

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. (*Pause.*) Lord God, we often look for peace and for hope in our own efforts, in our own words. Help us to know that our true hope and true peace are found in you alone. This we ask through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, now and forever. Amen.

Reader 1:

An adaptation of Psalm 105.

Give thanks to the Lord,

Invoke God's name; make known among the people God's deeds!

Sing praise, play music; proclaim God's holy name.

Reader 2:

Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord!

Rely on the mighty Lord; constantly seek God's face.

Recall the wondrous deeds God has done, his signs and his words of judgment, you descendants of Abraham and Sarah.

Leader: Creator God, you have given us so much to be thankful for throughout our lives. We wish to place before you now our prayers of gratitude for your goodness and love.

Reader 2:

Oh, God, thank you for

the sun that rises and sets,

the moon that glows,

the stars that shine,

the birds that fly,

the creatures that run,

and the people who reflect your goodness.

Oh, God, please bless

the ocean in which we swim,

the mountains on which we climb,

and the homes in which we live.

Oh, God, please watch over

all children, big and small,

the life that is growing, the life that is aging or weak,

and everyone all around.

And please, God,

guide us through the days that come,

help us to be there for those in need,

help us to be loving and understanding,

and, most important, help us always to have faith in you.

Leader: We conclude our prayer by turning to those nearest to us and marking their foreheads with the Sign of the Cross.

