

For ourselves where we find ourselves in today's Gospel...

Silence

For ourselves in life....

Silence

And if you feel drawn to pray:

Where we struggle to know how to pray, let us pray together.

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.

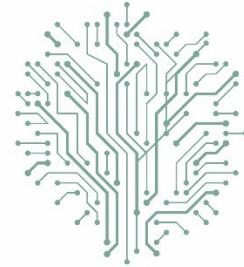
Closing Responses & Blessing

Let us be open to the ways of Christ amongst us.
The blowing of the Spirit.
The creating of Eternal God.

Eternal One,
bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 18: 15-20
Pentecost 15

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

We gather the few and the many in the presence of Christ.

Christ be near us; within and around.

We gather the wounded and the well, the sure and the unsure, the new and the old.

Christ be near us; within and around.

We gather to bind and to loose, to give and to get, to do and to be.

Christ be near us; within and around.

We gather as the community of Christ. The people of The Way. The children of God.

Christ be near us; within and around. Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Gather your people, O Lord.

<https://open.spotify.com/track/2Rm71UOwjXlzn0o5dvrw0?si=eede1705ec0e4334>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer them a word of greeting and peace.

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 18: 15-20

15 If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

- Where do you see yourself in today's passage? Share only as you feel comfortable.
- Why do you think Matthew includes this passage and surrounds it with the two parables?
- What did you hear today from the Word for our church?

Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

- You may like to say the prayer phrase "Mar-an-ath-a" (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.
- Or you may like "sitting with God" — a silent time in which we focus all our mind, heart and soul on the presence of God without trying to create it. Simply be still and open to God.

Prayers for Others

Eternal God, where there is hope, you are there.
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation, and for humanity, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.

- O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:

Your creation ...

Silence

For others we have hear about throughout our world..

Silence

For other people we know and are close to ...

Silence

For our church and our wider community ... Where there is discord and distrust...

Silence