**‘Gathering of the Community’:**

**Seasonal Option for Lent (Option 1)**

*This file is provided for those who might find it easier to work with MSWord than with the PDF file available in the online “Becoming the Story We Tell” resource.*

*The Book of Alternative Services (and Evangelical Lutheran Worship) provide different forms for the beginning of the Holy Eucharist (BAS, pages 185, 216; see also ELW, peoples’ book, pages 94 to 102). The forms provided in “Becoming the Story We Tell” are suggested specifically for the seasons of Lent and Easter.*

*By using this penitential form of Gathering during Lent, followed in the Easter Season with a form of Gathering based on thanksgiving for baptism, the customary order of Confession and Absolution may be seasonally replicated: a season of penitence, followed by a season of rejoicing in the peace and absolution of the risen Christ.*

*In this option, a different question arising from the baptismal covenant is recalled each week, followed by the choice of two prayers of confession. In Option 2, the recollection of all the questions belonging to the baptismal covenant, each followed by a congregational response, serve as the act of confession.*

*The customary Confession and Absolution is not used after the Prayers of the People if this form of the Gathering is used.*

**Gathering of the Community**

*All stand. The presider greets the community.*

*Presider:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **His mercy endures for ever.**

*Presider:* Almighty God,

*All:* **to you all hearts are open,**

**all desires known,**

**and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution**

*Presider:* Dear Friends in Christ,

as we prepare for the Paschal Feast,

continuing in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,

in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers,

let us make ready our hearts

to renew the covenant of our baptism.

Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

*All Kneel.*

*The presider continues,*

Let us ask God to bring to light

the things now hidden in darkness,

and to disclose to us the secret purposes of our hearts.

And most especially,

let us remember the covenant of our baptism

and test our hearts and conscience

to know how faithfully...

*Lent 1:*

...we have persevered in resisting evil,

and whenever we fell into sin,

have repented and returned to the Lord.

*Lent 2:*

...we have proclaimed by word and example

the good news of God in Christ.

*Lent 3:*

...we have sought and served Christ in all persons,

loving our neighbours as ourselves.

*Lent 4:*

...we have striven for justice and peace among all people,

respecting the dignity of every human being.

*Lent 5:*

...we have striven to safeguard the integrity of God’s

creation, respecting, sustaining and renewing the life

of the earth.

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider:* Most merciful God,

*All:* **we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us,**

**that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Or*

*Presider:*  Holy and immortal God,

*All:* **you formed us from the dust in your image,**

**and redeemed us from sin and death**

**by the cross of our Saviour.**

**Through the washing of baptism**

**you raised us up with him**

**to share in the new covenant with all your holy people.**

**But we have squandered the inheritance of your saints,**

**and have wandered far in a land that is waste.**

**Therefore we turn to you in penitence and humility.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us and restore us,**

**that we may rejoice in your presence,**

**and walk in your ways**

**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Presider:* Almighty God have mercy upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Then may follow an act of praise: Kyrie Eleison or the Trisagion, or a hymn or other*

*canticle.*

**The Collect of the Day**

*Presider:*  Let us pray.

*The community may pray silently. The presider then sings or says the collect, after*

*which the people respond,* **Amen.**