**LAMENT**

**Gathering/opening prayers**

We meet in the presence of God

**who knows our needs,**

**hears our cries,**

**feels our pain,**

**and heals our wounds.**

**or**

Be with us, Spirit of God;

**nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God;

**fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;

**bring strength, healing and peace.**

Silence is kept

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

**Praise**

Lord, we are clay

**and you are the potter.**

We are all the work of your hand;

**do not remember our sins for ever.**

Look upon us in your mercy,

**for we are your people.** cf Isaiah 64.8,9

**or**

Cast your burden upon the Lord:

**he will sustain you.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**renew a right spirit within us.**

Cast us not away from your presence;

**take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

Give us the joy of your saving help;

**sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

[Blessed be the Lord day by day:

**the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.**]

**or**

We thank you, O God,

for you are gracious.

You have loved us from the beginning of time

and you remember us in times of trouble and of joy.

**Your mercy endures for ever.**

We thank you, O God,

for you came to us in Jesus Christ,

who has redeemed the world

and saves us from our sins.

**Your mercy endures for ever.**

We thank you, O God,

for you have sent your Holy Spirit,

who comforts us and leads us into all truth.

**Your mercy endures for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Penitence**

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,

which groans with eager longing for God’s redemption.

We confess our sin in penitence and faith. cf Romans 8.22,23

**or**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,

and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith. Psalm 51.17

**or**

Jesus saw the city and wept over it,

because it did not recognize the time of God’s coming.

We confess our part in the self-centredness, blindness and sin

of the life of our city/community. cf Luke 19.41

**and/or**

God our Father,

we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,

and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,

without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do,

and think and say;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you

by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed

to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

**or**

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**or**

In a dark and disfigured world

we have not held out the light of life:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world

we have failed to share our bread:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world

we have kept the love of God to ourselves:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Peace**

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ

and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. cf 2 Corinthians 5.18

**or**

Jesus said:

‘Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you. cf John 15.12

**Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer**

And now we give you thanks

that, taking upon himself our human nature,

he shared our joy and our tears,

bore all our sickness,

and carried all our sorrows.

Through death he brought us

to the life of his glorious resurrection,

giving for frailty eternal strength,

and restoring in us the image of your glory.

**or**

And now we give you thanks

that you have shown the greatness of your love for us

by sending him to share our human nature

and accomplish our forgiveness.

He embraces us in our weakness,

he suffers with the sick and the rejected,

and, bringing your healing to the world,

he rescues us from every evil.

**Prayers after Communion**

Eternal God,

comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,

you have fed us at the table of life and hope:

teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,

that all the world may acknowledge

the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**or**

Almighty God,

whose Son gave us in this meal a pledge of your saving love

and a foretaste of your kingdom of justice and peace:

strengthen your people in their faith

that they may endure the sufferings of this present time

in expectation of the glory to be revealed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessings/Conclusions**

**In darkness and in light,**

**in trouble and in joy,**

**help us, heavenly Father,**

**to trust your love,**

**to serve your purpose,**

**and to praise your name;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**or**

Jesus, lord of time,

**hold us in your eternity.**

Jesus, image of God,

**travel with us the life of faith.**

Jesus, friend of sinners,

**heal the brokenness of our world.**

Jesus, lord of tomorrow,

**draw us into your future. Amen.**

**and/or**

May Christ’s holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with you

and guide you on your way at every change and turn;

and the blessing …

**or**

May Christ draw you to humility and worship,

and bring you to see God at work;

and the blessing …