

Welcome to “**Scripture Prayer for the Week.**”

“Once when Jesus was praying alone with only the disciples near him...” (Luke 9:18)



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

In each of the Gospels, we hear of many times when Jesus went to pray in a quiet place, by himself, but with his friends close at hand. We find a wonderful balance in these episodes. First Jesus reveals the necessity for him to spend time in prayer, in silence, listening to the word in his heart and mind. However, the disciples are always nearby. Prayer to Jesus is communal and he encourages his followers to spend time together, each day and on the Sabbath.

The quote above from the Gospel of Luke sets the scene for our scripture prayer for the week. This resource can be adapted for a number of situations. It is a prayer pattern based on the Gospel reading of each Sunday in the Church’s year. Its first focus is as a staff/faculty *Lectio* (Scripture reading) prayer for the week following the particular Sunday. It can be used as an individual reflective prayer.

Some adaptations might be:

- A ritual (e.g.a sprinkling and water touching rite in the Easter season), in the We Respond section or at the “We Go Forth” conclusion.
- For a longer liturgy, an opening song might be used
- A sign of peace, lighting individual candles, incense burning.
- Adapt with ritual and song for special events such as staff blessings, transitions, bereavements, communal events.

The Format is based on the Eucharistic concept of **gathering, listening** to the Word, **responding** as we are changed to be one Body, and **going forth**. The use of dialogue prayer reflects the Morning Prayer of the Hours. Suggestions as to the flow of the liturgy are included on each resource.

The liturgy is brief but it is suggested that time be allowed for periods of silence, reflection and sharing.

The weekly page can be distributed by community intranet as well as staff room media display.