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spiritual renewal center



FORGIVENESS SUNDAY
CHEESEFARE

A Liturgy of READINGS, MEDITATION & FORGIVENESS

TRISAGION PRAYERS

Bell is rung for a moment of silence.

Officiant begins and the people respond.

+ Blessed is the Universe of the Source, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Glory to You, O Creator, glory to You.

O Heavenly Grace, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You are in all places
and fill all things; Treasury of Good Things and Giver of Life: come and
dwell in us and cleanse us from every stain, and save us, O Gracious
One.

+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (x3)

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Release us from our illusions of
separation. Pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our
infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

**+ Glory to the Source, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

facing east – Great Spirit of Light, come to us out of the East with the power of the rising sun. Let there be light in our words, let there be light on our path that we walk. Let us remember always that You give the gift of a new day. And never let us be burdened with sorrow by not starting over again.

Be among us, Great Spirit of Light.

facing north – Great Spirit of Love, come to us with the power of the North. Make us courageous when the cold wind falls upon us. Give us strength and endurance for everything that is harsh, everything that hurts, everything that makes us squint. Let us move through life ready to take what comes from the North.

Be among us, Great Spirit of Love.

facing west – Great Life-Giving Spirit, we face the West, the direction of sundown. Let us remember every day that the moment will come when our sun will go down. Never let us forget that we must fade into You. Give us a beautiful color, give us a great sky for setting, so that when it is our time to meet You, we can come with glory.

Be among us, Great Life-Giving Spirit.

facing south – Great Spirit of Creation, send us the warm and soothing winds from the South. Comfort and caress us when we are tired and cold. Unfold us like the gentle breezes that unfold the leaves on the trees. As You give to all the earth Your warm, moving wind, give to us, so that we may grow close to You in warmth. We did not create the web of life, we are but strands in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Be among us, Great Spirit of Creation.

facing the center – Creator of all, we give You thanks for all that You are and all that You bring to us within your creation. You are the Center of the Sacred Circle through which all creation is related. Lift our minds and our hearts above this earth so that we may see it as one place, one land, one home for all. Give us grace to live together with respect and love as we grow in Your spirit, for You are the Lover of All, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

THE WISDOM READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

THE PSALM

Psalm 51

Miserere mei, Deus

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your /loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *

and take not your holy Spirit from me.
13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**+ Glory to the Source, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Glory to You, O Christ, glory to You!

Jesus said,

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised

by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of Christ.

Glory to You, O Christ, glory to You!

LECTIO DIVINA

You are invited to meditate on one of the readings.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Burdens, hopes, and prayers are shared. Candles or incense may be offered.

In peace, we pray to You, O God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of Your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the children of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For our Bishop Aidan; and for all who minister to the people of God;

For all who serve God's children.

For the special needs and concerns of this community, those mentioned and those kept in our hearts, Hear us, O Creator;

For Your mercy is great.

We thank You, Creator, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings aloud.

We will exalt You, O God;

And praise Your Name forever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may rest in a place of brightness; where all suffering, sorrow, and sighing have fled away.

The People may add their own petitions aloud.

We pray to You also for forgiveness of sin.

Silence may be kept.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Creator,
in Your great compassion, forgive all our sin,
the hurts we absorb from one another,
and the hurts we have caused others,
release us from our illusions of separation,
and so uphold us by Your life-giving Spirit
that we may live and serve You
and each other with joy and love. Amen.**

The Bishop announces the absolution

+ The All-Merciful God has mercy on us all, forgives us all our sin through the love of Christ, strengthens us in all goodness, releases us from our illusions of separation, and by the power of the Holy Spirit raises us to new and abundant life. **Amen.**

RITE OF FORGIVENESS

Bishop Aidan says to the first person "Forgive me." The person says "God forgives. Forgive me." The priest responds "God forgives." The pattern continues around the circle.

PRAYER TO THE THEOTOKOS

It is right, in truth, to call you Blessed, O Theotokos, Ever-Blessed, Most Pure, and the Mother of our God. More honourable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify you. **Amen.**

For those in great sorrow, you are joy; for the oppressed, a protectress; for the hungry, their food; you are a comfort to those estranged; a staff to the blind; visitation to all who are sick and in pain; you are Mother to the orphaned, and Mother of our God. O Theotokos, Joy of all who Sorrow, disperse the storm of our grief and inward confusion; Scatter it far from us, for you have brought forth the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Rejoice O Theotokos, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Most Holy Theotokos, Mother of Life, vigilant in intercession and protection, deliver us by your intercessions, and watch over us as we journey onward in faith and love. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Christ is in our midst.

He is and ever shall be.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *New Zealand Prayer Book*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer,

Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of Your name echoes through the universe!

The way of Your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For You reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The bishop gives a benediction then the people say the blessing together.

St. Clare's Blessing (cir. 1220 CE)

**Live without fear: our Creator has made us holy,
has always protected us, and loves us as a mother.
Let us go in peace to follow the good road
and may God's blessing be with us always. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve.
Thanks be to God.