

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: A reading from Genesis 1: 27

God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

Reader 1: Readings from the Gospel of John, Chapter 13:

John 13: 12-17

So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me "teacher and "master," and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master; nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.

John 13: 34-35

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Reader 2: Reflection from *Follow the Way of Love* (The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter to Families)

Jesus promised to be where two or three are gathered in his name. (Matthew 18:20) We give the name "church" to the people whom the Lord gathers, who strive to follow his way of love, and through whose lives his saving presence is made known.

Reflection and Sharing: What did you hear regarding faith and relationships in these readings?

All:

God of unconditional love, you have called us to love one another as you have loved us. You have promised to be with us as we strive to follow your way of love. Fill us with your grace to help us cherish one another in such a way that we become signs of your loving presence to the world.

Amen.