

Opening Prayer: Gracious God,  
 you came to us in the one from  
 Nazareth. You will come in a new  
 manifestation when you conclude hu-  
 man history. You come again and  
 again to us now, as often as the day  
 is new.

Open our ears to hear you.

Open our eyes to see you.

Open our hearts to love you.

Do all of this we ask; that we might  
 know this day to be the day of your Visitation  
 to men!

Pastoral Prayer: O Saving God you are in-  
 deed the author of the Word of Life. Even  
 as you open our ears to hear it, prepare our hearts  
 to receive it, and fortify our wills to do it. Let  
 that Word fall upon us afresh until our  
 resistance to you crumbles, our frigidity  
 thaws and we cast ourselves upon you.

Quicken in us a readiness to trust you.

Fashion in us an eagerness to love you.

Foster in us a hunger to know you.

Awaken in us a desire to obey you.

As our Lord has told us of your great power—

Osity, let us take him at his word and believe with renewed confidence that you will give us everything we need at all times and in all circumstances.

We intercede today for those of this congregation who have found the past week tumultuous; those who buried someone dear to them; the people whose illnesses and hospitalizations have left them anxious; the many whose problems cannot be solved and must be endured.

For all these we pray, that in their sadness or fretfulness or solemnness they will ever know that you are God, that life is good, that you can be counted on to infuse all of life with your grace and truth. Amen.