



Prayer Service-Pastoral Care Week 2020

OPENING PRAYER

LEADER

Give us open hearts Lord as we prayerfully reflect upon those in our faith community who are sick, suffering or lonely. May we find grace and strength to accompany them in their suffering and fear, and to lessen their affliction when we are able.

READER 1 (Luke 24:13-17)

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast.

SILENT REFLECTION

LEADER

Let us take a moment in silent reflection, considering the reading we have heard.

READER 2 (Luke 24: 28-32)

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”

LEADER

For all who suffer from any illness, terminal disease or loneliness.

ALL (from Psalm 16:11)

In Your presence is the fullness of joy.

LEADER

For those whose lives are threatened by lack of health care insurance, caregivers, family or friends.

ALL

In Your presence is the fullness of joy.

LEADER

For all who live in fear or feel abandoned.

ALL

In Your presence is the fullness of joy.

LEADER

For all people who have no one to care for them, are estranged from their faith or are questioning the value of their life.

ALL

In Your presence is the fullness of joy.

CLOSING PRAYER

ALL

Loving God, may we see the plight of all those who suffer in our midst. Give us courage and compassion to live in solidarity with the suffering. May our hearts, burning with love, bear the burdens of all we visit. And may our loving example ignite the hearts of others to accompany the vulnerable in their affliction. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.