GREETING

We have gathered here this morning/day/evening, to place our future in God’s hands.

As we pray through our uncertainly, our disbelief, our anger, or our hurt…all of our deeply felt emotions…let us remember that God has called us by name and desires to give us a future full of hope.

And so, let us pray…

O God, come to my assistance.  
R/. Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

R/. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SONG:  
Healer of Our Every Ill (Haugen/GIA) [or Though the Mountains May Fall (Schutte/OCP)

Psalm 46 (please sit)

Assembly: alternating sides

Side I  
God is for us a refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of distress:  
So we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea; even though its waters rage and foam, even though the mountains be shaken by its tumult.

ALL  
The Lord of hosts is with us: The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Side II  
Come and behold the works of the Lord,  
the awesome deeds he has done on the earth.  
He puts an end to wars over all the earth; the bow he breaks, the spear he snaps, the shields he burns with fire: “Be still and know that I am God, exalted over all the earth.”

ALL  
The Lord of hosts is with us: The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SCRIPTURE  
(1Corinthians 2:1a, 3-5, 7-11)

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God,  
I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

For we speak God’s wisdom, mysterious and hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory.

None of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written: “What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him,”

--these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

For what human being knows what is truly human

Except the human spirit that is within?

Similarly, no one knows what is truly God’s
REFLECTION
Let us reflect in silence on the psalm and Scripture we have heard today.
After a time, consider these questions:
What are your thoughts about the changes facing our parish and its people?
Consider how you would complete this sentence:
Concerning the changes faced by this parish, “I feel…”
After taking this time to reflect on your feelings, if you wish, share with the group or the
person next to you. If sharing as a large group, sing/pray a refrain or antiphon after
every few statements. Try to focus on your feelings and emotions, rather than actions.

SUNG/SPOKEN RESPONSE: Healer of Our Every Ill (Haugen/GIA)
[or choose an alternative from your hymnal]

THE LORD’S PRAYER (please stand)
So often we cannot find the right words, so now we turn to words we know by heart,
the words our Savior taught us:

R/. Our Father…

CLOSING PRAYER
O God,
you hear our inmost thoughts
and know the needs of our hearts.
In the midst of complex emotions,
we turn to you in prayer.
Hear us, O God, in our uncertainty and doubt,
in our fear and in our anger.
If anger rises up,
help us to rely on you.
Guide us with the wisdom to see
new paths of possibility
and the vision to move forward.
Give us the strength to be unafraid
of what is new.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

BLESSING
(Lead by a priest or deacon)  (Lead by a layperson)
May the Lord bless you all,
the Father, and the Son +
and the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

Let us conclude our prayer with a sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.