

## Pastoral Prayer:

Father, we thank you for your  
 awesome love, which was most  
 vividly demonstrated on a rugged  
 Roman Cross outside Jerusalem.  
 Though we do not understand  
 how you could love us so much—  
 we who fail you so often, who  
 know what we ought to do and  
 stubbornly persist in doing just the  
 opposite— we thank you for the  
 gift of your love. Yet having ex-  
 perience that love, Lord, for  
 some reason we seem determined  
 to keep it a secret, we who proudly  
 boast of a new car or low golf score; we  
 who loudly ~~boast~~ proclaim our  
 latest bargain or our children's latest  
 achievement. Having received the  
 most remarkable gift in the world  
 the gift of divine grace— we fail