



*This service is designed for use by a small gatherings 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* Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. – Psalm 22:26

### **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 1:18-25**

*One* The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### **The Second Reading:**

#### **John 2:13-22**

*One* The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house

a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

### **Teaching**

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

- For the Corinthians, life as a Christian was countercultural. Is this still true today? Why or why not?
- How do our earthly divisions affect our lives as Christians?
- What divisions do we still see that threaten to divide us today? How

might a Divine view of things yield solidarity across division?

- Who am I in this story?
- The penitential season of Lent invites us to get ready for the paschal mystery by inwardly examining our own lives and doing some “spring cleaning” of our own. What things do I need to let go of that are hindering my ability to see the power of God in my own life?
- What difficult or challenging events or, conversely, times of wonder and awe, still serve to strengthen my faith?

### **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* God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Therefore, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “O Lord, our strength and our redeemer, *hear our prayer.*”

Almighty God, you are most fully present, not in any building, but in your Son Jesus: give us the wisdom and strength to remove any obstacles that prevent your people from experiencing your presence. *Silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*One* Righteous God, your statutes are just and rejoice the heart: may your justice revive weary souls around the

world. We long for the day when your perfect law is valued more than fine gold. *Silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*One* Creator God, the heavens declare your glory: train our ears to hear and value the testimony of your handiwork. *Silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*One* O Lord, you give wisdom to the innocent: we thank you for libraries and schools and other oases of learning. We thank you for those places where all people, rich and poor, young and old, can increase in knowledge of you and of all you have made. *The people are invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*One* Gracious Lord, your steadfast love extends to the thousandth generation of those who love you: we pray that you will defend us, and all whom we love, from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt our soul. *The people are invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*One* Everliving God, you raised Jesus from the dead: we entrust the dead to the Crucified One in the hope that those who have died in Christ will also be raised to new life in him. *Silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

### **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.*