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PASTOR

HEAR THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:

ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE CLOSE OF THE AGE.

OBEYING THE WORD OF OUR LORD JESUS, AND SURE OF HIS PRESENCE WITH US, WE BAPTIZE THOSE WHOM HE HAS CALLED TO BE HIS OWN.

FRIEND: IN PRESENTING YOURSELF FOR BAPTISM, YOU ANNOUNCE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, AND SHOW THAT YOU WANT TO STUDY HIM, KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, AND SERVE HIM AS HIS CHOSEN DISCIPLE.

OR,

FRIEND: IN PRESENTING YOUR CHILD FOR BAPTISM, YOU ANNOUNCE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, AND SHOW THAT YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO STUDY HIM, KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM AND SERVE HIM AS HIS CHOSEN DISCIPLE.

AND,

PASTOR: DO YOU ACCEPT CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?

NEW MEMBER OR PARENT: I DO.

PASTOR: DO YOU TRUST IN HIM?: I DO.

PASTOR: DO YOU PROMISE TO RAISE YOUR CHILD IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD?

(If the candidate for baptism is to be received as a communicant member of the church, the minister shall ask this additional question)

PASTOR: WILL YOU BE A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF THIS HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, GIVING OF YOURSELF IN EVERY WAY, AND WILL YOU SEEK THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH WHEREVER YOU MAY BE?

NEW MEMBER: I WILL.

Let the people stand

PASTOR: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ORDERED US TO TEACH THOSE WHO ARE BAPTIZED. IN RECEIVING THIS CHILD INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, DO YOU THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH PROMISE TO RAISE THIS CHILD IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD?

THE PEOPLE: WE DO.

PASTOR: LET US PRAY

GOD OUR FATHER: WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS, PROMISED IN THIS SACRAMENT, AND FOR THE HOPE WE HAVE IN YOUR SON JESUS. AS WE BAPTIZE WITH WATER, BAPTIZE US WITH THEY HOLY SPIRIT, SO THAT WHAT WE SAY MAY BE YOUR WORD AND WHAT WE DO MAY BE YOUR WORK. BY YOUR POWER, MAY WE BE MADE ONE WITH CHRIST OUR LORD IN COMMON FAITH AND PURPOSE.

THE PASTOR AND THE PEOPLE

O GOD, WHO CALLED US FROM DEATH TO LIFE; WE GIVE OURSELVES TO YOU, AND, WITH THE CHURCH THROUGH ALL AGES, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAVING LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

Let the people be seated

PASTOR: WHAT IS YOUR (CHILD'S) CHRISTIAN NAME?

_____, I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN. LET US NOW PRESENT THIS CHILD IN CHRIST TO THE LORD.

(Pastor takes baby to the altar for presentation
to the Lord)

PASTOR: THIS CHILD OF GOD IS NOW RECEIVED INTO THE ONE HOLY
UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH. SEE WHAT LOVE THE FATHER
HAS GIVEN US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED THE CHILDREN
OF GOD; AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE!

LET US PRAY: (Pastor and People)

GOD OUR FATHER: WE PRAISE YOU FOR CALLING US TO BE
YOUR CHILDREN AND FOR GATHERING US INTO THIS HOUSEHOLD
OF FAITH. TOGETHER, MAY WE LIVE IN YOUR SPIRIT AND
SO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, THAT WE MAY BE "FOLLOWERS OF
THE WAY" OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, TO WHOM WE GIVE
HONOR AND GLORY FOREVER. AMEN

DEDICATION OF A BABY

PASTOR:

"AFTER EIGHT DAYS HAD PASSED, IT WAS TIME TO CIRCUMCISE THE CHILD; AND HE WAS CALLED JESUS, THE NAME GIVEN BY THE ANGEL BEFORE HE WAS CONCEIVED IN THE WOMB. WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR THEIR PURIFICATION ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF MOSES, THEY BROUGHT HIM UP TO JERUSALEM TO PRESENT HIM TO THE LORD (AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, ("EVERY FIRSTBORN MALE SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS HOLY TO THE LORD")) AND THEY OFFERED A SACRIFICE ACCORDING TO WHAT IS STATED IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."

GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT, WHEN SIMEON CAME INTO THE TEMPLE AND WHEN THE PARENTS BROUGHT IN THE CHILD JESUS, ...SIMEON TOOK HIM IN HIS ARMS AND PRAISED GOD, SAYING "MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION, WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL PEOPLES." MATTHEW 2:21-31

THIS CHILD HAS BEEN BAPTIZED AND GIVEN THE CHRISTIAN NAME OF Elisha Clarice. HE\SHE WAS RECEIVED Sept. 26, 1993 (DATE) INTO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THIS CHURCH. HIS\HER PARENT(S) PLEDGED TO RAISE HER\HIM IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD.

IN RECEIVING THIS CHILD INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, DO YOU THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH PROMISE TO RAISE THIS CHILD IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD?

THE PEOPLE: WE DO

WE NOW PUBLICLY DEDICATE HER\HIM TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH REMEMBERING THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

PASTOR: (TAKING THE BABY IN HIS ARMS) THIS CHILD IS NOW DEDICATED TO THE LORD. MAY THE LORD BLESS HER\HIM AND KEEP HER\HIM. MAY THE LORD LOOK MERCIFULLY UPON HIM\HER AND GIVE HIM\HER PEACE THIS DAY AND FOREVER MORE!

THE WEDDING CEREMONY IN THE GREEK ORTHODOX

THE CROWNING OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM IS A BASIC PART OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX WEDDING. THE CROWN IS REFERRED TO AS THE "MARTYR'S CROWN". THE WORD "MARTYR" MEANS "WITNESS". IT'S MESSAGE WITNESSES TO THE ETERNAL WITNESS OF THE UNION OF CHRIST WITH THE CHURCH.

PASTOR: THIS SERVANT OF GOD IS NOW COMMITTED TO THIS HANDMAIDEN OF GOD IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (Pastor places the crown upon the head of the Groom.)

PASTOR: THIS SERVANT OF GOD IS NOW COMMITTED TO THIS SLAVE OF GOD IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (Pastor places the crown upon the head of the bride.)

NOW THAT _____ AND _____ HAVE GIVEN THEMSELVES TO EACH OTHER BY SOLEMN VOWS, WITH THE JOINING OF HANDS, THE CROWNING, AND THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF A RING, I PRONOUNCE THAT THEY ARE HUSBAND WIFE, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY IN THE JEWISH TRADITION

IN THE WEDDING THE RABBI RECITES SEVEN WEDDING BENEDICTIONS OVER A GLASS OF WINE. THE BRIDE AND GROOM DRINK FROM THE GLASS, THEN THE GROOM SMASHES IT WITH HIS FOOT. THE RABBINIC INTERPRETATION IS THAT IN THE MIDST OF GLADNESS WE ALWAYS RECALL OUR SORROWS, AND THAT WE BREAK THE GLASS TO REMEMBER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM IN A.D. 70 BY THE ROMAN ARMIES. THUS THE JEWISH WEDDING CONCLUDES, AS IT BEGINS WITH JERUSALEM IN MIND. THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE AGES AND ON INTO THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE IT WAS USUAL THAT THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE WEDDING WAS ONE IN WHICH GUESTS REPETEDLY FEASTED, AND BRIDE AND GROOM WERE HONORARY "KING" AND "QUEEN".

AS A PART OF THE WEDDING THE RABBI LEADS THE CONGREGATION IN THE SEVEN PRAYERS OF BENEDICTION. THEY DRINK WINE, FROM THE SAME GLASS AS THEY PREPARE TO TASTE THE WINE OF JOY IN MARRIAGE. THE BRIDE AND GROOM WILL THEN LEAD US IN A TOAST AS WE SAY TOGETHER L, CHAIM (TO LIVE). ↴

ONCE USED THIS GLASS WILL BE BROKEN. IT WILL NEVER, EVER BE USED AGAIN. IT IS RESERVED FOR THIS SPECIAL TIME OF COMMITMENT AND REMEMBRANCE. THE BREAKING OF THE GLASS REMINDS US THAT IN THE MIDST OF THE JOY OF THIS MOMENT THAT WE MUST REMEMBER TOO, THE SORROWS OF LIFE TOGETHER AND TODAY REMEMBER THE

TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN 70 A.D. AND ITS GREAT TEMPLE BUILT TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD AND AT THE SAME TIME WE REMEMBER HOW THAT SAME CITY HOUSED IN ITS SURBURBAN GARBAGE DUMP THE CROSS ON WHICH CHRIST DIED. JERUSALEM IS A CITY WHICH REMINDS US OF THE PAIN OF THAT DESTRUCTION AS CHRISTIANS AND JEWS WERE DRIVEN OUT FROM THEIR BELOVED CITY TO BECOME PILGRIMS AND SOJOURNERS AND TO FIND NEW LIFE IN THE WORLD OF THE FIRST CENTURY. THE DREAM OF THE OLD TEMPLE IS A PART OF JEWISH CONSCIOUSNESS AND LIKEWISE THE NEW JERUSALEM WITNESSED TO BY CHRISTIANS AND AS EXPERIENCED BY OUR FORBEARS STILL LIVES ON. THE MEMORY OF BOTH THEIR JOY AND PAIN IS STILL WITH US.

LORD WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOR THIS WINE OF THE SPIRIT WHICH _____ AND _____ NOW SHARE. NOW LET US PRAY SEVEN PRAYERS OF BENEDICTION.

BEFORE THE BRIDE AND GROOM DRINK FROM THE GLASS THEY WILL LEAD US IN THIS EXPRESSION OF JOY AS WE SAY TOGETHER "L, CHAIM (TO LIVE)" (BRIDE AND GROOM) .
_____ (THE GROOM) NOW BREAKS THE GLASS AS A SYMBOL OF THE SORROW IN LIFE WHICH ACCOMPANIES THE JOY.

THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING CEREMONY
CELEBRATING OUR UNITY WITH FLOWERS

THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF HISTORY WE HAVE USED FLOWERS TO CELEBRATE OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. THE ROSES WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BY YOUR FAMILIES REPRESENT THEIR GIFT OF LOVE AND LIFE GIVEN TO YOU THROUGH EACH OF THEM. YOU, IN TURN HAVE EXPRESSED YOUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR THAT LOVE AND GIVEN IT BACK TO YOUR PARENTS BY PRESENTING TO EACH OF THEM A PART OF IT IN THE SYMBOL OF THAT ROSE.

THE REMAINING ROSES IN THE SIDE VASES NOW HOLD INDIVIDUAL ROSES REPRESENTING YOUR LIVES. EACH OF YOUR LIVES BRINGS NEW LIGHT INTO THE WORLD. IN THIS MARRIAGE YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO MERGE THESE SYMBOLS OF LOVE AND LIGHT IN YOUR NEW UNITY. THIS IS WHAT THE LORD MEANT WHEN HE SAID, "ON THIS ACCOUNT A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED WITH HIS WIFE AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." AT THE SAME TIME YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT IN THE UNITY OF MARRIAGE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER YET MEMBERS OF THE SAME BODY. THAT IS WHY WE USE INDIVIDUAL FLOWERS TO REPRESENT THIS LOVE AND LIGHT AND PLACE THEM IN THE CENTER VASE. OUR LORD TEACHES US THAT AS PARTNERS IN MARRIAGE AND FOLLOWING HIS TEACHING LOVE DOES NOT INSIST ON IT'S OWN WAY BUT RATHER HIS KIND OF LOVE INVOLVES GIVING EACH OTHER ROOM TO GROW AND DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL GIFTS HE GAVE YOU. IN YOUR JOURNEY WE, YOUR LOVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN.

NOW TAKE YOUR FLOWERS AND PLACE THEM IN THE CENTER VASE AS A PUBLIC SYMBOL OF YOUR LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER. MAY THE BEAUTY OF THIS SYMBOL BE A TESTIMONY OF YOUR UNITY IN AN ENDURING AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP AS YOU WALK ALONG THE ROAD OF LIFE TOGETHER.

REMEMBER NOW HOW JESUS SAID "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN". AMEN

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses, assemble in the church or some other appropriate place.

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Then the Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union N.N. and N.N. now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The man answers

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People **We will.**

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time. See page 437.

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
*Amen.***

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (*New English Bible*) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to**

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

The Marriage

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

They loose their hands.

The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, *this ring* to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (or in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that N. and N. have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of *a ring*, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People Amen.

The Prayers

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.

If there is not to be a Communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PASTOR: FRIENDS: THIS IS THE JOYFUL FEAST OF THE
PEOPLE OF GOD!

(Pastor and People)

PEOPLE WILL COME FROM EAST AND WEST, AND FROM NORTH AND
SOUTH, AND SIT AT TABLE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

PASTOR:

THIS IS THE LORD'S TABLE. OUR SAVIOR INVITES THOSE WHO
TRUST HIM TO SHARE THE FEAST WHICH HE HAS PREPARED.
ACCORDING TO LUKE, WHEN OUR RISEN LORD WAS AT TABLE
WITH HIS DISCIPLES, HE TOOK THE BREAD, AND BLESSED AND
BROKE IT AND GAVE IT TO THEM. AND THEIR EYES WERE
OPENED AND THEY RECOGNIZED HIM.

LET US PRAY:

PASTOR: HOLY LORD FATHER ALMIGHTY, EVERLASTING GOD.
GREAT AND WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY.
YOUR WAYS ARE JUST AND TRUE. WITH PEOPLE OF FAITH FROM
ALL TIMES AND PLACES, WE LIFT OUR HEARTS IN JOYFUL
PRAISE, FOR YOU ALONE ARE HOLY.

(Pastor and People)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,
GOD OF POWER AND MAJESTY,
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY,
O GOD MOST HIGH!

PASTOR: HOLY FATHER: WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SON JESUS,
WHO LIVED WITH US SHARING JOY AND SORROW. HE TOLD
YOUR STORY, HEALED THE SICK AND WAS A FRIEND OF SINNERS.
OBEYING YOU, HE TOOK UP HIS CROSS AND WAS MURDERED BY
THOSE HE LOVED. WE PRAISE YOU THAT HE IS NOT DEAD, BUT
IS RISEN TO RULE THE WORLD; AND THAT HE IS STILL THE
FRIEND OF SINNERS. WE TRUST HIM TO OVERCOME EVERY POWER
TO HURT OR DIVIDE US, SO THAT, WHEN YOU BRING IN YOUR
PROMISED KINGDOM, WE WILL CELEBRATE VICTORY WITH HIM.

(Pastor and People)

REMEMBERING THE LORD JESUS, WE BREAK BREAD AND SHARE ONE CUP, ANNOUNCING HIS DEATH FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD, AND TELLING HIS RESURRECTION TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN AND NATIONS.

PASTOR: GREAT GOD: GIVE US YOUR HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD, SO THAT WE MAY BE DRAWN TOGETHER, AND, JOINED TO CHRIST THE LORD, RECEIVE NEW LIFE, AND REMAIN HIS GLAD AND FAITHFUL PEOPLE UNTIL WE FEAST WITH HIM IN GLORY.

(Pastor and People)

O GOD, WHO CALLED US FROM DEATH TO LIFE; WE GIVE OURSELVES TO YOU; AND WITH THE CHURCH THROUGH ALL THE AGES, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAVING LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Council members come forward to prepare the table. Acolytes and Pastor prepare the altar)

PASTOR: THE LORD JESUS, ON THE NIGHT OF HIS ARREST, TOOK BREAD, AND AFTER GIVING THANKS TO GOD, BROKE IT AND SAID: "THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IS REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

LIKEWISE AFTER THE SAME MANNER, HE TOOK THE CUP AND SAID; "THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD. DO THIS REMEMBERING ME."

EVERY TIME YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THE CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE DEATH OF THE LORD, UNTIL HE COMES.

LORD, WE ARE NOT WORTHY TO RECEIVE YOU, ONLY SAY THE WORD AND WE SHALL BE HEALED.

COME, THE TABLE IS PREPARED, ALL IS READY!
LET THE FEAST BEGIN!

(Council members bring the people forward
to receive the sacrament)
(Pastor and assistants serve
disabled persons on first row)

Pastor may say the comforting words of the Assurance
of Pardon or Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.
Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who
believe in me will never thirst."

(Council members receive the Sacrament, then remove
the kneeling cushions, and rail and return to their
places. Acolytes, Parish Assistant and Pastor receive
the Sacrament.)

PASTOR: THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU
ALL. AMEN.

(Pastor and People)

**GOD, OUR HELP: WE THANK YOU FOR THIS SUPPER SHARED IN
THE SPIRIT WITH YOUR SON JESUS, WHO MAKES US NEW AND
STRONG, WHO BRINGS US LIFE ETERNAL. WE PRAISE YOU FOR
GIVING US ALL GOOD GIFTS IN HIM, AND PLEDGE OURSELVES
TO SERVE YOU, EVEN AS IN CHRIST YOU SERVED US. AMEN.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

P. Blessed Lord, we come before You
with faith and love,
to praise Your goodness
and acknowledge our needs.
Be near to Your people and hear our prayers.
We have many needs that we cannot express,
but You know them;
and we ask You to help us
through the sacrifice of Your Son the Christ,
Who is Lord forever and ever.

C. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

P. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and stand with fear and trembling,
and ponder within itself no earthly thing,
For the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords
cometh to be slain,
and to give Himself in sacrifice
to be the Food of the Faithful.

Presentation of the Gifts

P. Dear Lord, we accept that of which,
by the nature of this planet,
we are composed;
and in our great gratitude,
we offer this bread unto You,
as we likewise offer ourselves.

P. Blessed are You, Lord, God of all creation.
Through Your goodness
we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given
and human hands have made
it will become for us the bread of life.

C. Blessed be God forever.

(Deacon, if present, blesses water.)

P. As Your Spirit would move
the heart of every being,
now we move water within this wine,
and they shall move as one.

We adore You, O God,
and offer unto You this water and wine,
as we offer that which gives us life.
From You have we come,
and unto You shall we return.

Blessed are You, Lord, God of all creation.
Through Your goodness
we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine
and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.

C. Blessed be God forever.

[Second Censing]

P. Welcome as incense smoke
let my prayers rise up before You, O Lord.
When I lift my hands,
let it be acceptable as the evening sacrifice.

C. Amen.

(Altar is censed; clergy and servers are censed.)

P. Lord God, we ask You to receive us
and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer You
with humble and contrite hearts.

Lavabo

- P. Lord, wash away mine iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
- P. Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable
to God, the almighty Father.
- C. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at our hands,
for the praise and glory of His Name,
for our good and the good of all His Church.

Prayer Over the Gifts

- P. Lord, by these holy gifts we offer,
make holy those You gather together
in Your Name.
May we who share this sacrament
experience the life and power it promises
and come to feel Your presence within us.
- C. Amen.

Introductory Dialogue

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface

- P. O Holy One of Blessing,
God of all being,
we do well always and everywhere

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

PASTOR CALLS FORWARD BY NAME ALL WHO WISH TO BECOME
NEW MEMBERS

PASTOR: HEAR THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:

ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN
GIVEN TO ME. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF
ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE
FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED
YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE CLOSE
OF THE AGE.

OBEYING THE WORD OF OUR LORD JESUS, AND SURE OF HIS
PRESENCE WITH US, WE RECEIVE THOSE WHOM HE HAS CALLED
TO BE HIS OWN.

FRIEND(S): IN PRESENTING YOURSELF FOR MEMBERSHIP, YOU
ANNOUNCE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, AND SHOW THAT
YOU WANT TO STUDY HIM, KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, AND
SERVE HIM AS HIS CHOSEN DISCIPLE.

PASTOR: DO YOU ACCEPT CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?

NEW MEMBER: I DO

PASTOR: DO YOU TRUST IN HIM?

NEW MEMBER: I DO

PASTOR: WILL YOU BE A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF THIS
HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, GIVING OF YOURSELF IN EVERY WAY,
AND WILL YOU SEEK THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH
WHEREVER YOU MAY BE?

NEW MEMBER: I WILL

Let the people stand. Members of the Council will
come forward and stand behind the new member(s)

PASTOR: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ORDERED US TO TEACH THOSE WHO ARE BAPTIZED. IN RECEIVING THESE/THIS NEW MEMBER(S) INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, DO YOU THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH PROMISE TO HELP HIM/HER (THEM) GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD?

THE PEOPLE: WE DO

THE PASTOR AND THE PEOPLE

O GOD, WHO CALLED US FROM DEATH TO LIFE; WE GIVE OURSELVES TO YOU, AND, WITH THE CHURCH THROUGH ALL AGES. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAVING LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

Members of the Council place their hands on the shoulders of of the new members.

PASTOR: MOST GRACIOUS GOD, WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR YOUR TENDER LOVE IN SENDING JESUS CHRIST TO COME AMONG US, TO BE BORN OF A HUMAN MOTHER, AND TO MAKE THE WAY OF THE CROSS TO BE OUR WAY OF LIFE. POUR OUT THE ABUNDANCE OF YOUR BLESSING UPON THEM. DEFEND THEM FROM EVERY ENEMY. LEAD THEM INTO ALL PEACE. LET THEIR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR EACH OF US AS MEMBERS OF THEIR SPIRITUAL FAMILY BE A SEAL UPON THEIR HEARTS, A MANTLE ABOUT THEIR SHOULDERS, AND A CROWN UPON THEIR FOREHEADS. BLESS THEM IN THEIR WORK AMONG US, IN THEIR COMPANIONSHIP, IN THEIR SLEEPING, AND IN THEIR WAKING; IN THEIR JOYS AND IN THEIR SORROWS, IN THEIR LIFE AND IN THEIR DEATH. FINALLY, IN YOUR MERCY, BRING THEM TO THAT TABLE WHERE YOUR SAINTS FEAST FOR EVER IN YOUR HEAVENLY HOME; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES AND REIGNS, ONE GOD FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN

PASTOR: THESE (THIS) (PERSON/PERSONS) ARE NOW RECEIVED INTO THE ONE HOLY UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH. SEE WHAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS GIVEN US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD; AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE!

Members of the Council and Pastor offer the new member(s) the right hand of fellowship and on behalf of the people welcomes them into the church. President of the Council presents the certificates of membership and envelopes to each new member.

PASTOR TO ALL PRESENT:

GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, BLESS, PRESERVE, AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MERCIFULLY WITH HIS FAVOR LOOK UPON YOU, AND FILL YOU WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BENEDICTION AND GRACE; THAT AS MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, YOUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY, YOU MAY FAITHFULLY LIVE TOGETHER IN THIS LIFE, AND IN THE AGE T
COME HAVE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN

New members return to their pews.

**DISMISSAL OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY SERVED
THE CHURCH AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,
COMMISSIONING OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE
COUNCIL, AND THE INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS**

There are different gifts,

(P) but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

(P) but it is the same lord who is served.

God works through different people in different
ways,

(P) but it is the same God who achieves his purpose
through them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

(P) To use it for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, "followers of
the Way",

(P) and individually members of him.

Though we have different gifts, together we are a
ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ.
We work and pray to make his church useful in the
world, and we call men and women to faith, so that,
in the end, every knee shall bow and every tongue
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of
God the Father.

As "followers of the Way" some members are chosen
for particular work as ministers of the word,
members of the Council, Parish Visitors, and
leaders in our group and social ministry. Jesus
told us that "whoever among you wants to be great
must become the servant of all, and if he wants to
be first among you, he must be the slave of all."

(P) Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free.

As your Pastor, I bring to you to be dismissed from service on the Council, the following persons: You have faithfully performed your duties for six years and now are entitled to the thanks and appreciation of this church for outstanding service. Go now in peace and continue your service to the Lord in whatever role to which you are called.

(P) Go forth, faithful Christian: in the Name of God who created you, in the name of Christ who died for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit which was given to You. Go forth now upon your journey, and with our thanks, love and serve the Lord.

And now speaking for the people of this church, I bring to you the following persons to be commissioned as members of the Council for a term of two years:.

God has called you by the voice of the church to serve Jesus Christ as a member of our Church Council. You know who we are and what we believe, and you understand the work for which you have been chosen. Will you now be a faithful Council member, watching over the people, providing for their worship and instruction, be diligent in the administration of church property, be responsible for the financial leadership, and be faithful in making policy for this church? Will you be guided by the Holy Spirit and try to show in all your life the love and justice of Jesus Christ? If you will, please answer I will.

Do you, members of the church accept these persons chosen by God through the voice of this people, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow them as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the Church? Please answer We do!

And speaking for the Council I come now to install the following officers of the Council for 199_:

_____ President
_____ Vice President
_____ Treasurer
_____ Secretary
_____ Financial Secretary

Do you welcome the work for which you have been chosen, and will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in his promises through Jesus Christ our Lord? Please answer I do and I will.

Let us pray.

Almighty God: in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word and lead your people. We thank you for those whom you have called today to serve you. Give them special gifts to do their special work; and fill them with the Holy Spirit, so they may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be faithful disciples as long as they shall live. AMEN

WELCOME TO THE MINISTRY!

Commissioning of Parish Visitors

And now speaking for the people of this church, I bring to you the following persons to be commissioned as Parish Visitors for a term of two years.

God has called you by the voice of the church to serve Jesus Christ as a Parish Visitor. Will you be a faithful Visitor, ministering to new members and to persons who are shut-ins and or in the hospital, nursing home, or other service for persons with special needs? Will you teach love of neighbor to those to whom you are called, urging concern and directing the peoples' help to the friendless? Will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Parish Visitor: I will.

Do you, members of the church accept these persons chosen by God through the voice of this people, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow them as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the Church?

Please answer: We do!

God of Grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation: give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us; that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.

God of compassion and love, we thank you for freeing hostages who for the last seven years have been held in the Middle East and who in the fight for justice have suffered for the sake of all the nations of the world. We thank you that you cheered them in their loneliness, guided them in their long days and nights of imprisonment, sustained them through every trial, and freed them now to return to their families through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving God, thank you for remembering families left behind, whose husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers have waited for them. Fill their emptiness and loneliness now with peace and glad reunions.

ASH WEDNESDAY

ON ASH WEDNESDAY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF LENT BY RECEIVING ASHES ON THEIR FOREHEADS. FROM THE YEAR 340 A.D. CHRISTIANS HAVE FOLLOWED THIS CUSTOM. THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT ARE A PERIOD OF PREPARATION FOR UNDERSTANDING THE GIFT OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD AND HIS VICTORY OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE. DURING THE MOVING ANCIENT CEREMONY, THE ASHES WERE PLACED ON THE FOREHEADS OF THE FAITHFUL WITH THE WORDS OF GENESIS: "REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN." WE AFFIRM OUR BELIEF IN THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST AS WE COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE THE ASHES. THESE MARK US AS "FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY".

REMEMBER NOW HOW CHRIST PERSONALLY BORE YOUR SINS IN HIS BODY ON THE CROSS SO THAT YOU WOULD BE DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO ALL THAT IS GOOD. COME NOW AND JOIN IN REMEMBERING THIS GIFT OF FORGIVENESS WHICH WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY CHRIST'S SACRIFICE, RECEIVE THE MARK OF THE CROSS, BEGIN YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THIS LENTEN SEASON AS WE PREPARE OURSELVES TO GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMAZING GRACE OF THE RESURRECTION.

THE USHERS WILL GUIDE YOU AS YOU COME FORWARD INTO THE CENTER OF THE CHANCEL TO MAKE YOUR AFFIRMATION.

MINISTER: RECEIVE THESE ASHES MARKING YOU AS A
"FOLLOWER OF THE WAY"

"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, AGAIN I SAY REJOICE."

"LET YOUR GENTLENESS BE MADE KNOWN TO EVERYONE. THE LORD IS NEAR."

"DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING; BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD"

AND MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING, GUARD YOUR HEART AND YOUR MIND IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHIL 4:4-7

SERVICE FOR ANOINTING OF

A SICK PERSON

The Rev. Robert M. Armstrong, Pastor
United Evangelical United Church of Christ
3200 Dillon Street, Baltimore, 21224

PASTOR: SOLEMN DECLARATION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU!

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have come together in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who restored the sick to health, and who Himself suffered so much for our sake.

He is present among us as we recall the words of the Apostle James (James 5:13-16):

"Are any among you sick? Then let him call for the Elders of the Church, and let them pray over him and anoint him in the name of the Lord. This prayer, made in faith, will save the sick man. The Lord will restore his health, and if he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven."

Let us entrust our sick Brother (Sister) to the grace and power of Jesus Christ, that the Lord may ease his (her) suffering and grant him (her) health and salvation.

Reading from the Scripture:

PASTOR: Brothers and Sisters; let us read the words of the Gospel according to John.
(John 14:12-14)

PEOPLE:

"Truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it for you."

Laying on of Hands:

The Pastor lays his hands on the head of the sick person and prays for him/her. Other friends may gather round the sick person and place hands upon the sick person joining in prayer each individually as the Spirit leads.

Blessing of Oil:

PASTOR: Let us pray.

Lord God, loving Father, you bring healing to the sick through your Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us as we pray to you in faith, and send the Holy Spirit, man's helper and friend, upon this oil, which nature has provided to serve the needs of your people. May your blessing come upon all who are anointed with this oil, that they may be freed from pain and illness and made well again in body, mind, and soul. Father, may this oil be blessed for our use. In the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen.**

Anointing:

PASTOR:

Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

May the Lord who freed you from sin save and raise you up. **Amen**

When the sick person is in great danger:

Lord, Jesus Christ, you took our weakness upon yourself and bore our sufferings in your passion and death. Hear this prayer for our suffering brother (sister). You are his (her) Redeemer; strengthen his (her) hope for salvation and in your kindness sustain him (her) in body and soul. You live and reign forever and ever. **Amen**

For those about to die:

Lord God, loving Father, you are the source of all goodness and love and you never refuse forgiveness to those who are sorry for their sins and mis-doings. Have mercy upon your son (daughter) N., who is about to return to you. May this holy anointing and our prayers made in faith assist him (her); relieve his (her) pain, in body and soul, forgive all his (her) sins, and strengthen him (her) with your loving protection. We ask this Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who conquered death and opened for us the way to eternal life, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer:

PASTOR: We ask all these things in the name of him who taught us to pray saying:

PASTOR AND 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.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM
AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER. AMEN

Blessing:

May God the Father bless you.
May God the Son heal you.
May God the Holy Spirit enlighten you.
May God protect you from harm
and grant you salvation.
May He shine on your heart
And lead you to eternal life.
And may Almighty God,
The Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit.
Bless you all. Amen

This service of anointing was adapted from "To Heal As
Jesus Healed:", Barbara Leahy Shelemon, Dennis Linn, &
Matthew Linn. 6-18-92

FUNERAL CELEBRATION

Solemn Declaration:

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

and He said: "Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; yea from henceforth saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

Confession of Sin:

Eternal Father, guardian of our lives: we confess that we are children of dust, unworthy of your gracious care. We have not loved as we ought to love, nor have we lived as you command, and our years are soon gone. Lord God have mercy on us. Forgive our sin and raise us to new life, so that as long as we live we may serve you, until dying, we enter the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon:

While we live, we are always being given up to death, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose love never fails, and who can turn the shadow of death into daybreak: help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that hearing the promises in Scripture, we may have hope and be lifted out of darkness into the light and peace of your presence: through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Listen to Scripture read from the Old Testament.

Gloria Patri:

Hear the Scripture read from the New Testament.

Meditation:

Introduction to the meditation:

The loss of one we have known and loved, one who has been a part of the fabric of our lives, with whom we have shared great times and ordinary times, confronts us with our own mortality and the mortality of all we love. We do not have one another forever.

We are born in mystery. We live and die in mystery. We are made of earth stuff and star stuff and we return from whence we came. Yet, while we live in mystery and we die in mystery, we are anchored to the certainties of our faith. We have faith in God as our Father, and in his son Christ Jesus. We feel his presence even now as He is with us in the Holy Spirit. And through the work of Jesus we are certain of our ongoing life with Him forever.

Just as _____'s birth signaled that something new came into the world that was never here before, so his/her death means something has gone from the world that will never be again. He/she was a unique individual who touched us with his /her life, who shared his/her generosity with his/her spirit and passion, with his/her love and with his/her commitment to a better life for us all. His/her memory will live on through the lives of all who knew and loved him/her.

(For a time of remembrance) Let us speak together. Let us grieve together. Let us laugh together. Let us celebrate together as we honor the life of _____ and all that he/she has meant to those gathered here today.

A MEMORIAL PRAYER

EVERLIVING GOD,

THIS DAY REVIVES IN US MEMORIES OF
A LOVED ONE WHO IS NO MORE.

WHAT HAPPINESS WE SHARED WHEN HE/SHE
WALKED AMONG US.

WHAT JOY, WHEN, LOVING AND BEING LOVED,
WE LIVED OUR LIVES TOGETHER. HIS/HER MEMORY
IS A BLESSING FOR EVER.

MONTHS OR YEARS WILL PASS, AND STILL WE WILL
FEEL NEAR TO HIM/HER,
OUR HEARTS WILL YEARN FOR HIM/HER.
AND THOUGH THE BITTER GRIEF HAS SOFTENED, A
DULLER PAIN ABIDES;

FOR THE PLACE WHERE ONCE HE/SHE STOOD IS
EMPTY NOW.

THE LINKS OF LIFE ARE BROKEN, BUT THE LINKS
OF LOVE AND LONGING CANNOT BREAK.

HIS/HER SOUL IS BOUND UP IN OURS FOR EVER.

WE SEE HIM/HER NOW WITH THE EYE OF MEMORY.
HIS/HER FAULTS FORGIVEN, HIS VIRTUES GROWN
LARGER.

SO DOES GOODNESS LIVE, AND WEAKNESS FADE
FROM SIGHT. WE REMEMBER HER WITH GRATITUDE
AND BLESS HIS/HER NAME.

HIS/HER MEMORY IS A BLESSING FOREVER.

WE GIVE THANKS THAT HE/SHE NOW LIVES AND
REIGNS WITH YOU. AND IN A GREAT CLOUD OF
WITNESSES, HE/SHE SURROUNDS US WITH HIS/HER
BLESSINGS, AND OFFERS YOU HYMNS OF PRAISE
AND THANKSGIVING.

HE/SHE IS ALIVE FOR EVER MORE. AMEN

(AFTER A 20TH CENTURY JEWISH MEMORIAL PRAYER)

Close of the Meditation:

Let us pray:

O Gracious One, let him/her know how much we love and miss his/her physical presence and long to be with him/her. Grant that he/she may be allowed to guide and guard our journey until we meet in that condition where partings cease. Until then give us a sense of his/her loving presence. Heal all his/her wounds. Let us minister in any way we can to his/her growth, peace and joy. Let us do nothing that keeps us from fellowship together in the communion of saints. We ask this of you, a loving God who created us, saw our misery, came among us, suffered with us, suffered for us, and by rising again opened to us the portals of eternal life. Amen.

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS WHICH WE RECEIVED, IN WHICH WE STAND, AND BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED: THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, THAT HE WAS BURIED, THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY; AND THAT HE APPEARED TO PETER, THEN TO THE TWELVE AND TO MANY FAITHFUL WITNESSES. WE BELIEVE HE IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. HE IS THE FIRST AND THE LAST, THE BEGINNING AND THE END. HE IS OUR LORD AND OUR GOD!

Let us pray:

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant (s) with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return". All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Give rest, O Christ, to they servant(s) with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant _____. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. AMEN

O God, before whom generations rise and pass away; we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you. Especially we thank you for your servant _____, for the gift of his life, for the grace you have given him, for all in him that was good and kind and faithful. We thank you that for him death is past, and pain is ended, and he has entered the joy you have prepared; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us when we gather together to say:

Lord's Prayer. AMEN

Benediction:

Peace I leave with you my friends, Peace that the world cannot give.
Peace I leave with you my friends. That your joy may be forever full.

Be strong now, and be of good courage. Fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith. And may the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever. AMEN

COMMITTAL SERVICE

Solemn Declaration:

The Consecration of a Grave:

O God, whose blessed Son was laid in a sepulcher in the garden: Bless, we pray, this grave, and grant that he whose body is (is to be) buried here may dwell with Christ in paradise, and may come to your heavenly kingdom; though your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Thank God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that in his great mercy we men have been born again into a life full of hope, through Christ's rising from the dead.

Jesus said: "Do not be afraid I am the first and the last. I am the living one; for I was dead and now I am alive for evermore.

Because I live, you shall live also."

Almighty God; we commend to you our brother (sister) _____; and we commit his (her) body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. AMEN

Go forth, faithful Christian:

in the Name of God who created you,
in the name of Christ who died for you,
in the name of the Holy Spirit which was given to you.
Go forth upon your journey from this world,
in communion with all the saints and the church triumphant.

May you live in peace this day
May your dwelling be in endless light,
and may you find your place in God's kingdom.

May he/she rest in peace, and rise in glory!

Let us pray.

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

Eternal God: our days and years are lived in your mercy. Make us know how frail we are, and how brief our time on earth; and lead us by your Holy Spirit, so that, when we have served you in our generation, we may be gathered into your presence, faithful in the church, and loving toward neighbors, though Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Benediction:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: May you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. AMEN

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God."

From John, ch. 11 (RSV)

"Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling-places in my Father's house; if it were not so, I should have told you; for I am going there on purpose to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am you may be also; and my way there is known to you." Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus replied, "I am the way; I am the truth and I am life; no one comes to the Father except by me."

From John, ch. 14 (NEB)

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

From I Thessalonians, ch. 4 (Jerusalem)

For I passed on to you—as among the first to hear it, the message I had myself received—that Christ died for our sins, as the scriptures said he would; that he was buried and rose again on the third day, again as the scriptures foretold. He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, and subsequently he was seen

simultaneously by over five hundred Christians, of whom the majority are still alive, though some have since died. He was then seen by James, then by all the messengers. And last of all, as if to one born abnormally late, he appeared to me!

Now if the rising of Christ from the dead is the very heart of our message, how can some of you deny that there is any resurrection? For if there is no such thing as the resurrection of the dead, then Christ was never raised. And if Christ was not raised, then neither our preaching nor your faith has any meaning at all. Further it would mean that we are lying in our witness for God, for we have given our solemn testimony that he did raise up Christ—and that is utterly false if it should be true that the dead do not, in fact, rise again! For if the dead do not rise, neither did Christ rise, and if Christ did not rise, your faith is futile and your sins have never been forgiven. Moreover, those who have died believing in Christ are utterly dead and gone. Truly, if our hope in Christ were limited to this life only, we should, of all mankind, be the most to be pitied!

But the glorious fact is that Christ *did* rise from the dead!

But perhaps someone will ask: "How is the resurrection achieved? With what sort of body do the dead arrive?" Now that is talking without using your minds! In your own experience you know that a seed does not germinate without itself "dying." When you sow a seed you do not sow the "body" that will eventually be produced, but bare grain, of wheat, for example, or one of the other seeds. God gives the seed a "body" according to his laws—a different "body" to each kind of seed.

There are illustrations here of the raising of the dead. The body is "sown" in corruption; it is raised beyond the reach of corruption. It is "sown" in dishonor; it is raised in splendor. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. As there is a natural body so will there be a spiritual body. For I assure you, my brothers, it is utterly impossible for flesh and blood to possess the kingdom of God. The transitory could never possess the everlasting.

From I Corinthians, ch. 15 (Phillips)

COMMITTAL SERVICE

Solemn Declaration:

The Consecration of a Grave:

O God, whose blessed Son was laid in a sepulcher in the garden: Bless, we pray, this grave, and grant that he whose body is (is to be) buried here may dwell with Christ in paradise, and may come to your heavenly kingdom; though your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Thank God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that in his great mercy we men have been born again into a life full of hope, through Christ's rising from the dead.

Jesus said: "Do not be afraid I am the first and the last. I am the living one; for I was dead and now I am alive for evermore.

Because I live, you shall live also."

Almighty God; we commend to you our brother (sister) _____; and we commit his (her) body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. AMEN

Go forth, faithful Christian:
in the Name of God who created you,
in the name of Christ who died for you,
in the name of the Holy Spirit which was given to you.
Go forth upon your journey from this world,
in communion with all the saints and the church triumphant.

May you live in peace this day
May your dwelling be in endless light,
and may you find your place in God's kingdom.

May he/she rest in peace, and rise in glory!

Let us pray.

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

Eternal God: our days and years are lived in your mercy. Make us know how frail we are, and how brief our time on earth; and lead us by your Holy Spirit, so that, when we have served you in our generation, we may be gathered into your presence, faithful in the church, and loving toward neighbors, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Benediction:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: May you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. AMEN

A Public Service of Healing

The service begins as appointed for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, or with the Penitential Order, or with the following greeting

Celebrant Grace and peace be with you, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People And also with you.

lebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says this or some other appropriate Collect

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

One or two Lessons are read before the Gospel.

Between the Lessons, and before the Gospel, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said.

If the Proper of the Day is not used, the Lessons, Psalm, and Gospel are selected from the Table on page 167.

A sermon or meditation, or a period of silence, or both, may follow the Gospel.

The service continues with the Creed, or with the Prayers of the People.

For the Prayers of the People a Litany of Healing, as follows, may be used.

Litany of Healing

The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

A Person appointed then leads the Litany

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

You are the Lord who does wonders:

You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

And in your light we see light.

Hear us, O Lord of life:

Heal us, and make us whole.

Let us pray.

A period of silence follows.

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers with one of the following or some other suitable Collect:

Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

or this

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

or this

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Confession of Sin follows, if it has not been said at the beginning of the service.

The Celebrant now invites those who wish to receive the laying on of hands (and anointing) to come forward.

If oil for the anointing of the sick is to be blessed, the form on page 455 of the Prayer Book is used.

The following anthem is sung or said

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us;
Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

The Celebrant says the following blessing over those who have come forward

The Almighty Lord, who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and obey: Be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only Name under heaven given for health and salvation is the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then lays hands on each person (and, having dipped a thumb in the oil of the sick, makes the sign of the cross on their foreheads), and says one of the following:

N., I lay my hands upon you [and anoint you with oil] in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you with his presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give you that victory of life and peace which will enable you to serve him both now and evermore. *Amen.*

or this

N., I lay my hands upon you [and anoint you with oil] in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love. *Amen.*

or this

[N.,] I lay my hands upon you [and anoint you with oil] in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

or prayer may be offered for each person individually according to that person's need, with laying on of hands (and anointing).

Lay persons with a gift of healing may join the celebrant in the laying on of hands.

The service continues with the exchange of the Peace.

If there is not to be a Communion, the service concludes with the Lord's Prayer and the prayer and blessing given below.

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the Liturgy continues with the Offertory.

In place of the usual postcommunion prayer (or, if there has not been a Communion, after the Lord's Prayer), the following prayer is said

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Celebrant pronounces this blessing

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the people.

A Table of Suggested Lessons and Psalms

Old Testament

Exodus 16:13-15 (Manna in the wilderness)

1 Kings 17:17-24 (Elijah restores the widow's son to life)

2 Kings 5:9-14 (Healing of Naaman)

2 Kings 20:1-5 (I have heard your prayer . . . I will heal you)

Isaiah 11:1-3a (The gifts of the Spirit)

Isaiah 42:1-7 (The suffering servant)
Isaiah 53:3-5 (With his stripes are we healed)
Isaiah 61:1-3 (Good tidings to the afflicted)

Psalms

Psalms 13 (My heart is joyful because of your saving help)
Psalm 20:1-6 (May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble)
Psalm 23 (You have anointed my head with oil)
Psalm 27 or 27:1-7, 9, 18 (The Lord is the strength of my life)
Psalm 91 (He will give his angels charge over you)
Psalm 103 (He forgives all your sins)
Psalm 121 (My help comes from the Lord)
Psalm 130 (My soul waits for the Lord)
Psalm 139:1-17 (Where can I go from your Spirit?)
Psalm 145:14-22 (The eyes of all wait on you, O Lord)
Psalm 146 (Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help)

New Testament

Acts 3:1-10 (Peter and John heal the lame man)
Acts 5:12-16 (Healings in Jerusalem; Peter's shadow)
Acts 10:36-43 (Apostolic preaching: He went about . . . healing)
Acts 16:16-18 (The slave girl with the spirit of divination)
Romans 8:18-23 (We await the redemption of our bodies)
Romans 8:31-39 (Nothing can separate us from the love of God)
2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (God comforts us in affliction)
Colossians 1:11-20 (May you be strengthened with all power)
Hebrews 12:1-2 (Looking to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith)
James 5:(13) 14-16 (Is any among you sick?)
1 John 5:13-15 (That you may know that you have eternal life)

The Gospel

Matthew 9:2-8 (Your sins are forgiven)
Matthew 26:26-30, 36-39 (The Last Supper: Not as I will)
Mark 1:21-28 (Jesus heals the man with the unclean spirit)
Mark 1:29-34a (Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law and others)
Mark 5:1-20 (Healing of Gerasene demoniac)

Mark 5:22-24 (Healing of Jairus' daughter)
Mark 6:7, 12-13 (They anointed with oil many that were sick)
Luke 17:11-19 (Your faith has made you well)
John 5:1b-9 (Do you want to be healed?)
John 6:47-51 (I am the bread of life)
John 9:1-11 (Healing of the man born blind)

THE EUCHARISTIC TABLE
THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE

WE WANT TO REMEMBER WHOSE WE ARE. THEREFORE, AS A PART OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, WE WILL BE FAITHFUL IN WORSHIP AND STUDY, ATTENTIVE TO THE WORD AND NURTURED AT THE TABLE. WE WILL BE A PEOPLE OF PRAYER. WE SEEK TO BE A FULLY INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF FAITH, SHARING BREAD AND CUP WITH ALL WHO SEE, IN CHRIST, THE WAY TO OUR COMMON FUTURE. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD DESIRES OUR ONENESS WITH ALL PEOPLE, EVERYWHERE, AND WE LONG FOR THE DAY WHEN WE MAY ALL BE ONE. THE LORD'S TABLE IS THE IMAGE, A TABLE THAT IS INCLUSIVE, THAT DOES INVITE ALL, THAT TELLS THE STORY AND ALSO VISIONS THE FUTURE. WE COMMIT TO STAY AT THE TABLE BECAUSE WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO DIALOGUE IF WE GET UP AND LEAVE. BY GOD'S GRACE WE WILL BE AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH. WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO BE A CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE AND, IN CHRIST, WE CELEBRATE, AFFIRM, AND EMBRACE THE RICH DIVERSITY OF GOD'S GOOD CREATION. ALL PRESENT ARE INVITED TO COME TODAY TO THE LORD'S TABLE TO DRINK AND EAT THAT IN OUR JOURNEY FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE WE MAY BECOME HIS BODY AND BLOOD.

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

MOST MERCIFUL FATHER
we offer with Joy and
Thanksgiving what you have first
given us. Our selves, our time, and
our possessions, signs of your
gracious love. Receipt them for
the sake of him who offered
himself for us, JESUS CHRIST
OUR LORD Amen

HOW GREAT THOU ART
words by Stuart K. Hine
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O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r through out the universe displayed,

Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration.

And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!
(Chorus)

ORDER FOR THE TENEBRAE

The name Tenebrae (the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows") has for centuries been applied to ancient monastic services held during the last three days of Holy Week.

The extinguishing of the candles symbolizes the coming of death to Jesus and the descent of darkness upon the world, to be released only by the glorious resurrection on Easter.

All lights in the church will be extinguished until only the Christ Candle, symbolizing the eternal light of God, remains. Toward the end of the service this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil.

At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection.

The Christ Candle is now restored to its place and by its light all depart in silence.

(L) Let us begin the story of the last days of Christ on earth.

P) Jesus first instituted "The Last Supper" with his followers the night he was arrested. After they had sung the last hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed to the Father: "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

(L) Stay awake and pray, that you may not enter into the time of trial. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

The First Candle is Extinguished

(P) And Jesus said, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death; remain here, and watch with me. Now you shall see the crowd who will surround me; you will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you."

(L) Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. You will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.

The Second Candle is Extinguished

(P) Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty; with no looks to attract our eyes. He bore our sins and grieved for us, he was wounded for our transgression, and by his scourging we are healed.

(L) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; and by his scourging we are healed.

The Third Candle is Extinguished

(P) The kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against his Anointed. They divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing. False witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

(L) They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing.

The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

- (P) And Jesus said "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me; but now, behold, you scourge me, and lead me away to be crucified."**
- (L) When they had laid hands on Jesus and were holding him, he said: "Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me: but now, behold, you scourge me, and lead me away to be crucified."

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

- (P) Darkness covered the whole land when Jesus had been crucified: and about the ninth hour he cried with a loud voice: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" and he bowed his head and handed over his spirit.**
- (L) Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. And he bowed his head and handed over his spirit."

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished

- (P) See how the righteous one perishes, and no one takes it to heart. The righteous are taken away, and no one understands. From the face of evil the righteous one is taken away, and his memory shall be in peace.**
- (L) Like a sheep before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away: and his memory shall be in peace.

The Seventh Candle is Extinguished

- (P) I was like a trusting lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living."**
- (L) All my enemies whispered together against me, and devised evil against me, saying: "let us destroy the tree with its fruit; Let us cut him off from the land of the living."

The Eighth Candle is Extinguished

- (P) The veil of the temple was torn in two, and the earth shook, and the thief from the cross cried out, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."**
- (L) The rocks were split, the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who slept were raised: and the earth shook, and the thief from the cross cried out, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

The Ninth Candle is Extinguished

(P) When the Lord was buried, they sealed the tomb, rolling a great stone to the door of the tomb, and they stationed soldiers to guard him.

(L) The chief priests gathered before Pilate and petitioned him: And they stationed soldiers to guard him.

The Tenth Candle is Extinguished

(P) God did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.

(L) He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and he opened not his mouth.

The Eleventh Candle is Extinguished

(P) They shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child; for the Lord, who is without sin, is slain.

(P) From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.

(L) In my despair I said, "In the noonday of my life I must depart: my unspent years are called to the portals of death."

"No more shall I see the Lord in the land of the living, never more look on my kind among dwellers on earth."

"Between sunrise and sunset my life is brought to an end; I cower and hope for the dawn."

"From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul."

The Last Candle is Extinguished

(P) O death, I will be your death; O grave, I will be your destruction.

(L) My flesh also shall rest in hope: you will not let your Holy One see corruption.

(P) Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.

(P) Christ for us became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the Name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend.

The Stripping of the Chancel by the Acolytes

(L) Almighty God, we pray you to behold graciously this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross.

*Observing the discipline of Silence, and with soft music playing, the lights will be brought up to a dim position. **Let us all now depart in SILENCE.** All talking is delayed until the congregation is outside the Church Building.*

THE ORDER FOR THE TENEBRAE

The name Tenebrae (from the Latin word for ("darkness" or "shadows") has for centuries been applied to ancient monastic services held during the last three days of Holy Week. The extinguishing of the candles symbolizes the coming of death to Jesus and the descent of darkness upon the world, to be released only by the glorious resurrection on Easter. All lights in the church are extinguished until only candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. Toward the end of the service this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection, the hidden candle is restored to its place and by its light all depart in silence.

People:

On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the Father: Father if it be possible let this cup pass from me. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.

Song: choir and any who want to join with them:

"Stay with me,

Remain here with me, Watch and Pray"

This simple prayer song will be sung by the choir throughout the rest of the service. The people will join in as the choir leads and as they feel moved to sing with them.

Reader # 2: Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

[first candle]

People

And Jesus said "My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death; remain here, and watch with me. Now you shall see the crowd who will surround me; you will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.

Reader 1: Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of

sinner. You will flee and I will go to be offered up for you.

[second candle]

People:

Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty; with no looks to attract our eyes. He bore our sins and grieved for us, he was wounded for our transgressions, and by his scourging we are healed.

Reader 2:

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; and by his scourging we are healed.

[3rd candle]

People:

The kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against His Anointed. They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing. False witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

Reader #1

They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing.

[4th candle]

People:

And Jesus said "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me; but now, behold, you scourge me and lead me away to be crucified."

Reader #2

When they had laid hands on Jesus and were holding him, he said "Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me: but now, behold, you scourge me, and lead me away to be crucified."

[fifth candle]

People:

Darkness covered the whole land when Jesus had been crucified: and about the ninth hour he cried with a loud voice: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" and he bowed his head and handed over his spirit.

Reader 1

Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, "Father into your hands I commend my spirit. And he bowed his head and handed over his spirit."

[6th candle]

People:

See how the righteous one perishes, and no one takes it to heart. The righteous are taken away and no one understands. From the face of evil the righteous one is taken away, and his memory shall be in peace.

Reader 2

Like a sheep before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgement he was taken away: and his memory shall be in peace.

[seventh candle]

People:

I was like a trusting lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living"

Reader 1

All my enemies whispered against me, and devised evil against me, saying "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit; Let us cut him off from the land of the living.

[eighth candle]

People:

The veil of the temple was torn in two and the earth shook and the thief from the cross cried out, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Reader 2

The rocks were split, the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who slept were raised: and the earth shook, and the thief from the cross cried out, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

[9th candle]

People:

When the Lord was buried, they sealed the tomb, rolling a great stone to the door of the tomb, and they stationed soldiers to guard him.

Reader #1:

The chief priests gathered before Pilate and petitioned him: and they stationed soldiers to guard him.

[10th candle]

People:

God did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.

Reader 2

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and he opened not his mouth.

[11th candle]

People:

They shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child; for the Lord, who is without sin, is slain.

[12th candle]

People:

From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.

Reader #1

In my despair, I said:

"In the noonday of my life I must depart: My unspent years are summoned to the portals of death,"

"No more shall I see the Lord in the land of the living, never more look on my kind among dwellers on earth,"

"Between sunrise and sunset my life is brought to an end; I cower and hope for the dawn."

From the gates of hell O Lord deliver my soul."

People:

O Death, I will be your death; O grave, I will be your destruction.

Reader 2

My flesh also shall rest in hope: you will not let your holy one see corruption.

People:

Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.

Reader 1

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; therefore God has

highly exalted him and bestowed on him the Name which is above every name.

Acolytes will Strip the Chancel for Good Friday. As they work all sing,

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.

Reader 2: Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross.

Reader #1:

Makes a loud noise, and the remaining candle is brought from its hiding place and appears on the altar.

As the song is sung very softly and the lights are brought to a very dim position, this is the signal to depart from the nave. We request that all depart in silence. Thus we observe the Discipline of Silence.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND LESSON
EASTER - THE LIVING CROSS

OPENING HYMN: JESUS LOVES ME!

PRAYER:

THANK YOU JESUS FOR BRINGING US HERE TODAY TO BE WITH YOU AND TO GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR LOVE AND CARE FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN. AMEN

LESSON: WHY DO WE HAVE A LIVING CROSS?

*TO REMIND US THAT ON EASTER MORNING JESUS' FRIENDS WERE SAD BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT HE HAD DIED AND WAS FOREVER IN THE GRAVE.

*BUT WHEN THEY WENT TO THE GRAVE THEY SAW THE BIG STONE AT THE GRAVE WAS ROLLED BACK. HIS BODY WAS NOT THERE. HAD HIS ENEMIES STOLEN IT?

*NO. THEY FOUND HE WAS ALIVE. HE TALKED TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HE ATE FISH WITH THEM. THEY TOUCHED HIS BODY AND FELT HIS WOUNDS. HE WALKED ALONG THE ROAD WITH THEM AND HE TAUGHT THEM ABOUT GOD. HE TOLD THEM NOT TO BE SAD ANYMORE. HE WAS ALIVE. HE HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD. HE SHOWED THEM THERE WAS LIFE AFTER DEATH.

*IT IS LIKE WHEN BULBS ARE PLANTED IN THE EARTH. THEY SLEEP DURING THE WINTER AND IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE DEAD. BUT IN THE SPRING WHEN WE GO TO THE GARDEN WE SEE THEM. THEY COME TO LIFE AGAIN; AFTER THE HARD WINTER WE THOUGHT THEY WERE DEAD BUT FOUND THAT WAS NOT TRUE. THEY CAME TO LIFE AGAIN. GOD GIVES US THE GIFT OF LIFE IN THESE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS. TODAY WE ARE GOING TO REMEMBER THE NEW LIFE JESUS GAVE US. THE DAFFODILS OR CARNATIONS YOU WILL BE GIVEN WILL REMIND YOU OF JESUS GIFT OF NEW LIFE WHICH WE CELEBRATE TODAY. THAT JESUS LIVES AND IS HERE WITH US. WE WILL USE THEM TODAY TO BUILD THE LIVING CROSS OF JESUS. THIS CROSS REMINDS US THAT EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE TRIED TO KILL JESUS THAT HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND THAT HE LIVES AND IS WITH US RIGHT HERE - TODAY!

EACH CHILD AND EACH PERSONS PRESENT IS GIVEN A DAFFODIL OR CARNATION TO CARRY FORWARD TO THE CHANCEL TO HELP BUILD THE LIVING CROSS. HELPERS WILL GUIDE EACH PARTICIPANT TO PLACE A FLOWER IN THE LIVING CROSS. THE CROSS IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHANCEL.

PRAYER: THANK YOU GOD, FOR THE MANY THINGS YOU HAVE GIVEN TO US. HELP US TO HELP OTHER CHILDREN BY GIVING AND SHARING EVERYDAY. WE PRAY THIS PRAYER IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN

FOLLOWING THE BUILDING OF THE CROSS THE CELEBRANT WILL SAY: LET US STAND AND SAY THE ANCIENT EASTER GREETING! PASTOR: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" CHILDREN RAISE HANDS AND ARMS AND REPLY: "HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!" THE PASTOR AND CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR WILL THEN BLESS EACH CHILD AND PRESENT EACH ONE A SMALL GIFT CROSS WHICH SAYS "JESUS LOVES ME"!

EVERYONE STANDS AND SINGS THE CLOSING HYMN.

HYMN: "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!"

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.

Dearly Beloved; Following the example of the Apostles of our Lord, the Church bestows upon those who have been baptized, and have been properly instructed, the blessing of Confirmation by prayer and the lay on of hands.

In this sacred ordinance you, on your part, renew and ratify the promise and vow made in your Baptism; whilst the Church, in God's stead, claims you publicly for his service, blesses you in his Name, confirms you in his covenant, and invokes upon you in larger measure the n

Holy Spirit by whose help alone you are able to fulfill your vows by leading holy and obedient lives.

Do you now, in the presence of God and this Congregation, renounce the vain pomp and glory of the world, the lust of the flesh, and all evil works and ways?

Answer. I do

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Answer. I do

Do you promise according to the grace given you, to live a Christian life, and always to remain a faithful member of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer. I do

(Congregation Stands)

Do you as members of the Congregation of United Evangelical Church United Church of Christ, receive these confirmands into membership in this Church?

Answer. We do.

Profess now your faith before God and this Congregation.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hell;* the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Catholic Church;**the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of the sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Congregation may be seated

LET US PRAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who out of infinite mercy in Christ Jesus has through Holy Baptism received *these thy servants*, and hast given unto *them* the remission of *their* sins; strengthen *them* now, we beseech thee, O Lord, through the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and daily increase in *them* thy manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, now and forever. *Amen*

The Confirmands shall kneel and the rite of Confirmation shall take place. The Minister, and Council with the laying on of hands, shall say.

The Father of mercies multiply in you his grace and peace, enable you truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you unto the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting. *Amen*

LET US PRAY

We give thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, for the great goodness thou hast been pleased to show toward *these thy servants* by giving *them* power this day to accept for *themselves* thy covenant of salvation. And now, O Lord, we beseech thee, perfect the good work which thou has begun in *them*. Keep *them* from the evil that is in the world. Make *them* faithful unto death, that no man may take from *them* the crown of life. And grant, that having continued thus steadfast in faith and hope to the end, *they* may be counted worthy to be joined with thy saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

The Comfirmants shall rise, and the Minister, extending the right hand of fellowship, shall say, with council.

We now receive and welcome you into the fellowship of this congregation, and invite you to partake of the Holy Communion and to participate in all the privileges and obligations of the Church of Christ.

And now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. *Amen*

Presentation of Bibles by Sunday School

See what the Father has given us that we should be called the children of God and that is what we are. *Amen*

(Used in 2002)