

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we come to you with a sense of continued personal need. Sometimes there is an unquenching desire in our hearts to receive what you see that we need. Often we have an unshakable faith that you have what we need, ~~and we wait~~ in your promises. We still understand that through your withhold for a while, you love to be asked and asked again. Grant us a firm belief that if we ask believing, we shall receive. Amen

Pastoral Prayer: Almighty God, you spoke through your Son, Jesus Christ, the words "People ought always to pray." Just as the widow cried day and night to the unjust judge, may we who labor under injustice and oppression offer our prayers to you. If a mere selfish feeling prevailed with the bad judge, we are made certain that you will give good gifts to those who ask. If the impatience and perseverance of the widow at last prevailed, how much more will these virtues prevail with you? If we are on the right terms with you, then we know you will answer and answer us. We expect better treatment from you, a God of love, than that from a heartless judge. As we ask, we believe you will act. When you withhold the help we plead, continue to send your widow and love as we wait with

Patient hearts. Our solemn charge,
in spite of unnumbered oppositions and trials,
is to keep the Faith

