



*This service is designed for use by a small gathering of God's people outside of the assembly of the full community. It draws from the Eucharistic tradition, but it is not a sacramental meal. All Christians are called to bless, and this includes blessings of food and drink shared and the people gathered. The people assemble with greetings and conversation. Candles are lit by individuals as they arrive, accompanied by a moment of silent prayer. One person acts as the leader to keep the flow of the worship moving. Prayers and readings are divided among the rest of the group.*

*The leader opens with Call to Worship*

### **Call to Worship**

*One* For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken. – Psalm 62:6-7

### **Opening Prayer**

*An appropriate prayer is offered to set the tone for worship. Collects from The Book of Common Prayer, especially the collect appointed for the day, are always appropriate.*

### **Music Offering**

*Please feel free to hum along! Singing in a mask is discouraged by health officials due to concerns for higher CO2 rebreathing when singing.*

### **The First Reading:**

#### **1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*One* I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings

with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

## The Second Reading:

### Mark 1:14-20

*One* After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## Teaching

*In small groups of approximately three, remaining at appropriate physical distance, choose **three** questions to discuss for approximately twenty minutes.*

Paul writes at great length to the church in Corinth about marriage and divorce and other social relationships.

Underlying and informing everything he writes is the sense that time has grown short and the world is passing away.

– Given the many hundreds of years that have passed since Paul wrote to the Corinthians, can we recover the urgency of Paul's vision of a world that is even now passing away?

– What might it mean to hold lightly the things of this world and to place our trust in God?

– What might you give up if you knew Jesus would return next week?

– What might you need to leave behind in order to follow Jesus?

– In what ways are you called to follow Jesus in our own time? Can you ever hope to do so with the swiftness of Simon, Andrew, James, and John?

## Prayer of Blessing

*Before leaving your small groups, standing and remaining at appropriate physical distance, spend approximately five minutes praying for one another in turn. Begin by asking what each*

*person would like prayers for and then have the other members of the group lift them to God.*

## Prayers of the People

*The whole group gathers for prayer. Prayers may be formal and prepared ahead of time, or come forth from the group at the time of worship.*

*Prayers are always offered for:*

- The Universal Church, its members, and its mission*
- The Nation and all in authority*
- The welfare of the world*
- The concerns of the local community*
- Those who suffer and those in any trouble*
- Those who have died*

*This prayer from Praying the Scriptures, by Jeremiah D. Williamson, can be used if desired.*

*One* Put your trust in God always, O people. With humble hearts let us pray to God: “Steadfast love is yours, O Lord; *show us mercy.*”

O God, you have called your Church to be merciful. May your Church be known by the love we show and the grace we speak. Our souls in silence wait for you. *Silence.*

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord;

*All* **Show us your mercy.**

*One* O God, you love those we call enemy. Transform our hearts that we might not wish for the destruction of any but instead hope for the salvation of all people. Our souls in silence wait for you. *Silence.*

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord;

*All* **Show us your mercy.**

*One* O God we recognize that we take your creation for granted. Forgive us and teach us to be good stewards. Our souls in silence wait for you. *Silence.*

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord;

*All* **Show us your mercy.**

*One* O God, we lift to you the hungry and poor of our region. We ask you to be for them a strong rock and refuge. Our souls in silence wait for you. *Silence.*

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord;

*All* **Show us your mercy..**

*One* O God, in you is our safety and honor. Bless those who are sick and those who are brokenhearted. Give to all the comfort of your peace. Our souls in silence wait for you. *The people are invited to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord;

*All* **Show us your mercy.**

*One* O God, even while this life is passing away, you are faithful. Receive

into your heavenly kingdom the dying and dead. Continue to bless them with your love. Our souls in silence wait for you. *Silence.*

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord;

*All* Show us your mercy.

### **Confession**

*One* Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

*All* Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*One* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*All* 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.

### **Blessing of the Meal**

*This portion of the service follows the shape of the Last Supper, and therefore may sound familiar and much like the Eucharist. However the elements are not consecrated, they are blessed, something all Christians are called to do. In times of pandemic, each person brings their own bread and wine. It is the time of prayer together that is shared, not the food. Begin by having the person who will lead the prayer over the bread to invite each person to make ready the food they brought. When all are ready, the prayers are offered.*

*One* On the last night that Jesus gathered with his friends he took bread and he blessed it and shared it with his friends, for God who loves us, feeds us. As God's people ate manna in the

wilderness and were satisfied, so we share this bread with Christ, and with one another. May it be for us bread from heaven, strength for our bodies, balm for our souls, and may it empower us to be Christ's body in this world. *Silence.*

*One* On the last night that Jesus gathered with his friends, he took wine and he blessed it and shared it with them. God who made us delights in us, and gives us good gifts to delight our tongues, and give joy to our souls. As Jesus offered the Samaritan woman water that would not fail, so Jesus offers us the same. May this wine be for us the holy drink of heaven, and may quench the thirst of our souls.

*All* **Holy and life-giving God, we thank you for the bounty of your Creation laid before us. We ask you to bless it, that it may be to us a holy meal. We give thanks for all those who labored so that it might sustain us. Through it may you give us the strength to be your good stewards; to care and tend your creation, and to care especially for our siblings – all the people of this world. We ask these things by the grace of Jesus Christ and in power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The gathered join in eating. As this requires removing mask, care must be taken to ensure proper physical distancing continues. Music may be appropriate.*

## **Music Offering During the Meal**

*Please feel free to hum along!*

## **Sending Blessing**

*One person offers a blessing on the group gathered as they are sent into the world to do the work God has given each to do.*

*All* **Amen.**

*One* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

*All* **Amen.**

*This service includes the work of The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, The Rev. Josephine Robertson, All Saints Episcopal Church, Bellevue, WA and Renew Community House Church.*