



## Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

You meet us in the most surprising places,  
Risen Christ;  
on the road, for the apostle Paul,  
on the beach, for the disciples,  
so, why not here, for us.

Come to where we are and call us.

Gather us in, in your name,  
and all the people say: **Amen.**

*Light the candle - Christ is with us.*

### Acknowledging

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land and her peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the (please name the people on whose land you gather) People, the Traditional Custodians, have blessed this place through their law and customs, their care and life. We pay respects to their Elders and leaders past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land.



## Singing: Let all creation dance TiS 187

OR: *Jesus calls us here to meet him TiS 477*  
OR: *Come O God of all the earth TiS 181*



## Prayer

From Psalm 30: 10-12

*Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!  
O Lord, be my helper!"  
You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
so that my soul may praise you  
and not be silent.  
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.*

Our souls will not be silent,  
Our hearts will not stop singing  
as we offer our gratitude to you,  
God of mystery and majesty,

Thank you for each breath, each heart-beat,  
each time you call our name..

*pause*

Thank you for the world we inhabit,  
wondrous and marvelous ...

*pause*

Thank you for the life around us,  
people, plants, creatures and critters...

*pause*

Thank you that we belong to you,  
gathered around the fire of your embrace.

*pause*

Yet, we confess, like Peter,  
we often make bad decisions,  
denying your presence in our lives,  
refusing to believe what we know,  
trying to control the narrative,  
instead of walking your way.

*Prayer continues*

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*Prayer continues*

In the quiet we bring to you those things that we need to confess; things we have said or not said, actions we have taken or failed to take, and we lay them before you...

*time of quiet*

We see you standing on the beach, risen Christ, looking at Peter with eyes of love and giving him a mission of tender kindness. We see you standing before us also. We know that we are forgiven, loved and called into the same mission. Thank you. Amen.

## Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:  
**and also with you.**

## Listening

**Read:** Acts 9:1-20 &  
John 21:1-19

For these words of faith  
and for Jesus the Word  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflecting

**Rev. Arnie Wierenga**

These are heady times. Seeing and not seeing. Expecting nothing when the unexpected breaks through. Being passionate and finding yourself turned about in those passions.

Saul is depicted as a powerful, angry and passionate man. Sometimes those most outspoken fear what they fight against, and this makes them fight even harder. As the light blinds him on the road to Damascus, it is as though his capacity to lash out has been taken from him. He believes he has encountered nothing less than the risen Jesus. And from there he is called to love rather than hate.

The disciples in today's passage from John's gospel are also in need of the light. They seem lost, and I feel for them. A long time ago they dropped their

nets to follow Jesus. How long have they lived in his presence? Listening, watching, taking inspiration and finding hope in him. They were lifted in life and hope in his presence, just like those healed by him. If only they could have understood him better. Things would have been less frustrating then. Even Peter might not have tripped over himself so often if Jesus was clear in his call to arms. I can imagine Peter in recent days - lying low, licking his fragile ego, wondering how he could disown Jesus just when the master needed him most. Every morning the blood-curdling cry of the rooster haunting him.

It seems it's time to get on with the new normal. Life as it used to be. Kind of. Out on the lake fishing. But they can't even get that right. After all the knocks and heartbreak, these career fishermen are humbled with nothing to show for their effort. Nothing is working.

I wonder how they felt about one on the edge of the lake teaching them to fish? Who dares tell grumpy old salts how to go about their business? I'm not sure I would have been open to his advice, yet somehow they listen. And being open changes everything.

As the net is loaded to breaking point, Peter is sure this is Jesus on the shore. Who else brings life from death? Who else offers hope amidst despair? Who else brings brilliant and blinding light into the darkest of places? So, Peter does what Peter does. Impetuous, passionate, he can't get to the shore quick enough. The fish can wait, there's more important work to be done.

On the shore, Jesus becomes host again to these weary ones. Fire and fish a source of life and hope. But Peter needs some undoing before the doing work can begin. Three times denial, three times profession of love for Jesus. Broken body, blood shed, the gifts of God for the people of God. In this encounter comes the grace to find life again. Here is an invitation to forgiveness, renewal, perhaps even resurrection. The love of God restores Peter from his hapless state of denial and calls him to be rock and witness to the risen Christ.

*Reflecting continues*

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*Reflecting continues*

The feeding of fish becomes feeding of all who follow Jesus, and perhaps a reminder of the call to fish for people in Christ's name.

It seems that these resurrection encounters share a common thread. When you encounter the risen Christ, you are not simply converted, you are called. You are called to share resurrection life and love in his name. It is not just a coming to the light and being transformed in it. It is transformation, renewal and a new form of being sent.

Which means for Peter he can again leave the nets behind for a new way of fishing, as one who has encountered amazing grace.

Are we open to that? Do we want to be part of that? It begins by loving Jesus more than these ...

### **Singing: Amazing grace TIS 129**

*OR: You are holy you are whole TIS 753*

*OR: Holy Spirit, come confirm us TIS 413*



### **Offering**

Bless what we bring; a bowl full, a net full, a life full. Bless these gifts and bless us, so that we might offer your abundant grace to a world in need of good news. Amen.

### **Notices**

**May 10** World 'Fair Trade' Day.

### **Prayers for World & Community**

We pray for our Catholic siblings as they continue to mourn the passing of Pope Francis. In the words of the Rev.Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, "with deep sorrow, we mourn the passing of Pope Francis, a shepherd of grace and compassion."

We pray for all ministers, priests, pastors and leaders of churches around the world, that they might lead with deep kindness, feeding and tending the flock with love and humility.

We pray for people who have come new to the faith, remembering those who have been baptised at Easter, that they might receive the spiritual nourishment they need to continue to travel on in the way of Jesus.

We pray for people who have given up on the faith, who have been disillusioned, disappointed or distressed by the actions of others, or have failed to find nourishment and meaning where they were looking. Meet them where they are, risen Christ, and surprise them with the wonder of your presence. Lead them into a new way of believing that brings life and healing.

We pray for those people who have, like Saul, waged persistent persecution on some or all of the followers of Jesus. Open eyes, hearts and minds to the possibility of a more loving and inclusive world where difference is celebrated and respected and the river of grace flows deep.

We pray for the seekers, the lost and the wanderers who walk in and out of our doors and hope for something to bring them back to life. May we meet them with freshness and hope. May we be waiting on the shore with a feast at the ready. May we turn up when you nudge us to go, and witness to your presence and your breath of life that sustains us.

We pray for ourselves. We believe, oh yes, we believe, but sometimes we need help in our unbelief. We fall into patterns and ways that are not helpful to us or others. We dismiss things that are new, and hesitate

*Prayer continues*

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Prayer continues

to cast our nets on the other side, even when you tell us to. Stop us in our tracks if we are heading the wrong way, dazzle us with your presence so we can't miss you. Bless your church as we gather on the beach around the fire, and you feed us and we witness your call to us, again and again,

As we pray together as Jesus taught us:

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen**

### Singing: I danced in the morning TiS 242

OR: Yours be the glory, risen conquering Son TiS 380  
OR: Made in God's likeness TiS 671



### Blessing

You meet us in the most surprising places,  
Risen Christ;  
on the road, for the apostle Paul,  
on the beach, for the disciples,  
so, why not here, for us.

Come to where we are and call us.  
Send us out, in your name.

Go and be shepherds,  
tending those around you  
with care and compassion.

May you always know the presence  
of the Good Shepherd,  
guiding and guarding you,  
and all the people say: Amen.

### Blessing Song: Send me Jesus TiS 749



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