

## MEALTIME PRAYER IN HOUSEHOLDS DURING THE EASTER SEASON

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### ***The Fifth to Seventh Sunday of Easter 2020, Including Feast of the Ascension, Thursday, May 21***

*One of the understandings of which many of us have lost sight in recent years is the notion of the household as 'Domestic Church.' From the earliest days of Christianity, families and other households were a primary setting for worship and discipleship formation. The church placed great emphasis on encouraging and supporting the domestic church. Likewise, in recent decades, though we may refer to Sunday as "The Lord's Day," so many demands and distractions we encounter often mean we end up treating Sunday observance as "The Lord's Hour."*

*This rite has been provided so households may dedicate one meal on each of the Sundays during the 50-Day Season of Easter as a time for worship, prayer, devotion, and the sharing of faith. While helpful in a time of pandemic when we cannot gather with our congregations, it is also hoped that this kind of practice will become an ongoing tradition in our households, even when we no longer must practice 'social distancing,' so we might better nurture the domestic church and devote more of Sunday as the high feast day of the week.*

*Two options are provided for The Gathering in this service. You will want to review them ahead of time and decide which one you will use.*

*As you use this resource, you are encouraged to provide for the breakfast/brunch or the dinner it accompanies the same kind of sumptuous fare you would put out on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Easter.*

*Much of this rite is based on the Home Prayers found in The Book of Alternative Services 1985 (BAS) of The Anglican Church of Canada, and on the Gathering Rites for the Paschal Cycle approved by The General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada in 2019. (Available at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Gathering-Rites-for-the-Paschal-Cycle.pdf>)*

## *+ Preparation +*

*You will need a candle or a number of candles for your table, and a bowl or basin of water (and a pitcher of water if you are using Gathering Option #1).*

*You will also need a Bible. If a Bible is not available, a copy of the readings for each Sunday is provided below.*

*You may also wish to use a copy of The Book of Alternative Services (BAS), if you have one in your home.*

*If desired, copies of this rite may be printed for everyone. However, the service is designed so the parts voiced by participants are those already known or easily memorized. So printed copies for all are not necessary.*

*The meal is prepared. Before the table is set and the food is served, the following rite for washing hands may take place. The Leader or another person says,*

*As we prepare to serve our meal, let us begin by washing, cleansing our hands as we were cleansed in the waters of baptism. We do this not because we are afraid, but because we are commanded to love. So we cleanse our hands as an expression of love for the vulnerable people Jesus loved. May we be instruments of God's care. May the sacrifices we make be for the good of our human family near and far.*

*All present then wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water. Once washed, each person should help with setting the table as they are able.*

*This handwashing rite is provided by The Rev. Josephine Robertson, All Saints Episcopal Church, Bellevue, WA. Used and adapted with permission*

## + *The Gathering (Option 1)* +

*The candle or candles on the table or in the worship area are lit. The Leader or the one who lights the candle(s) says the following:*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."  
May the light of his Spirit shine through us,  
making his risen life known to others.

*Then the leader continues,*

*Leader:* God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*Others:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*Someone pours the water into the basin or bowl.*

*Leader:* Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised to new life in the Spirit.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Then the Leader gives thanks, saying,*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.  
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.  
Through water you led the children of Israel  
out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.  
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John  
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,  
to lead us, through his death and resurrection,  
from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.  
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.  
By it we share in his resurrection.  
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son,  
we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.  
We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism  
may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Participants are encouraged to dip their hand in the water and trace the sign of the cross on their forehead or over their body as a remembrance of their baptism. Members of households may choose to trace the cross on the forehead of each other, saying, "Remember your baptism."*

## **Song**

*A favourite song, refrain, or hymn for Easter, or extolling Christ as our light, or encouraging us to let our light shine before others may be sung. As another option, an "Alleluia" that you know from the worship life of your church may be sung.*

## **Table Prayer**

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*Others:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Table Prayer at Breakfast or Brunch (based on John 21.1-14):*

*Leader:* Blessed are you, O God. On the beach of Lake Galilee, the disciples recognized the risen Jesus when he prepared a charcoal fire and cooked them bread and fish for breakfast. We give you thanks that Jesus is with us at the beginning of our day. Help us to show our thankfulness by seeing him in everyone we meet. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

*Table Prayer at Supper (based on Luke 24.13-35):*

*Leader:* Blessed are you, O God. The Lord Jesus made himself known to the disciples of Emmaus in the breaking of the bread. May our meal together this evening reveal his presence among us so, like them, we can tell others that Jesus is risen. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## + *The Gathering (Option 2)* +

*The candle or candles on the table or in the worship area are lit. The Leader or the one who lights the candle(s) says the following:*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."  
May the light of his Spirit shine through us,  
making his risen life known to others.

*Then the leader continues,*

*Leader:* God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*Others:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Leader:* God of promise,  
the breath of the risen Christ fills us with your Spirit,  
his word causes our hearts to burn within us,  
and the revelation of his presence in the breaking of bread  
inspires us to share the good news of his love.  
So shape us by your word and Spirit  
that as we see you in Jesus,  
so the world may see him in us.  
We ask this in the name of the risen and ascended Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

*Others:* **Amen.**

### **Song**

*A favourite song, refrain, or hymn for Easter, or extolling Christ as our light, or encouraging us to let our light shine before others may be sung. As another option, an "Alleluia" that you know from the worship life of your church may be sung.*

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*Table Prayer at Supper (based on Luke 24.13-35):*

*Leader:* Blessed are you, O God. The Lord Jesus made himself known to the disciples of Emmaus in the breaking of the bread. May our meal together this evening reveal his presence among us so, like them, we can tell others that Jesus is risen. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

*Other prayers for Grace at Meals can be found in The Book of Alternative Services (1985), pp.694-695.*

*The Table Prayers are adapted from texts prepared for the 'Lift Up Your Hearts' initiative of the Diocese of Algoma, 2015.*

## *+ The Meal +*

*The meal is now eaten. If several are gathered, they first serve one another, then dine.*

## *+ Praise +*

*Here may follow a psalm, hymn, song, or instrumental music.*

## *+ The Word and the Prayers +*

*At the end of the meal, someone reads one of the following Bible passages:*

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (May 10): Acts 7.48-60*

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (May 17): Acts 17.22-31*

*Ascension of the Lord (May 21): Luke 24.44-53*

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (May 24): Acts 1.1-14*

*This scripture passage may be read from your Bible or using the copy of the passage provided as the first appendix to this service.*

*A short commentary accompanies the readings in the appendix.*

## **Reflection**

*After a period of silent reflection, the Leader begins the time of shared reflection. The following questions may be used.*

1. What word, image, or phrase stands out to you from the story?
2. Where in this story do you see the risen Jesus or the Holy Spirit at work in and through the life of his people?
3. What does this story tell you about how we can allow the risen Jesus to be seen in and through us?

## Prayers of the People

*You may use a form of the Prayers of the People provided in Appendix #2, or you may simply choose to do the following:*

*Presider:* I invite each and all of you to name those people and places for whom we should pray and remember this day.

*Time is allowed for people to do so.*

*The Prayers of the People conclude with the Collect of the Day – Easter 5 (BAS, p. 340); Easter 6 (BAS, p. 341); Ascension (BAS, p. 343) Easter 7 (BAS, p. 344) – or with the following prayer.*

*Leader:* God unheld by word or wall:  
lift us from dullness and cynical contempt;  
make us ready for your Spirit of transforming power;  
and turn our hearts to the mending of the world,  
through Jesus Christ, the name above all names,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

*If Gathering Option #1 was not used, the following may precede the Lord's Prayer.*

*Leader:* Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised to new life in the Spirit. Let us remember the gift of baptism.

*Participants are encouraged to dip their hand in the water and trace the sign of the cross on their forehead or over their body as a remembrance of their baptism. Members of households may choose to trace the cross on the forehead of each other, saying, "Remember your baptism."*

## Conclusion

*Leader:* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

*All:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



## **Appendix #1 – Readings**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 10)**    *Acts 7.48-60*  
*Contemporary English Version*

### Context:

This scene mirrors Jesus' crucifixion. As Stephen dies, he asks Jesus to receive his spirit, just like Jesus commended his spirit to God, voicing the words of Psalm 31.5 (Luke 23.46). Stephen also asks God to forgive those who are killing him, as Jesus had done (Luke 23.34). Stephen sees a vision of the exalted Jesus and, as he dies, continues to bear witness. In his life and death, Stephen proclaims the Lordship of Jesus.

### Reading:

Stephen continued his testimony, saying, "The Most High doesn't live in houses built by human hands. As the prophet says,

*<sup>49</sup> Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.  
'What kind of house will you build for me,' says the Lord,  
'or where is my resting place?  
<sup>50</sup> Didn't I make all these things with my own hand?'*

<sup>51</sup> "You stubborn people! In your thoughts and hearing, you are like those who have had no part in God's covenant! You continuously set yourself against the Holy Spirit, just like your ancestors did. <sup>52</sup> Was there a single prophet your ancestors didn't harass? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the righteous one, and you've betrayed and murdered him! <sup>53</sup> You received the Law given by angels, but you haven't kept it."

<sup>54</sup> Once the council members heard these words, they were enraged and began to grind their teeth at Stephen. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side. <sup>56</sup> He exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God's right side!"

<sup>57</sup> At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, <sup>58</sup> threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" <sup>60</sup> Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 17)**

*Acts 17.22-31*

*New Revised Standard Version*

Context:

Paul is on his second missionary journey. He has crossed Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and has arrived in Athens, a city known for its interest in the divine, and for its openness to discussion of philosophies and religions. He recognizes an opportunity within that place to speak of the God of Jesus Christ, and to share the news of the Resurrection.

Reading:

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

## The Ascension of the Lord

Luke 24.44-53

*New Revised Standard Version*

### Context:

Today's story displays Jesus insisting that the events of the gospel must be understood in light of the great narratives of the Hebrew Scriptures: the fulfillment of "the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms." This was especially important when Luke's Gospel was written so Gentile believers would not be tempted to interpret the good news through the lens of Greek wisdom or paganism. It is important today so we do not interpret the gospel through the lens of consumerism, a particular nation's values, or simply our own "spiritual growth." If you observed the Easter Vigil in your household this year, or with your congregation in years past, see how many readings from the Old Testament you can recall from the Great Vigil as you reflect upon this reading.

### Reading:

<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**Seventh Sunday of Easter (May 24)**

*Acts 1.1-14*

*New Revised Standard Version*

Context:

The Sunday nestled between the Feast of the Ascension and Pentecost celebrates the enthronement of Christ as Sovereign of the universe. Thus, while the church awaits the fulfillment of God's promises and hungers for Christ's return, it also lives by remembering God's past and future while experiencing the Lord's presence in the fellowship of believers. The Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus inaugurate the longed for future of God, the coming of God's Kingdom in its fullness.

*The Acts of the Apostles*, from which today's story comes, picks up where the *Gospel according to Luke* ends. *Luke* and *Acts* are by the same author, whom we call Luke. Both books are written to Theophilus, a name that means "lover of God." This may be a particular person. However, it may refer to any reader who loves God. In this story, as Jesus disappears from sight, the disciples are assured that Jesus will return the same way they saw him leave, with his hands extended in blessing.

Reading:

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come

upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## **Appendix #2 – Prayers of the People**

*If more than one person is praying this service in a household, one or more participants other than the Leader may voice the following prayers, all participants responding with the text in bold print.*

### ***Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 10)***

Let us pray for this Diocese of Algoma,  
particularly the Parish of St. Stephen  
in Rosseau, Orrville, and Ullswater/Bent River,  
served by The Rev. Peter Simmons, The Rev. Dr. Cal MacFarlane,  
and The Right Reverend George Elliot;  
and the congregation of Christ Church, Windemere,  
served by The Rev. Robert Clubbe.

And as we continue to celebrate the power of God  
in these Great Fifty Days of Easter,  
let us lift our hearts in prayer for the church and the world as we say,  
“May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.”

God who has made us a holy nation, a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
we confess that we do not always live faithfully.

Far too often, we have used our words  
to tear down rather than build up,  
throwing them at each other to injure.

Forgive us and shape us as a dwelling place in your Word.

We lift our hearts to you, O God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

God of all times and places,

we yearn for your peace to reign on earth as in heaven.

Cause the nations and peoples of the earth  
not to throw stones of violence,

but to build with the stones of justice and concord.

Like living stones, make of us a spiritual household.

We lift our hearts to you, O God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

God our hope,  
we stand with all the disinherited indigenous people  
of this and other lands.  
We pray for their health and education,  
for the fostering of their cultures,  
for their leaders,  
and for all who work with them for justice and reconciliation.  
Open every eye to recognize the kinship of all people.  
We lift our hearts to you, O God:  
**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

Ever-present and sustaining God,  
reveal your glory to those who are ill or who suffer in any way,  
*particularly N.*  
Be their strong rock, a castle to keep them safe.  
Fill our hearts and deeds with compassion toward those in need.  
We lift our hearts to you, O God:  
**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

God who remains faithful beyond the grave,  
who raises the dead to new life,  
we give thanks for the martyrs who have laid down their lives for Christ,  
especially Blessed Stephen,  
and we remember before you all who have died, *especially N.*  
Into your hands we commend their spirits.  
Into your hands we commend our own.  
Make your face to shine upon your servants.  
We lift our hearts to you, O God:  
**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**



***Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 17)***

We cannot live and love as Jesus did,  
except through the mysterious power he gives through his Spirit.  
That we may live as his face and hands, his heart and body,  
let us pray to the Lord as we say,  
“May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.”

For the church throughout the world,  
particularly our siblings in Christ who suffer for doing good,  
that, with gentleness and reverence,  
we may always be ready to account for the hope that is in us,  
let us pray to the Lord: **May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For our Archbishop, Anne, and for this Diocese of Algoma,  
particularly Northern Lights Parish in Haileybury and Cobalt,  
that we may boldly proclaim the One  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
let us pray to the Lord: **May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For all who serve in leadership in our congregation,  
*[in addition to clergy, you may wish to name Wardens and other leaders,]*  
that they may inspire our love of Christ  
and support us in the keeping of his commandments,  
let us pray to the Lord: **May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For the nations and peoples of the earth, *particularly N.,*  
that all people, particularly those who hold wealth, rank, or privilege,  
may learn to walk in the way of God’s justice and peace,  
let us pray to the Lord: **May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For the children of our diocese, deanery, and parish,  
and all who work with them most directly, *particularly N.*,  
and that the rest of us will find their youthful enthusiasm contagious,  
let us pray to the Lord: **May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For the sick and all who suffer, *particularly N.*,  
that they will know they are in Christ, and Christ is in them,  
let us pray to the Lord: **May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For those we love but see no longer, *particularly N.*,  
and that in our living and dying  
we may bring to birth the God who cradles us in goodness,  
let us pray to the Lord: **May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

***The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday, May 21)***

The ascended Christ will return to us in the same way he left: with his hands extended in blessing. Therefore, we worship in great joy and pray with deep confidence, lifting our hearts to God as we say, "May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth."

For our siblings in the Lord martyred or persecuted for their faithfulness to Christ, *particularly N.*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That as Christ knows their humanity through the Incarnation and their suffering through his cross, they may know the victory of his Resurrection and Ascension, let us lift our hearts to God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For the church throughout the Diocese of Algoma, particularly the Church of the Ascension, Sudbury, and its clergy, The Rev. Aidan Armstrong, The Rev. Jeffery Hooper, and The Right Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews.

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That until Christ's return in glory, the church may fulfill his commission to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth, let us lift our hearts to God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For those who expected to be baptized at the Christian Passover, or during this great fifty-day season of Easter, but found their Initiation delayed, *particularly N.*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That with the eyes of their hearts enlightened, they may know what is the hope to which God has called them, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, let us lift our hearts to God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For the earth and its peoples, *particularly N.*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That the leaders of nations may glimpse and embrace the new creation  
in which peace, justice, and reconciliation reign,  
let us lift our hearts to God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

For those who suffer from sickness or other forms of need,  
*particularly N.*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That set free from their afflictions  
they may shout to God with loud songs of joy,  
let us lift our hearts to God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

Let us remember the dead, *particularly N.;*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

and that the dying may find hope  
in the triumph of Jesus over death,  
let us lift our hearts to God:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

***Seventh Sunday of Easter (May 24)***

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
may give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,  
and that all people may know the One  
who reigns over every authority and power and dominion,  
let us offer ourselves in Christ as we sing/say:  
"May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth."

God in whom we live, we pray for the unity of Christ's church.  
We pray, in particular, for the Anglican Church Women of this Diocese,  
and their Executive.

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That all the baptized may live and recognize ourselves as his body,  
the fullness of him who fills all in all,  
we offer ourselves in Christ:  
**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

God who makes the greatest of the least,  
we pray for the children of our church and the surrounding community.

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That all people may be filled with childlike surprise and wonder  
in the face of your goodness,  
we offer ourselves in Christ:  
**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

Light for the righteous, we pray for our world, *especially N.*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That nations and peoples may embrace the peace, justice, and joy  
of the One who was lifted up and reigns over all the earth,  
we offer ourselves in Christ:  
**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

Wellspring of freedom,  
we pray for those longing for deliverance  
from fear or anxiety, oppression or want,  
illness or any other affliction, *especially N.*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

That they may know the immeasurable greatness of your power,  
we offer ourselves in Christ:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**

Ever-faithful One, in whom our future rests secure,  
we remember before you those who have died in the peace of Christ,  
and the departed whose faith is known to you alone.

*We remember particularly N.*

*{pause for silent prayer}*

And that we, with them, may see the glory of the ascended Lord,  
we offer ourselves in Christ:

**May your Holy Spirit guide us into truth.**