



## A Disciple's Prayer Book

### FORWARD

St. Ephrem said that Mary **conceived** Jesus by "Her ear." We also see Jesus become flesh among us through hearing the Gospel. This book is a pastoral adaptation of the Book of Common Prayer to help disciples hear the Gospel and see Jesus.

The method and form are not the most **important** feature of this resource. Like the Gospel itself, you will see the principles that are the foundation of this work thrive on local adaptation and expansion. The Gospel itself is the **agent of change and transformation**.

Thanks be to God for the Spirit's power that still inspires hearts, creates **revolutions**, and saves human beings in their communal and individual lives.

Thanks, also, to the many disciples who have shared this journey - in Alaska, Minnesota, inner city Chicago, across Indian Country in North America, in small churches in too many places to track, all the way to "815" in New York City. These people have helped to make this a people to people **movement**.

We must give special honor to the American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian elders who insisted that we all keep the Gospel at the center of every thing we do. They said that we must gather in circles of love and prayer and place that which is most sacred to us in the center - the Gospel. This **discipleship** - listening to the Gospel and living it out in a circle of love and prayer - is our great joy and gives us a horizon that many of us thought **unobtainable**.

The Right Reverend Mark L. MacDonald  
Bishop of the Diocese of Alaska

## Guiding Principles

As Gospel Based Disciples we commit:

1. To regularly engage the Gospel
2. To take seriously our own spiritual formation
3. To nurture and foster the spiritual formation of others
4. To live the **Baptismal** Covenant
5. To live as a community of disciples
6. To foster reconciliation, healing, and vision
7. To pray and worship regularly
8. To respect the spiritual traditions, values and customs of our many peoples
9. To take full responsibility for our local ministries

## RULE OF LIFE

Creator God we acknowledge and give thanks that:

In Jesus we know we belong to a Sacred Circle with the Gospel and Baptismal Covenant in the Center.

In this Sacred Circle:

We are all related;

We live a compassionate and generous life;

We respect all life, traditions, and **resources**;

We commit ourselves to spiritual growth, discipleship, and consensus.

# A GATHERING

## PRAYER

### THE PEOPLE GATHER

#### The Gathering Prayer

*Said in Unison*

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you placed the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your **strength** to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God now and forever. AMEN.

#### The Gathering Psalm or Song

*The following from Psalm 113, or some Psalm, song, or music is offered*

Give praise, you servants of the Lord, **\*praise the Name of the LORD.**

Let the name of the LORD be blessed, **\*from this time for evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down, **\*let the Name of the LORD be praised.**

The LORD is high above all nations, **\*and his glory above the Heaven.**

### Prayers

*Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)*

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

### The Lord's Prayer

*Text on p.39*

## ACTIVITY

*Some activity may now be offered.*

## OUR PRAYER

God our Father, you see us your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show us that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help us to take **failure**, not as measure of our worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give us **strength** to build our faith in you, and to keep alive our joy in your creation: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GOSPEL

*The Gospel of the Day, or some other portion of the Gospel, is now read.*

## RESPONSE

### Reflect and respond to the Gospel

*(An opportunity is given for the Gathering to Respond from the point of view of the people gathered. The form below may also be used).*

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?  
*(Reread the Gospel.)*
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?  
*(Reread the Gospel.)*
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?