Thursday Morning Prayer

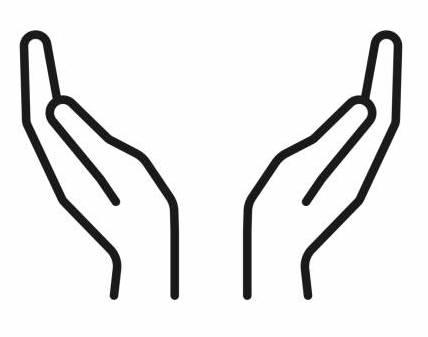
Opening

O God, open our lips,

**And our mouths will proclaim your praise**.

You are good to those who wait for you,

**To all who seek you.**

silence is kept

Confession (“I Confess” by Howard Thurman)

The concern I lay before God today is:

My concern for the life of the world in these troubled times. I confess my own inner confusion as I look out upon the world. There is food for all - yet many are hungry. There are clothes enough for all - many are in rags. There is room enough for all - many are crowded. There are none who want war - preparations for conflict abound.

I confess my own share in the ills of the times. I have shirked my own responsibilities as a citizen. I have not been wise in casting my ballot. I have been concerned about my own little job, my own little security, my own shelter, my own bread. I have not really cared about jobs for others, security for others, shelter for others, bread for others. I have not worked for peace; i want peace, but I have voted and worked for war. I have silenced my own voice that it may not be heard on the side of any cause, however right, if it meant running risks or damaging my own little reputation.

**Let thy light burn in me that I may, from this moment on, take effective steps within my own powers, to live up to the light and courageously to pay for the kind of world I so deeply desire.**

**Amen.**

Psalm

Gospel Acclamation

Lord to whom shall we go

Lord to whom shall we go

You are gracious and merciful

Lord to whom shall we go

Slow to anger and abounding in love

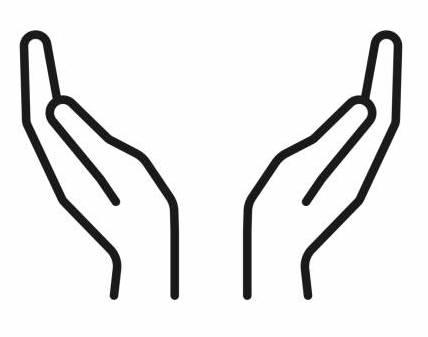
Lord to whom shall we go

Lord to whom shall we go

Let us trust in your word

Gospel Reading

Lent Reflection

silence is kept

Silent or spoken reflections on the readings

Call to intercession

Rejoice in God always. **God is near.**

Do not worry about anything,

But in everything, with thanksgiving

Let your requests be made known to God.

Merciful One, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy, God, **hear our prayers.**

As Jesus taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in Heaven…**

Prayer (“**Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me” by Howard Thurman)**

Open unto us, **light for our darkness**

 Open unto us, **courage for our fear**

Open unto us, **hope for our despair**

 Open unto us, **peace for our turmoil**

Open unto us, **joy for our sorrow**

Open unto us, **strength for our weakness**

Open unto us, **wisdom for our confusion**

Open unto us, **forgiveness for our sins**

 Open unto us, **tenderness for our toughness**

Open unto us, **love for our hates**

 Open unto us, **Thy Self for ourselves.**

**Lord, Lord, open unto us!**

Benediction

Now may the God of peace give us peace at all times in all ways.

**The grace of Christ Jesus be with us all.**

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**