

Opening prayer: O gracious God, we come to you on this morning
confessing that we at times do not have any charity
to share, or prayers to offer or forgiveness to grant. We
come with contrite hearts, bringing our times of failure,
our disappointments, our unfulfilled dreams, and our times
of dryness. We know that you can supply all needs and
quench the thirsting of our souls. Help us, O Lord, to be
your people. Amen.

Paternal prayer: Guide our Church, O Lord, into a sense of what it means to be crucified for the world: to stop thinking about ourselves and think about our neighbors; to stop trying to be great through having and learn about being great through serving. Stir our imaginations to see the new world, the prophets saw, and the ^{new} world Jesus saw, and let us recommit ourselves to that world, in this present age; not a world of hurry and hustle and make do and get by, but a world of slowing down and listening and caring and sharing and celebrating the one true faith, revealed in a cross and an empty tomb.

Embrace our visitors in your love. Lift the burdens of those whose hearts are heavy. Guide the lost back to the path. Touch with healing those who need it most. And help us to rejoice today in your word, in your presence, and in the privilege of worship, for this is a special place and a special ~~hour~~ day, and we hope for a special encounter, through Christ our Lord.