

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...

when Jesus...

was praying alone..." Luke 9:18



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Easter Yr A Week 4

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. The stand or table is draped with white with the Easter Candle placed. Could a single gate be discovered and placed near the table? Some "gates" (A5 card) can be printed and offered to each person as they enter. Have the reflection questions printed on them.

Leader: The Lord is my Shepherd (light the Easter candle)
All: There is nothing I shall want.

Leader: You have prepared a banquet for me
All: My cup is overflowing.

We Listen: The Gospel. John 10: 1-10

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe." Jn 10: 9

Commentary: There are two forces in tension before the sheep. First the thieves and brigands who come only to steal and destroy; the forces of deceit and disruption that sneak upon us and cause havoc. Then there is the shepherd, who is also the gatekeeper and the gate itself. Jesus terms himself in these three roles in a wide sweep of imagery that gives the sense that everything is covered. Jesus provides everything for the sheep: carer, liberator and security, so that the sheep can pasture in safety and thus have life to the full. The thieves will be frustrated and powerless and will fail before the faithfulness of Jesus for the sheep. We need to be open to the familiarity and security Jesus offers. We can respond to the voice of Jesus, who is true to himself so that we can live in truth.

In silence, reflect on the questions below (printed on the "gate" card.) You may wish to have a time of brief sharing. Keep the card near your workspace this week.

- What threats of thievery and havoc disturb my life as I try to be a disciple?
- If I open the gate of Jesus, what will I hope to find inside?

Song: Shepherd me, O God (Marty Haugen-AOV1) or Here I Am (T Booth-Spirit & Song)

We Go Forth:

God of green pastures and refreshing streams. May these images of your nature, familiar and comforting, strike us in a new and vibrant way today. May we find ourselves able to trust you and listen to your voice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me.... Alleluia! Alleluia!
All: In God's house will I dwell for ever... Alleluia! Alleluia!