In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  Amen.

*(All briefly call to mind their sins, praising God for his mercy.)*

Leader:  Lord Jesus, you humbled yourself to face death on a cross:
Lord, have mercy.  **Response: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:  Christ Jesus, in your resurrection you are exalted above all others:
Christ have mercy.  **Response: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader:  Lord Jesus, your kingdom will have no end: Lord, have mercy.
**Response: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:  Let us pray: (Pause)
O God, whose word burns like a fire within us,
grant us a bold and faithful spirit,
that in your strength we may be unafraid
to speak your word and follow where you lead.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.  **Amen**
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped;
you were too strong for me, and you triumphed.
All the day I am an object of laughter;
everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I must cry out,
vioence and outrage is my message;
the word of the LORD has brought me
derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him,
I will speak in his name no more.
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones;
I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

The word of the Lord.   R. Thanks be to God.
Responsorial Psalm

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.
R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.
R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.
R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.
R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.
A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

The word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to show his disciples
that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly
from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed and on the third day be raised.
Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him,
“God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.”
He turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me.
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world
and forfeit his life?
Or what can one give in exchange for his life?
For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory,
and then he will repay all according to his conduct.”

The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.
Discussion Questions:

1. (Jeremiah) What work has God called you to that sparks a fire in your heart?

2. (Romans) How do you practice discernment in your life when faced with a big decision?

3. (Matthew) What is the cross you have been given to bear?

Sample Intercessions:

1. For the church, in humility and faith, may it align itself with the poor, vulnerable, and suffering wherever they may be: we pray to the Lord.

2. For those who are held captive or unjustly imprisoned throughout the world, may their hope remain strong and their freedom soon be secured: we pray to the Lord.

3. For farmers and workers as they harvest their crops, may they be preserved from injury and filled with thanksgiving for God’s bounty: we pray to the Lord.

4. For students and teachers as they begin the school year: we pray to the Lord.

5. For all who are sick, especially those with the corona virus: we pray to the Lord.

6. For all of us, may we be strengthened in our commitment to deny ourselves, pick up our crosses, and lead lives of true discipleship: we pray to the Lord.
Let us pray together as Jesus taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Closing Prayer:
God our light and our salvation, in the lives of the prophets, apostles and saints we find models of fidelity to you. Hear our prayers that we might serve you always with integrity and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sign of the Cross +