

CALLED AS LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Come, God.
All: Come, seek and find and put us right,
Leader: for you alone are the light in our darkness,
All: and we put our trust in you.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:5-7

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Silent Reflection

Question for Faith Sharing

In this passage Isaiah portrays the destiny of Israel, the ideal of what Israel is supposed to be. How might our planning group, its parishes and faith communities, live out any one aspect of this call?

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

That our communities might always be a visible sign of the
compassion
and justice God extends to all, we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...

Closing Prayer

God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, Holy Spirit the Animator of our lives,

Hear the groanings of all creation as it longs for fulfillment and our amazement at the possibilities you open to us as disciples.

Hear the prayers of your people – the great groaners,
who often try too hard
to say what cannot be said,
to express what cannot be expressed,
to do perfectly what will always remain unfinished.

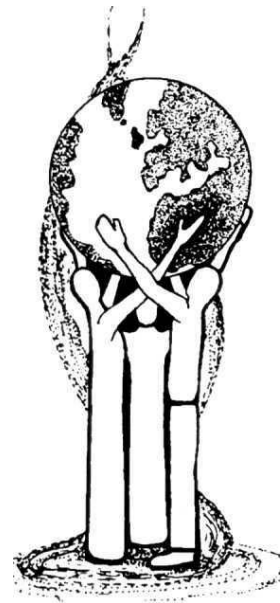
Take our hearts and shake them from complacency.
Turn our thoughts and energies toward kingdom-building.
Show us how to be sensible as well as imaginative,
servants as well as lovers,
co-workers as well as friends.

May we rejoice in our brokenness,
in the wonderfully incomplete world which is ours,
which is us, which is yearning for you.

God our Creator,
give us strength to commit ourselves to do your work.
God our Savior,
come again to reveal once and for all
the fullness of your reign.
God the Spirit, inspire us –
bring us to the task with wisdom and humor,
so that we may be filled with hope and vision.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, forever and ever!

Amen.





DO NOT BE AFRAID

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Word of the Father,
All: come, Lord, come;
Leader: and take our fear away;
All: replace it with your love.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Silent Reflection

Questions for Faith Sharing

The prophet Isaiah insists that the humiliation of Israel in being sent into exile was the punishment of God for sin. Yet Israel is still the servant of God. God has redeemed Israel and promises to protect it during any ordeal.

As we participate in pastoral planning, what fears do I—and the people of our church—have? What can we do to help build our community's confidence that God will lead us through this time of change?

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

For faith in God and in one another, we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...

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Amen.

BECAUSE GOD'S LOVE HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Where two or more of us are gathered,
All: there Jesus is in our midst.
Leader: Be with us, Lord Jesus, for we gather in your name.
All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

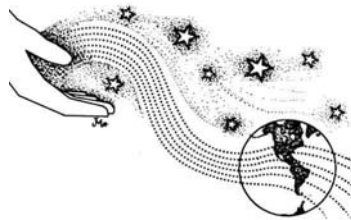
Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Shared Prayer

We are going to use a form of prayer called "collatio." The leader should do the following:

- 1. read the scripture passage once and allow some time for reflection*
- 2. read the passage a second time and invite all those present to share aloud one word from the passage which speaks to them or resonates with them right now*
- 3. read the passage a third time and invite all those present to share aloud one phrase from the passage which speaks to them or resonates with them right now*
- 4. read the passage a fourth time and invite those who wish to share aloud a prayer based on the passage and their reflection.*



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A FUTURE WITH HOPE

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: From the rising of the sun until its setting,
All: let the servants of the Lord praise God's holy name.

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:10-14

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Silent Reflection

Question for Faith Sharing

The people of Israel had been deported to Babylon. Although false prophets assure them that they will soon return to their own land, Jeremiah delivers a different message: they will remain in this foreign country as exiles for seventy years, but then God will reverse their fortunes and bring them home.

*What might God be trying to teach us during this time of turmoil in our church?
What are the voices of hope for us today?*

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

For those most vulnerable in our world, we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...

Closing Prayer

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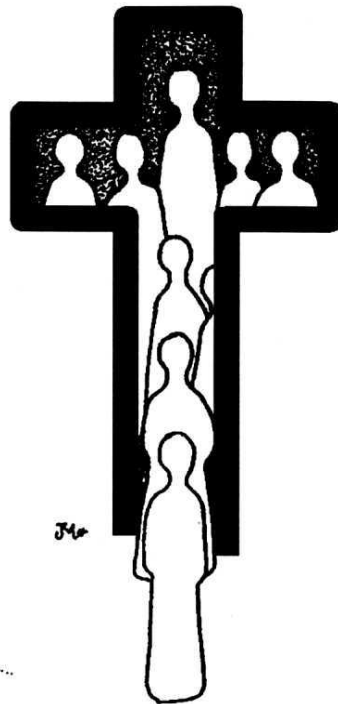
GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Glory to God
All: Praise to the Son
Leader: Love to the Spirit
All: Three and yet One.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Silent Reflection

Questions for Faith Sharing

What is the most powerful thing your church community has done to live out the command Jesus gave to his followers? What remains to be done?

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

For all those who have never heard the good news in a way that
spoke to
their hearts...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...

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DYING AND RISING

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: O God of the stars and the night skies,
All: may your light be coming through thick clouds this night,
Leader: on us and on everyone coming through dark tears,
All: on each one in need and in suffering.

Scripture Reading: John 20:11-18

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Silent Reflection

Questions for Faith Sharing

Dying and rising, even on a daily basis, are part of the Christian life cycle. Recall one such cycle in your own life: a time when you had some sense of "new life" after a time of struggle or darkness. What was it like for you to experience the joy of the "new life"? Did God seem to be a part of that experience? If so, in what way?

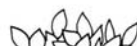
Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

For those who are suffering through war or domestic violence,
we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...



Closing Prayer

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Amen.

CALLED TO GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: God of the past, who has fathered and mothered us,
All: we are here to thank you.
Leader: God of the future, who is always ahead of us,
All: we are here to trust you.
Leader: God of the present, here in the midst of us,
All: we are here to praise you.
Leader: God of life beyond us, within us,
All: we rejoice in your glorious love.



Scripture Reading: Mark 9:2-8

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Silent Reflection

Questions for Faith Sharing

The three apostles are given the gift of a moment of clarity and insight, and they naturally want to hold on to it. But God's voice from the cloud tells them to listen to Jesus and what does he do but lead them down the mountain. When have you been content to "stay put" in your own life? How did God get your attention and lead you to move on down the mountain?

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

In thanksgiving for the times of clarity, wellbeing, and rightness in our own lives, we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any needs so that we may pray for them...

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HOW HARD IS CHANGE

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: A shade are you in the heat, O God.
All: A shelter are you in the cold.
Leader: Eyes are you to the blind, O God.
All: A staff are you to the weak.
Leader: An island are you at sea, O God.
All: A rock are you on land.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:1-4a

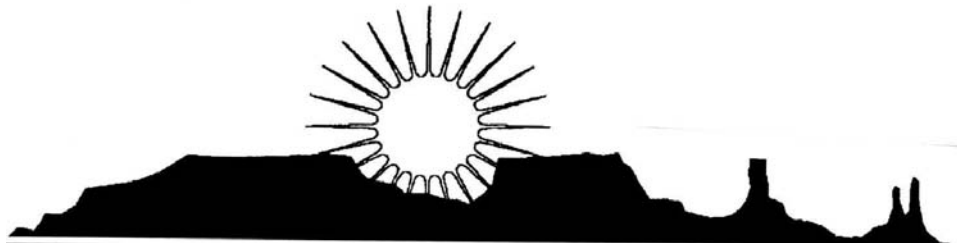
The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day."

Silent Reflection

Question for Faith Sharing

It's been just a short while since God delivered the Israelites spectacularly from slavery and yet they begin to complain. Think about a time in your own life when you had a significant change thrust upon you—one for the good, not bad. What is difficult about these times which can lead us to complain or to want to return to our previous, known world?



Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

new,
others,
For those who are beginning a new job, moving, trying something
that they may experience the presence of God and the support of
we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...

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Amen.

YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: O Christ of the least and the homeless,
All: O Christ of the lost and betrayed,
Leader: Come close to us that we may come close to you.
All: As you blessed us with light at the sun's rising,
shine on us now with love.



Scripture Reading: Luke 8:43-48

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

Silent Reflection

Question for Faith Sharing

Recall a time in your own life when you had to rely on faith to see you through. What was the situation and what was it like for you?

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

For those who have no faith, for those who have lost their faith, for all who struggle to keep their faith, we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...

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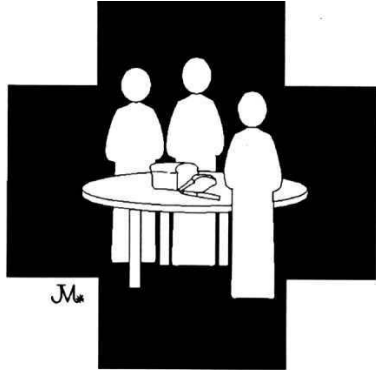
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WE ALL BELONG TO CHRIST



ll,

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, lover of

All: embrace us with your love.

Leader: Bring healing,

All: bring peace.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 9-13

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Silent Reflection

Questions for Faith Sharing

Dissension among the Corinthians undermined the message of the Good News of Christ. Where do you see signs of disunity in our church today—locally or universally? What can unite us in the midst of our disagreement?

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.

For peace and unity in our homes, our church, and our world, we pray
to the Lord...

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A SPIRIT OF WISDOM

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: O God of life, of all life, of each life,
All: we offer you our prayers in the love of Christ,
Leader: in the affection of Christ,
All: in the company of Christ.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 17-23

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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Amen.



CLAY IN THE HANDS OF THE POTTER



Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Speak to us, O God.
All: Speak to us your truth.
Leader: Dwell with us, O God.
All: Dwell with us in love.

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-6

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Silent Reflection

Question for Faith Sharing

In what ways is it difficult, in what ways is it easy, to see yourself, our parishes, or our diocese in the hands of God, the Potter?

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence we now offer God our prayers and our needs.
For an increase in faith, we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Please offer any other needs so that we may pray for them...

Closing Prayer

God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, Holy Spirit the Animator of our lives,

Hear the groanings of all creation as it longs for fulfillment and our amazement at the possibilities you open to us as disciples.

Hear the prayers of your people – the great groaners,
who often try too hard
to say what cannot be said,
to express what cannot be expressed,
to do perfectly what will always remain unfinished.

Take our hearts and shake them from complacency.
Turn our thoughts and energies toward kingdom-building.
Show us how to be sensible as well as imaginative,
servants as well as lovers,
co-workers as well as friends.

May we rejoice in our brokenness, in the wonderfully incomplete world which is ours, which is us, which is yearning for you.

God our Creator, give us strength to commit ourselves to do your work.
God our Savior, come again to reveal once and for all the fullness of your reign.
God the Spirit, inspire us – bring us to the task with wisdom and humor, so that we may be filled with hope and vision.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, forever and ever!

Amen.

PRAYER DURING PASTORAL PLANNING

Leader: God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, Holy Spirit the Animator of our lives,

Hear the groanings of all creation as it longs for fulfillment and our amazement at the possibilities you open to us as disciples.

All: Hear the prayers of your people – the great groaners, who often try too hard to say what cannot be said, to express what cannot be expressed, to do perfectly what will always remain unfinished.

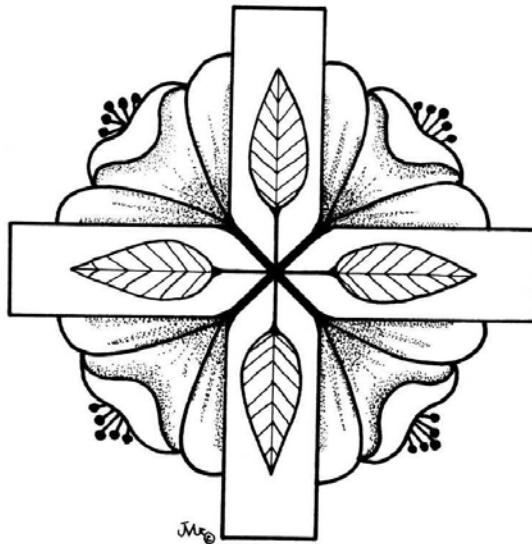
Leader: Take our hearts and shake them from complacency. Turn our thoughts and energies toward kingdom-building. Show us how to be sensible as well as imaginative, servants as well as lovers, co-workers as well as friends.

All: May we rejoice in our brokenness, in the wonderfully incomplete world which is ours, which is us, which is yearning for you.

Leader: God our Creator, give us strength to commit ourselves to do your work.

God our Savior, come again to reveal once and for all the fullness of your reign.
God the Spirit, inspire us – bring us to the task with wisdom and humor, so that we may be filled with hope and vision.

All: Blessed are you, Lord our God, forever and ever!
Amen.



Oración durante la Planificación Pastoral

- Líder: Dios Creador nuestro, Jesús Salvador nuestro,
Espíritu Santo animador de nuestras vidas.
Escucha los gemidos de toda la creación que anhela satisfacer sus aspiraciones y nuestro asombro ante las posibilidades que nos abres como discípulos
- Todos: Escucha las oraciones de tu pueblo,
que siempre se está quejando,
que amenudo trata en vano de decir lo que no es posible decir,
de expresar lo que no es posible expresar,
de hacer perfectamente lo que siempre quedará inconcluso.
- Líder: Toma nuestros corazones y líbralos de la complacencia.
Lleva nuestros pensamientos y energía hacia la construcción del reino.
Enséñanos a ser razonables como también creativos,
servidores como también amantes del prójimo,
compañeros de trabajo como también amigos.
- Todos: Qué nos regocijemos en nuestro quebranto,
en este mundo maravilloso e incompleto, que nos representa, que te desea con ansias.
- Líder: Dios Creador nuestro, danos la fuerza para dedicarnos a hacer tu labor.
Dios Salvador nuestro, ven otra vez a revelarnos de una vez y para siempre la plenitud de tu reino.
- Dios Espíritu Santo, inspíranos para que hagamos nuestra tarea con sabiduría y buen humor, para que nos llenemos de esperanza y de imaginación.
- Todos: Bendito Tú eres Señor Dios nuestro por los siglos de los siglos
Amen.

PRAYER AT A TIME OF STALEMATE

Leader: Now that we seem to be at an impasse, let us pause for prayer...

All: Lord God, hear us as we pray.
We have come to a position from which we are unable to move
ahead
in unison.

And so, we pause to ask your divine assistance.
Help us to back away from this issue so that we might view it
from a vantage point not weighed down by personal interests
or colored with a merely practical logic.

As we pray in silence, guide us to resolve this issue
by the light of the Gospels,
with the gentleness and compassion of Christ
and with true humility of heart.

Silent prayer for perhaps five minutes, allowing people to leave the room for a period of reflection. Upon returning:

Leader: Lord, we come together again in your holy name.

All: Having been nourished by the stillness,
and having heard the divine voice within our hearts,
let us resume our meeting
to see if we can reach a decision that is for our common
good
and for the good of the whole Church.

Amen.

of Go



adapted from Prayers for the Servants

by Edward Hays