***EXPANDED EDITION***

***for Sunday or midweek online worship gatherings***

**A Sacred Meal for a Dispersed Community available to the**

**Church of New Hampshire**

**Lent 2021**

*Acknowledging that we are not in the same physical space in the same way that Jesus gathered in the Upper Room with his disciples on the night before he suffered, we come together nonetheless via online technology. We do so out of the spiritual yearning for closeness expressed by our Savior who said, “I have eagerly desired to share this Passover with you before I suffer.” (Luke 22:15)*

*Participants are invited to have a candle and ceremonial food prepared and laid out on a table. Bread could be flatbread, crackers or challah; drink could be wine, grape juice, cider, water.*

*This service may be led by a priest, deacon or lay worship leader.*

**Opening Sentences** *(Participants are invited to light a candle here if they choose)*

Create in me a clean heart O God: and renew a right spirit within me. (*Psalm 51:10)*

*Leader:* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

***People:*** Come let us worship.

or

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

***People:*** God’s mercy endures forever.

**The Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God,   
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 neighbors 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.**

*The Priest says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

*A deacon or lay person using the preceding form remains kneeling, and substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."*

*or this* **(From A New Zealand Prayer Book)**

***Leader*** Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. The Psalmist writes, “I will confess my sins to the Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.”

***Leader*** God forgives and heals us.

***People We need your healing, merciful God:***

***Give us true repentance.***

***Some sins are plain to us;***

***Some escape us; some we cannot face.***

***Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us;***

***Set us free to serve you.***

***Officiant*** God forgives you. God forgives others;

Forgive yourself. Through Christ, God has put away your sin:

Approach your God in peace.

*A deacon or lay person using the preceding form remains kneeling, and substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."*

**Collect of the Day**

**Hymn or Song of Praise**

*Taize music and songs about light might be particularly appropriate. Worship music created by music directors from NH churches can be found by going to* [*https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy*](https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy) *or NH Episcopal YouTube Channel* [*https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal*](https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal)*, check back often as content is updated frequently.*

**The Word of the Lord**

(*from the lectionary for the day)*

**Scripture Readings**

**Homily**

**Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. AMEN.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Prayers** *(Suggested Weekly Prayers - See Appendix below)*

**Collect**

**Agape Meal**

**Reading: Luke 22:14-20**  
When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

*The Leader now offers the following prayers.*

**Prayer for Bread**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

**Prayer for Drink**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

**A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one

accord to make our common supplication to you; and you

have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two

or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the

midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions

as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of

your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Leader: Jesus said, “When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Participants now eat their food and drink their drink)*

**Hymn** *(Optional music here while people eating and drinking)*

**Closing Prayer:**

**The General Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness

to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love

in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;

for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,

that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,

not only with our lips, but in our lives,

by giving up our selves to your service,

and by walking before you

in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Appendix I - Prayers of the People (for the Season of Lent):**

**- Suggestion 1 -**

**Prayers of the People for the Season of Lent**

*(adapted from the “Prayers of Intercession” from the ELCA).*

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

Holy God, may your church be a community of reconciliation, and welcome those who are lost, estranged, or alienated from their homes or communities. We pray for Michael, our presiding bishop; Rob, our bishop; Nancy, our Rector; and for all parishioners and visitors, that we might see Jesus in one another and in the stranger. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations from violence and bloodshed to genuine concern for the common good; and care for the earth we inhabit. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurture the faith of those tested by illness, grief, addiction, and anxiety. We pray for those waiting for answers to prayers; for those whose lives are full of tears; and for those sick in body or spirit (especially…). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You call us to return to you during this season of Lent. Satisfy our needs when we are in parched places, and make us strong. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Keep us in communion with all who have died: our loved one and our enemies; the very young and the very old; centuries ago and today. (We remember especially…) Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**- Suggestion 2 -**

**Litany**

Leader: We gather today, with a desire to know your Presence among us.

*People:* Have mercy on us, O God; according to your loving kindness. *(Ps 51:1)*

Leader: Surrounded by illness, we mourn our dead;

*People:* Have mercy on us, O God; according to your loving kindness.

Leader: We know loneliness and discomfort;

*People:* Have mercy on us, O God; according to your loving kindness.

Leader: We cannot see the way that lies ahead;

*People:* Have mercy on us, O God; according to your loving kindness.

Leader: Yet, we know you make a way in the Wilderness;

*People:* Have mercy on us, O God; according to your loving kindness.

Leader: Assure us that you are doing a new thing among us.

*People:* Have mercy on us, O God; according to your loving kindness.

*(Perhaps a final collect including the opportunity to pray for particular persons,*

*and express thanksgivings)*

**- Suggestion 3 -**

**Suffrages A, Morning Prayer, Rite II, BCP 97-98:**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**