



rites
FOR THE
LENTEN JOURNEY



Order of Christian Workers

Welcome

**to our Community
and to our life together;
we are honored by your presence,
for we know that the stranger,
as well as the friend,
brings us the Christ!
Please know that
all people are welcome
at this Table.
Our prayer is that you
will be with us often...**

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INTRODUCTION

The rites contained herein are, for the first time, included in this *separate* booklet—partly because of the special nature of the Lenten journey, and partly because we wish to continually adapt new wording and action to our rites as we experience them; hence, as we experience and adapt these rites, this separate booklet will be easier to reprint and share with others.

If you wish to use the “Lenten Mass” on either a *weekly* or a *daily* basis, you can find the lectionary for daily readings from various websites, such as:

<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/> ,

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/lm/rcl.html> ,

and

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/s-sermon-main.html#lection>

A non-internet resource for these same readings may be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church, as well as in liturgy books of other denominations.

We hope, of course, that this booklet will be of spiritual and liturgical benefit to you as you travel the Lenten journey... and we hope, too, that you’ll visit us in our Community, and often at our website: www.orderofchristianworkers.org .

If you would like to contact us, you may do so through the website, or call us at 903-595-3191, or email us at journey-ocw@earthlink.net .

You may also wish to see our book for the remainder of the year, *Liturgies, Learnings, and Pastoral Rites*.

Blessings,

✠ Fr. Tom, Abbot

Lent, 2004

A LITURGY FOR A HOLY EUCHARIST OF THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Gathering

We gather in respectful quietness...
and a bell is rung to mark our presence together
[A song may be offered]

Greeting

Celebrant: Blessings and peace to you in your continuing
Lenten journey.

People: *Namaste. May we do this holy act with you and all
others who seek this sacred Way.*

Celebrant: Let us pray through our hearts, minds, and souls:
We call upon You, O Eternal Spirit, whom we call
Beloved Parent, to bless us in this sacred act of
learning, sharing, and reflection. Our first intent is to
be at peace with You, ourselves, and others, as we
humbly seek forgiveness and acceptance by You and
all others with whom we live and struggle in our
common journey of life;

People: *please hear our desire to forgive and be forgiven.*

Celebrant: Our second intent, O God, is to be fully present in this
spiritual journey today: listening, thinking, feeling,
reflecting;

People: *please hear our desire to be present in You, O God.*

Celebrant: Our ultimate intent, of course, is to know the Presence of
the Christ within us,

People: *for of such is the Peace of God;*

Celebrant: and to fervently seek a true and honest perception of the Christ within those around us,

People: by which we become the Body of Christ.

[The Celebrant welcomes all to the Celebration—especially those who are visiting—offers any special intentions, and continues:]

Celebrant: In anticipation of this holy Meal and of our opportunity to share this Life together, we always begin with moments of silence, to remember why God beckoned us to this place at this time...

[Silence is observed, and then:]

We offer great thanks, praise, and gratitude, O God, for the grace which allows us to be together in this presence once again!

Readings

[Selections of ancient or contemporary wisdom and/or the life of a saint may be offered by Companions]

[A song may be offered after the readings]

The Gospel

[The people are asked to stand, and a bell is rung before the appointed Gospel is announced by the Celebrant or someone appointed:]

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of the Christ according to _____.

[The reader concludes the reading by saying:]

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Christ.

People: Thanks be to the Christ for Living Truth.

Sermon/Homily

[The Celebrant or other Companion reflects upon the Gospel]

The Prayers of the People

[A Companion is asked to beckon the Community to open prayer, inviting petitions, prayers, hopes, and thanksgivings]

As we perceive the Presence of God in our midst,

we are called to be especially mindful of:

The Creation in all its wholeness...

The Family of all peoples in all places...

Our own families, both of origin and choice...

Our friends and neighbors...

Those who are close but far away...

Those who are far away but close...

Those whom we have trouble loving, including ourselves...

Those whom we have called enemies...

Those who are in daily need...

Those who suffer in body or spirit...

Our ancestors, both ancient and recent...

Those who have been recently born...or died...

Those who are seeking rebirth...

Those who hold public trust in all places...

Those who are in a state of change or sorrow...

Those who have a special need...

***[The people offer their petitions and concerns,
either vocally or silently]***

And we celebrate the many blessings and joys of this life, giving heartfelt thanks for particular Grace:

***[The people offer their thanksgivings, either vocally or
silently]***

In remembrance of our struggles, our weaknesses, our needed amends, our gratitude for God's gifts of grace, and in the Light of the teaching of the Christ, we find in the Prayer that You taught us—the Prayer from Your own heart—all the encouragement we need this day and this hour for our continuing journey:

(ALL) Our Creator in heaven,

Holy is Your Name;

Your reign has come,

Your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Strengthen us in the time of trial,

*and deliver us from evil.
For the Dominion,
the Power,
and the Glory are Yours,
now and forever.*

Amen. ✠

Celebrant: Our Eternal Creator and Healer, who forgives us and all people of earthly transgressions,

People: even as we acknowledge our heartfelt and passionate remorse,

Celebrant: knowing that You wish only for our health and well-being,

ALL: we accept now, openly and in grace, your unconditional love and forgiveness,

Celebrant: even as we forgive ourselves and others for the frailties of this life, knowing that we are one with You and each other in Your Presence;

*ALL: strengthen us in new peace,
in new sight,
in new understanding,
as You guide us to the vision of the
Domain of Life and Hope. Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: In the Grace of forgiveness and acceptance, with the assurance of Love and New Hope amongst us, we say with great joy:

The Peace of God be always with you!

People: And also with you!

**[All those present greet and bless one another
in joy and thanksgiving]**

[Announcements or special intentions may be made after The Peace]

[A song is sung or a bell is rung, as the liturgy continues]

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us gather together now in the promise of this holy Meal,

People: for we need courage to continue on in the desert journey;

Celebrant: hoping always to find that oasis of hope, that wondrous sign of Your presence within us and around us,

People: in the people who love us, in the passion You offer us

Celebrant: to be truly ourselves, to plumb the depths of our souls to find that childlike sacredness which You promised is in each of us.

People: And so we come to this Table grateful, O God,

Celebrant: for the abundant fruit of transformation which You offer us even in the midst of the desert journey:

People: of the discovery of friends out of enemies, of new learnings out of tired behaviors,

Celebrant: of justice out of despair, of jubilee out of self-imposed prisons, of integrity out of jealousy,

People: of sincerity out of shame, and glory out of loss.

Celebrant: And so we stand at Your well of enlightenment, drinking its pure water of choice and respect and peace and possibility,

People: knowing that You have given us the means to continue our pilgrimage,

Celebrant: knowing that You always beckon us to come home to ourselves and to others,

People: by clothing and feeding and finding ourselves in others,

Celebrant: by finding You in the stranger, in the outcast, in the enemy, and in the mirror of our common soul.

People: For such endless and abounding Grace, we offer our hymn of thankfulness:

*ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy One,
God of power and delight,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the Spirit of God.
Hosanna in the highest!*

✠ The Consecration ✠

- Celebrant: We remember that, in his celebration of *havurah* between the desert and his final offering of love, he called together his own circle of friends,
- People:* *the same men, women, and children with whom we live and struggle and love,*
- Celebrant: and he told them that he wanted to share a new Meal, a Meal that came out of his own experience and transformation in the desert,
- People:* *a meal to which we are invited at this very moment!*
- Celebrant: He took the common bread from the Table [*a bell is rung*], blessed it with holy spirit, broke it into pieces for each and all, and said, “The recipe for this new Bread of Life is one you can only taste by sharing it, for it has the ingredients of eternity: this allows our Body to become One!”
- People:* *And the people said together: “We are so hungry for such Bread!”*
- Celebrant: He then took the cup of common drink [*a bell is rung*], gave great thanks for it, blessed it with holy spirit, and said, “This drink comes from that flowing well of the desert’s oasis, that artesian spring of God’s heart,”
- People:* *that will satisfy our thirst for New Life,*
- Celebrant: “that will bring what you’ve always dreamed:
- People:* *to BE the Body of Christ!”*
- Celebrant: O Father God/Mother God, we thank you for both the desert and our *havurah*,
- People:* *for saints, prophets, peacemakers, and holy fools,*
- Celebrant: for [*N.*] and all of those whom we carry in our hearts and prayers each day;
- People:* *And so we ask only for Your Presence and Your Promise:*
- Celebrant: that the Grace of this holy act shall make us one body,
- People:* *one spirit in the Christ,*
- Celebrant: that we may worthily serve all of Creation in Your Name!
- [*The Bread is broken*]
- Celebrant: Rejoice! We now partake of the oasis of God’s love!

People: Alleluia! Let us share this Meal forever! Amen!

The Invitation to and the Sharing of the Holy Meal

Celebrant: Gifts of God for all the children of God!

Take them in remembrance that the Christ does live within you, and that you are called to share that Christness with all of Creation all the days of your life.
Amen.

People: We come to the Table in that remembrance. Amen.

[The Elements are shared among the Community... and ALL people who seek the Christ within them are invited to receive the Eucharist]

[The Celebrant receives communion personally and for all those who are not physically present, and ends with Amen..]

People: Amen.

The Commission

[The Celebrant asks a Companion to lead the recitation]

Companion: As we prepare to carry our lives and ministry to our brothers and sisters, in humility and commitment, we remember the commission from St. Francis:
O Christ, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred,

People: let us sow love.

Companion: Where there is injury,

People: let us offer pardon.

Companion: Where there is discord,

People: let us seek union.

Companion: Where there is doubt,

People: let us acknowledge faith.

Companion: Where there is despair,

People: let us offer hope.

Companion: Where there is darkness,

People: let us shed light.

Companion: Where there is sadness,

People: let us enliven joy.

Companion: Allow us to console; allow us to understand, allow us the Grace to love,

People: for it is in giving that we receive;
Companion: it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
People: and it is in dying that we are born to New Life!
Amen.

[A song or other music may be offered]

The Community Blessing

Celebrant: O Holy One, lead us forth into the world in the peace and love of the Christ.

People: We go forth joyfully to live in that peace and love!

Celebrant: Lead us once more through the desert to our new Jerusalem.

People: We go forth inspired to see all the saints in our lives!

Celebrant: Lead us forth into the possibilities of Your Grace.

People We go forth eager to see them with new eyes and open hearts!

Celebrant: Lead us forth with the courage to live Your passion.

People: We go forth committed to live in the passion of Your love!

Celebrant: Lead us forth in the knowledge that the Grace of God will always beckon our return to sacred *havurah*.

People: We go forth and will return in the Grace of God!

Celebrant: Lead us to reach out to each other in all sorts of embarrassing and encompassing ways,

People: for it is only in reaching that we touch.

Celebrant: We go, then, with the Blessing of God our Creator,

People: God the Universal Christ,

Celebrant: and God the Spiritual Manifestation of Grace and Hope,
now and forever.

People: Thanks be to God!

Celebrant: The Meal is ended... Go in peace, seeking justice!

People: Amen! So be it! Amen!

[A song or other music may be offered]



A LITURGY FOR AN AGAPÉ MEAL ON MAUNDY THURSDAY

The Hebrew word “Seder” denotes the community meal which commemorates, basically, the exodus of the Israeli tribes from their bondage in Egypt.

We do not honor our Jewish brothers and sisters by believing that we can fulfill or imitate a true Seder, for that is a vital and honored ritual of their religion.

Consequently, Christian spirituality observes this agapé meal as a memory of the Last Supper, that occasion of havurah when lessons were learned and emotions were shared among those who had struggled together. In our own rite of havurah, this agape meal reflects our exodus from the captivity of our fears, our prejudices, our addictions, our pain. Through this act of eating a meal of reflection and celebration together, we look to New Life and hope as we enter the New Jerusalem of freedom, mutual respect, responsibility, sobriety, and love.

[The People gather at the community table in silence and meditation]

Our Petition

Celebrant: Bless our God, who accepts us as we are.

People: *Our God’s mercy endures forever.*

Celebrant: Even as our ancestors put themselves into bondage and fear, so we put ourselves into the captivity of fear and oppression.

People: *Let your mercy, O God, lead us into new lands of freedom and joy.*

Celebrant: Even as the Law was given to guide us in our

spiritual formation, allow us now to enter the adulthood—the brotherhood and sisterhood—of Grace: new understanding, new vision, a New Covenant.

People: Give us the eyes to see, the ears to hear, the hearts to accept.

Celebrant: O God, have mercy.

People: O Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: O God, have mercy upon us, each and every one.

The Gospel

John 13:1-15

The Foot-Washing

Celebrant: Fellow servants of the Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of intentional humility. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Domain of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such intimate service. We all need to remember his example, but none stand in more need of this reminder than those who assume the community mantle of servant-leaders. Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ to allow me this act of remembrance, that I may recall whose servant I am, by following the example of my Rabbi, my Teacher. But we do this thing remembering his admonition that what will be done for us is also to be done by us to others, for “a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

[The celebrant, in silence, washes the feet of a Companion, who in turn washes the feet of another Companion, and likewise to other Companions]

The Prayers of the People & The Peace

Celebrant: O Father God/Mother God, in our earthly concerns for others and ourselves—as well as our gratitude for liberation—we know that You will hear our thoughts, our words, and our deepest hopes:

[Companions offer their prayers of petition and thanksgiving, either silently or aloud]

Celebrant: Alleluia, the Peace of God is now within you!

People: *And also within you!*

[All those present now bless and greet each other]

[A bell is rung as the celebration continues...]

The Meal

[A woman—and a child, if present—light the candles]

Celebrant: Happy are they of steadfast faith who bless the light of candles shining in the darkness...Rejoice, O Earth, for those who keep the Way, for there is still song for them within you.

People: *May the lights we now kindle inspire us to use our powers to heal and not to harm, to help and not to hinder, to bless and not to condemn, to serve you, O God of Freedom.*

Celebrant: Now we recall the bitterness of the bondage which our spiritual ancestors knew;

[Each person dips some greens into salt water and eats them]

by this taste may we remember and acknowledge any hardness which remains in our hearts.

People: *Yet, Blessed are you, O God, for you turn our bitterness into sweetness, our bitter herbs into manna, our bondage into freedom.*

Celebrant: We praise you, O God, Creator of the Universe,

who has kept us in life and sustained us in Grace.

People: *We thank you, O God, for calling us to service, for hallowing our lives by bringing us to others.*

Celebrant: And now we break and share the bread. Among people everywhere, sharing of bread forms a bond of fellowship. For the sake of our redemption, we remember the ancient words which join us with our own people and with all who are in need; with the wrongly imprisoned and with the beggar in the street...for our redemption is bound up with the deliverance from bondage of all people everywhere. This is the bread of affliction, the poor bread, which our ancestors ate in the land of bondage. Let us know that it is transformed into the new bread of freedom!

People: *Let all who are hungry come and eat; let all who are in want share in our hope.*

Celebrant: As we eat together here, we become One Body with people everywhere.

[The bread is broken and distributed; when all have bread, it is held up]

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

[A bell is rung]

“This is my Body, broken for you. Take. Eat. Do this to remember me and to make me present with you forever.”

[Each person eats the bread]

[As common drink is poured into the cup]

Celebrant: Each drop of wine we pour is our hope and prayer that people will cast out the plagues that threaten everyone, everywhere they are found, beginning in our own hearts:

People: The making of war, the teaching of hate and violence, the spoiling of the earth, the perversion of justice and government,

Celebrant: The fomenting of vice and crime, the neglect of human needs, the oppression of nations and tribes and peoples,

People: The corruption of culture, the denial of learning and human discourse, the erosion of freedoms.

[The Celebrant holds high the cup]

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

[A bell is rung]

“Drink this, each and all of you. This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the celebration of New Life. Whenever you drink this, do it in remembrance of me, to remember that I am present with you forever.”

[The cup is passed, each drinking from it in turn]

Celebrant: Alleluia! Our life is over and finished; our Life is just now beginning anew and again...

[each person takes a boiled egg, dips it into the salt water, and eats it, as a sign of new growth, new life, and new hope]

Celebrant: And so our sacred meal, our agape, is has ended.

People: And yet, by the Grace of the Christ, our havurah, our company of friends, continues...

Celebrant: Go, then, into the servanthood of New Life. Amen! Alleluia!

People: Amen! Alleluia!

[If a common meal is then shared, the food will be basic and simple, with all of the people in loving company, even as they remember what shall follow on the morrow....]

A LITURGY FOR A PILGRIMAGE THROUGH THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

It is the tradition of the Order of Christian Workers to enact a procession of the Stations of the Cross each year on Good Friday, at noon, through the streets of our city, thereby re-enacting the scandal of persecution and crucifixion within the domain of our public life; we process as pilgrims, not judging other people who may encounter us, nor wanting to impose our spiritual practice on others. We are led by our Community cross, and we stop for the various Stations at places which seem appropriate to our locale. The liturgy could, of course, be enacted anywhere (church, home, etc.), yet we find that the public enactment is loyal to the theme and the remembrance of the rite.

I

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus is condemned to death.**

All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.

Celebrant: The evidence against you is healing and teaching, transformation and liberation, passion and intimacy, servanthood and testimony in a world often filled with darkness.

Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of your sentence to death,

Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

II

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus carries his Cross.**

All: *We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.*

Celebrant: We know that the burden you carry is immense, that you can barely proceed under its weight, even as you see the burdens of so many others in this world.

Pilgrims: *Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:*

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of your universal burden,

Pilgrims: *lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.*

III

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: [a bell is rung] **Jesus falls for the first time.**

All: *We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.*

Celebrant: We know how many times you fell short of the expectations of our humanity, how many times we have asked you to fulfill our will rather than your own; we know how many others in this world fall under the weight of life.

Pilgrims: *Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:*

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of unhealthy selfishness,

Pilgrims: *lead us now into the Light of spiritual*

resurrection.

IV

[*A bell is rung*]

Celebrant: **Jesus meets his mother.**

All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.

Celebrant: We remember your struggles to find acceptance and intimacy with those who were the very closest to you; may we remember the crucifixion in our own present world among families and friends and communities.

Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[*Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments*]

Celebrant: From the darkness of isolation and chaos,

Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

V

[*A bell is rung*]

Celebrant: **Simon helps Jesus carry his Cross.**

All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.

Celebrant: We know, too, that there are crosses too heavy to bear on our own; we know how others struggle under ceaseless weight to survive in our world, waiting for someone—anyone—to offer their shoulder of strength.

Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[*Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments*]

Celebrant: From the darkness of unrelatedness and selective blindness,
Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

VI

[*A bell is rung*]

Celebrant: **Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**
All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.
Celebrant: We know that we—and all of our world—hide behind masks of denial, shame, arrogance, and inertia; may you help us to wipe our faces clean, so that we may see and be seen in all that we are, all that we may become.
Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[*Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments*]

Celebrant: From the darkness of self and social deception,
Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

VII

[*A bell is rung*]

Celebrant: **Jesus falls for the second time.**
All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.
Celebrant: Oh, how hard it is to accept that everything won't be fixed by magic and miracle, that we are called to struggle over and over with the demands of our lives, of our world, of our spiritual pilgrimage.
Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to

Speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of timidity and despair,
Pilgrims: *lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.*

VIII

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus speaks to the women.**

All: *We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.*

Celebrant: We continue to search for you only among the powerful, the accepted, the celebrity, the leaders, the beautiful, the successful—forgetting that you live with the outcast...those whom we continue to crucify around us.

Pilgrims: *Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:*

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of our self-imposed blindness,
Pilgrims: *lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.*

IX

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus falls for a third time.**

All: *We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.*

Celebrant: We want everything to be perfect, under control. We want people to live our way. We get annoyed when healing and change and transformation don't happen immediately. Do

you really suggest that we should expect seventy times seven?

Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of our personal and social declarations of superiority,

Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

X

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus is stripped of his clothes.**

All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.

Celebrant: What agony it is to be stripped of our personal signs of power and prestige! What agony when our society must look at its injustices and weaknesses! How painful when we are asked what we *really* worship!

Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of hearts of stone,

Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

XI

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus is nailed to the Cross.**

All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.

Celebrant: Must we always hammer the personal and social nails of exclusion, bigotry, prejudice, denial, hate, disregard, and disrespect, simply to feel better about ourselves and our society?

Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of spiritually and socially killing our brothers and sisters,

Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

XII

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus dies.**

All: We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.

Celebrant: If we could only see our lives, our history, our world from the perspective of those last moments, we would know the truth of your life and your caring and your model of transformation. We would know, even in our limitations, the beauty of the pilgrimage.

Pilgrims: Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of myopia unto death,

Pilgrims: lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.

XIII

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus is taken down from the Cross.**

All: *We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.*

Celebrant: How much we look for a happy ending to all of life's struggles, pretending that there is no growth or transformation in the passion of struggle. We taunt our world and ourselves with demands of seeming success, only to miss the message of your voice in the silence.

Pilgrims: *Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, tongues to speak, that we may declare where you are being crucified today:*

[Pilgrims may offer prayers or comments]

Celebrant: From the darkness of personal and social obsession,

Pilgrims: *lead us now into the Light of spiritual resurrection.*

XIV

[A bell is rung]

Celebrant: **Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

All: *We praise you, O Christ, and we adore you by following the steps of your journey to New Life.*

Celebrant: Nothing is over. Everything is continuing: blessings offered, forgiveness given, moments made sacred, love resuscitated, tears shed, laughs lingering, mourning shared, dancing invited, steps taken, failures celebrated, wounds healed, children protected, relationships honored, enemies embraced, peace proclaimed, hearts resurrected. We wait for the morrow, for the pilgrimage to continue....

[Silence is observed]

Go forth into the world in peace. Be strong and have courage. Do that which is good. Love and serve the Christ within you with gladness and singleness of heart. Reach out to each other in all sorts of embarrassing and encompassing ways, knowing that the Peace of God dwells within you, now and forever.

Share this Bread, as a sign and memory that you do not ever go alone. Amen.

[All those present exchange the Peace of God, share the Bread, and then disperse in quiet reverence]

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wreck like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to hear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Our God has promised good to me, God's word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

[adapted from John Newton, 1725-1807]