



Restoring Right Relationship

Lenten Evening Prayer, adapted from Dominican Praise

March 1, 2020

Thank you for being present with the Casa Alma community this evening! Wherever you are in your faith or life journey, whatever you do or have done, however you identify, and whomever you love, you are made in the image of God and are warmly welcome in this time of prayer and community.

Our prayer is rooted in the Catholic, monastic tradition. We give special emphasis to lift up women's voices, and to use gender-inclusive or feminine names for God. Our aim is to be nourished by a gentle and joyful rhythm of prayer, and by an encounter with God within and among us.

One: May the Light of Christ be with us.

All: Thanks be to God.
Blessed be our Saving God,
Creator, Christ and Spirit,
now and forever, Amen.

Opening Song: Deep Within by David Haas (verses on next page)

Refrain

Deep with - in I will plant my law,
not on stone, but in your heart.
Fol-low me, I will bring you back, you will
be my own, and I will be your God.

Verses



1. I will give you a new heart, a new spir - it with -
 2. Seek my face, and see your
 3. Re - turn to me, with all your



in you, for I will be your strength.
 God, for I will be your hope.
 heart, and I will bring you back.

Reading I: 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

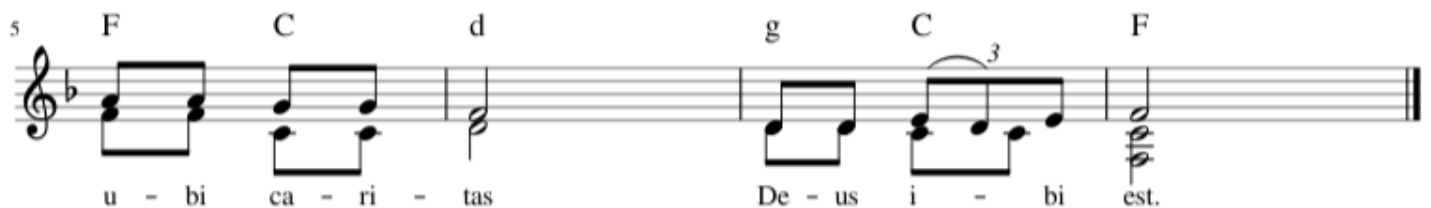
We implore you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

For God says "At a favorable time I answered you. On a saving day I rescued you."

Indeed! Now is the favorable time.

Indeed! Now is the day of salvation.

Taize Chant: Ubi Caritas



(translation: Where there is charity and love, there God is)

Reading II: Selections from Catherine de Hueck Doherty, Poustinia

For the last few years I have been talking and writing a great deal about silence, solitude, and deserts, and I will continue to write about them because I think they are vitally important...

If we are to witness to Christ in today's marketplace, where there are constant demands of our whole person, we need silence. If we are to be always available, not only physically, but by empathy, sympathy, friendship, understanding, and boundless caritas, we need silence. To be able to give joyous, unflagging hospitality, not only of house and food but of mind, heart, body and soul, we need silence.

True silence is a suspension bridge that a soul in love with God builds to cross the dark, frightening gullies of its own mind, the strange chasms of temptation, the depthless precipices of its own fears that impede its way to God.

True silence is the speech of lovers. For only love knows its beauty, completeness, and utter joy. True silence...is the beginning of a divine courtship that will end only in the immense, creative, fruitful, loving silence of final union with the Beloved.

Yes, such silence is holy, a prayer beyond all prayers, leading to the final prayer of constant presence of God, to the heights of contemplation, when the soul, finally at peace, lives by the will of the one whom she loves totally, utterly, completely.

Silence, 5 minutes

Sharing, 8 minutes

Intercessions:

One: At the start of our Lenten journey we turn to God, seeking to be transformed, we pray:

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

One: May we be free to share our resources with those in need, we pray:

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

One: May we have compassion for those who suffer injustice, and courage to take action, we pray:

All: Loving God, hear our prayer.

One: May we care for those who have been abused and neglected, we pray:
All: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

One: For what else shall we pray? If you would like, please speak your own intentions.

Loving God, mother of all, we ask you to hear the prayers we have spoken and those in the silence of our hearts.

All: **Amen.**

Closing Prayer: Loving God,
send down abundant blessings on each of us, your people.
May our journey through this season of Lent
be strengthened through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
We ask this through Jesus, the Christ,
God forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing, All: May God Creator bless us,
May God Redeemer heal us
and May God the Holy Spirit fill us with her light. Amen.

Invitation to a communal meal

Song: Come to the Table of Grace

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____ Come to the
ta - ble of grace. _____ This is God's ta - ble; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the talbe of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...