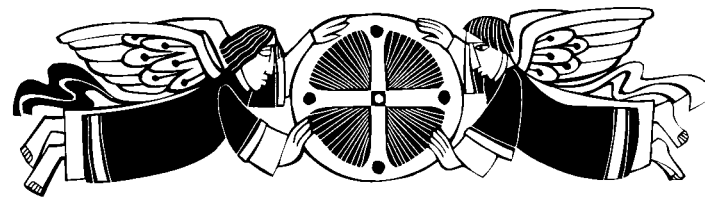




Prayer - Planning - Possibilities

Prayer Service in Response to Parish Changes

Praying
through uncertainty,
to understand our feelings,
to wrestle with our emotions,
and to unite ourselves with God
and the community.



Prepared by the Office of Worship
and the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Erie

April 15, 2016

GREETING

Leader: We have gathered here this *morning/day/evening*, to place our future in God's hands.

As we pray through our uncertainty,
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.***

GATHERING SONG

"Healer of our every ill" by Marty Haugen (GIA)
(or choose an alternative from your hymnal.)

Refrain

Heal-er of our ev-'ry ill, light of each to - mor-row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor - row.

CLOSING BLESSING

(Led by a lay person)

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us to the joy
of everlasting life.

(Led by a priest or deacon)

May the Lord bless us all,
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

Let us conclude our prayer
with a sign of the peace of Christ.

All exchange a sign of peace.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: 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

Leader: 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.¹

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

¹ Adapted from **Order of Prayer: In Times of Anger and Hurt**
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2014, Diocese of Erie.

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PSALMODY

(choose a sung or recited setting from below or your parish music hymnal)

Psalm 46:

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 READING

First Corinthians 2: 1a, 3-5, 7-11

A reading from the first letter of 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
except the Spirit of God.

The Word of the Lord.
R/. Thanks be to God.

COMMUNAL SHARING

Leader: Let us reflect on the Psalm and Pauline Scriptures
we have heard today.

As you ponder their words and phrases,
what are your thoughts about the changes
facing our parish and its people?

After a few minutes of silence,
consider how you would complete this sentence:

Concerning the changes faced by this parish, “I feel...

After taking time to meditate and write down
your feelings, if you wish, share with the group,
or someone next to you. After every few state-
ments, sing/pray a refrain or antiphon. Remem-
ber, this prayer time is for understanding and ex-
pressing our feelings and emotions. Discussing
changes to the plan can happen later.

Sung/Spoken Response: “Healer of our Every Ill”
(or choose an alternative from your hymnal.)