

*(Labor Day)*

Invitation:

Come, all who labor and find rest here at the table of the grace.  
This is where God honors the greatest in the Their eyes,  
those who serve, those who are the servants of servants.  
Come, relax and celebrate the Lord's favor,  
Renew your strength until you are called into service again.

Confession:

**All: We plead for Your mercy, for we are a greedy people,  
who dwell in a culture of affluence and dishonesty. Too many  
children go to bed hungry, because their hard working parents  
are not paid a living wage. Too many of our elders scrape by,  
because pensions were never given and some even taken away.  
Forgive us, for we allow the rich to become richer and all others  
to be robbed of their wages. Allow our voices to be heard to  
amplify the cries of the needy. Use our privilege to strengthen  
those who are being abused by the lies of those who hold power.  
Make us mindful of those who labor daily for our sake, so that  
we might always be for them expressions of your grace. Amen.**

Pardon:

One: Hear the good news:  
Our God is working to make all things new.  
The old ways are passing away.  
Today we can live anew in the kingdom of Love.  
In the name of Jesus Christ you are not only forgiven but you are called to become a  
beacon of hope for all who struggle.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ you are not only forgiven,  
but you too are called to become a beacon of hope for all who struggle.  
Glory to God. Amen.**

Thanksgiving:

One: The Lord be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**  
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: We thank you that we never labor alone.  
You are our help in times of struggle.

You are the voice of encouragement that springs from deep within our souls.  
You join us in our service and view our care for others as our faithful worship.  
You are the one who seeks to lift up the down and out.  
You are the one who is always on the side of the newcomer,  
the refugee, the immigrant struggling to make a new start.  
You provide so that no one needs to go without.  
You have called forth generosity from every life.  
You count it robbery for us not to share with those in need.  
The most important lives to you are those who have the least,  
who have only you for their survival.  
This is why the teeming masses praise you.  
This is why there is such a crowd of saints glorifying you before your throne.  
This is why we desire to join with all of them as we say:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are holy and surrounded by glory,  
and we perceive that same holiness and glory in Christ.  
From Christ we learn that how we treat the least,  
the essential workers in our lives, is how we treat You.  
From Christ we learn that everyone deserves a liveable wage,  
even those who only had the opportunity to work a single hour in the day.  
From Christ we learn that all are worthy of respect and care  
even those written off as hopeless cases.  
From Christ we learned that to feed the hungry is our responsibility  
and that we can do it out of the meager resources we have been given.  
From Christ we learned that to be the greatest is to stoop down and  
become the servant of anyone in need.

On that last evening,  
when his followers did not want to serve,  
Jesus removed his outer garments,  
took a towel and basin,  
and assumed the position of the lowest slave.  
As an act of grace Jesus washed the feet of all who were present.  
This is the gospel Christ wants us to live.

On that last evening, Jesus with ancient prayers,  
took the bread of Passover set apart to reminded them of those still waiting to be set free.  
With blessing Jesus broke the bread and shared it universally saying:  
“Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”

This is the gospel Christ wants us to live.

On that last evening, Jesus with ancient prayers,  
took the cup of Passover set apart to remind them of the hope that God continually  
shares.

With blessing Jesus lifted the cup and shared it universally saying:  
“Take and drink, this is the cup of my blood  
poured out in celebration of this renewal of God’s Eternal Covenant of Grace,  
guaranteeing the forgiveness of not only your sins but those of the whole world.”  
This is the gospel Christ wants us to live.

We do want our lives to reveal your gospel.  
We want our lives to become expressions of Your prevenient grace.  
This is why we embrace the example of Christ  
expressed in this holy mystery that our souls proclaim:

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

One: Gracious Service, Labor of Love  
saturate these gifts of bread and wine,  
cause them to become for us the body and blood of Christ,  
Your gift to us.

Gracious Service, Labor of Love  
saturate the gift of our lives, the very sweat from our brows,  
cause them to become for the world, your church,  
the sacrificial body, and humble bride of Christ,  
Your gift to us.

Gracious Service, Labor of Love  
saturate Mill Creek Parish with your glorious presence.  
Empower them to be your servants in every task before them.  
Use them to come along side those who struggle in their daily lives.  
Reveal to them new ways of being good news to those who dwell around them.  
To this prayer we feel Jesus Christ say: “Amen.”  
To our prayer we feel the Holy Spirit say: “Amen.”  
To the silent prayers of creation we feel our Creator say: “Amen.”  
To these prayers spoken and unspoken we join with them to say:

**All: Amen.**

One: Now as fellow laborers with Christ let us pray after the style of Jesus:

**All: Weaver, Potter, Imaginative Creator of all there was, is, and ever shall be,  
we are in awe of your grace.  
None works harder than You, anywhere nor at anytime.  
Work with us to provide for our daily bread that we might share with others.**

**Be patient with us as we repent of our sins,  
just as we are patient with others as they seek to live out their repentance before us.  
Help us fight the temptation to want more than we need,  
and the evil we cause when we do not share your bounty with others.  
For you call us to work beside you, with compassion and mercy, forever. Amen.**

Prayer after communion:

Thank you for sharing with us this sacred mystery found in Jesus Christ. The service rendered to our souls has been transformative to our lives. Now send us out to labor in your vineyard to serve others rather than to be served. Allow others to see your presence in our lives and that your offer of grace includes them too. May we bring glory and honor to your name always. Amen.