

Opening prayer: Creator-Father, in admiration of your goodness, we gather to pray and to praise you, to hear your word and to find hope for our lives.

In celebration of your love, we recognize the weakness of our love, which has caused us to be unloving toward our neighbor. Inspire us with your forgiveness so that we may embrace those who offend us as well as be restored to those to whom we have given offense. Make us one as our Lord prayed in the upper room, O Lord.

In the joy your presence gives, renew us to live as your restored believers through Jesus Christ, the resurrected and rescuing One.

Pastoral Prayer: Let us not sidestep your questions, Lord Jesus, or ignore your signs and wonders or miss the fish or ignore the sheep. Encourage us through the Holy Spirit to be those who, like your James, with the care you instructed us to give, inspire us by your word to watch over your sheep, nurturing them lovingly - those who live in splendor as well as those who live sparsely and sparingly; those ailing in mind and body as well as ~~in~~ those agile and whole; those faithful and generous as well as those faithless and penurious. This day, Lord, show us where the fish and the sheep are so that we may haul in a catch

of the former and gladly feed the
latter. Help us, Lord, by our actions and
expressions to ~~love~~ love you as much
as did your disciples of the past, and more
so, if you will enlarge our hearts. To your
glory, We pray —

