

Opening prayer: Our God and maker, we gather here to magnify your name. you have given us life and have put hope in our hearts, you have poured your mercy upon us and have forgiven us of our sins. We left our hearts to thee in joy.

On this day, we especially thank you for Jesus Christ, who is our King. Empower us that we might give ourselves to him as willing subjects, without reservation and with singleness of mind. Enable us to live lives that will bring honor to his name. Guide the Church, O Lord, that it might live in faith and truth always. Amen.

Pastoral prayer:

Lord God you know the things we want and you know ^{how} humbly and proudly we seek them. You know the hunger and thirst, the longing and desire, the passion and inclinations of our hearts. We are a people who have sought safety in power, security in possessions, and satisfaction in self. We write our own plan of salvation, and expect deliverance through our own discoveries. But we are a people who have failed to satisfy our spiritual longings with any novelty of our ~~own~~ making, or with any created object or attraction.

Even when we know that our hunger

is for you alone, O God, We try to keep
our attachments to things and people. We
have sought you in ways that require
no sacrifice, and in commitments that
protect our power. We want deep peace,
ultimate satisfaction, and eternal sal-
vation, but we want it through relat-
ionships that we can shape and define.

Your word teaches us that you are a
jealous God, your law requires that there
be no gods besides you. Your blessing is
for the pure in heart who will only one thing
your Son, our Lord, invites his disciples to
leave lesser things and follow him. It is in
yielding that we are satisfied. It is in
in surrender that we are saved. Amen!