



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 Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths. – Psalm 25:3

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 Peter 3:18-22

One Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body,

but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Second Reading:

Mark 1:9-15

One In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now 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."

Teaching

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

- Are there parts of my life where I resist submitting myself to God's guidance and paths?
- Peter knew that those who originally read this letter were facing social ostracism and persecution because of their Christian faith. Through baptism however, they share in Jesus' new life in the spirit. The waters of Baptism rescued them, just as it did those who took refuge in Noah's ark. How might I draw on the power of my baptism as I face adversity?
- How does our baptism strengthen our integrity? How is this manifested in our everyday lives?

Today's gospel captures three distinct scenes: the baptism of the Lord, his time in the wilderness, and his return to Galilee to begin his ministry.

- When do I find it easy to face the unknown? When do I find it difficult?

- What does Jesus teach us through his example of spending solitary time in the wilderness?
- How can I take advantage of Lent as a chance for growth?
- What would I like to accomplish between now and Easter?

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 Brothers and sisters, Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring us to God. Let us pray to the God of our salvation, saying, "Show us your ways, O God, *and teach us your paths.*"

You, O God, have saved us through the cleansing waters of baptism. And you have called us to minister in the name of your Son. Send us out today to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God. Show us your ways, O God,
All **And teach us your paths.**

One Let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes, Righteous God. Deliver the vulnerable from those who would seek to exploit them. Work through us to bring about a just and peaceful world. *Silence.*
Show us your ways, O God,
All **And teach us your paths.**

One Almighty God, you have made a covenant of peace with every living creature that is on the earth. Make us mindful of those creatures with whom we share this planet. May we live in this

world with greater respect for everything around us. *The people are invited to add their thanksgiving, followed by silence.*

Show us your ways, O God,

All **And teach us your paths.**

One O Lord, defend those who are assailed by any variety of temptation. Give them strength in their weakness. Let none who look to you be put to shame. *Silence.*

Show us your ways, O God,

All **And teach us your paths.**

One Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. In your mercy, send your healing grace to those in need. *The people are invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.*

Show us your ways, O God,

All **And teach us your paths.**

One Jesus Christ, all authorities and powers are subject to you, even the power of death. We pray for those who have died, even as we look in hope to the day of resurrection. *Silence.*

Show us your ways, O God,

All **And teach us your paths.**

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.