

Opening Prayer: God of love, today we know that prayers for ourselves are not enough. Today we would remember the lonely of the world. We ~~are~~ lonely people every day. We know something of what they feel, but we confess that we are often insensitive and uncaring. We see ~~off~~ others trying to cover up their loneliness, but we go on our merry way, indifferent to the need that is all around us. O God, open us up to a new ministry of caring to the millions of people close at hand and around the world, who are lonely.

Today we remember the world's sick. When we are in good health, we forget what it's like to suffer. When we go to school or to work, or about our daily routine each day, we forget what it's like to be confined at home or in the hospital or in a nursing home. When we sit down to eat an abundant meal, we forget all about those who are unable to eat because of illness. O Lord, forgive us and open us up to a new ministry to the world's sick and to those who are shut-in.

Today we would remember the world's
sorrowing masses. Death might seem
far removed from us, but the first death
is a destroyer for so many. Many
seek to be free and are willing
to protest and to suffer for
that freedom. We would remember
those who sorrow because of ac-
cidents or natural disasters. Many are
unable to cope with life. O God,
open us up to a new ministry
to those close at hand and
around the world who suffer
and sorrow today.

Opening prayer: O gracious God,
we come as those who long to
walk along your pathways of
grace and love. But many times
we get discouraged. We are afraid
of difficult experiences. We des-
pair at the challenges that come to
us. The roads often become steep
and rocky, and we often become
weary. We get a feeling of hopeles-
ness, get the best of us, O God, care
for us on our journey. Help us
to know that your love is al-
ways with us, sustaining us
and surrounding us with care.
O God, today take our roads -
weary lives and transform us
into your new people. In the
name of Jesus Christ our Savior ^{amen}