

WELCOME TO SELAH סלה

Come in.
Sit down.
Grab a drink
Play a game.
Do the puzzle.
Meet someone new
Catch up with a friend.

*Relax. Rest. Breathe.
For the next two hours
nothing else matters but
you, us, & God.*

*It's still the
season of light,
the season after
the Epiphany.*





**Please sign up
To help at the Mardi
Gras Pancake Supper**

The Carnival Season

*A reminder not only of our invitation
this year but for the Famine.*

Come and See...

-Jesus

& a reminder of who we are and why we are here.

We are a community of seekers trying to live with God in this world

The Invitatory

Blow the ram's horn, God is here...

*The Lord be with you.
And Also with you.*

God is revealed to us through Jesus, the Christ.
God is present in our world.



God you are in the midst of us.
and we are called by your name.
Be near to us, Lord.

Encircle and shield us, saving One.
Guide and heal us, redeeming One.

Glory this night to the Father and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit.

*As it was in the beginning, is now and will be
forever. Amen.*

LET US PRAY WITH ONE HEART AND ONE MIND THAT
THIS EVENING MAY BE
HOLY, GOOD AND PEACEFUL.

-----CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE ANOTHER DEEP BREATH.
AND PRAY. GOD IS NEAR ----

The Versicle: a little sound bite from God.

Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you
that I may fear your Name.



STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

FOR TWO HOURS STEP AWAY FROM... FOR TWO HOURS STEP OUT OF...
FOR TWO HOURS LEAVE BEHIND...
FOR TWO HOURS...

Step out of the traffic & take a long loving look at God



Be here. Be with each other. Be with God.

The lighting of the candles



A lit candle in a church setting with a blurred background of red fabric.

Praying with the Church:

**Almighty God,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
intelligence to understand you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
vision to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
a life to proclaim you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. Amen**

We are a thankful people.

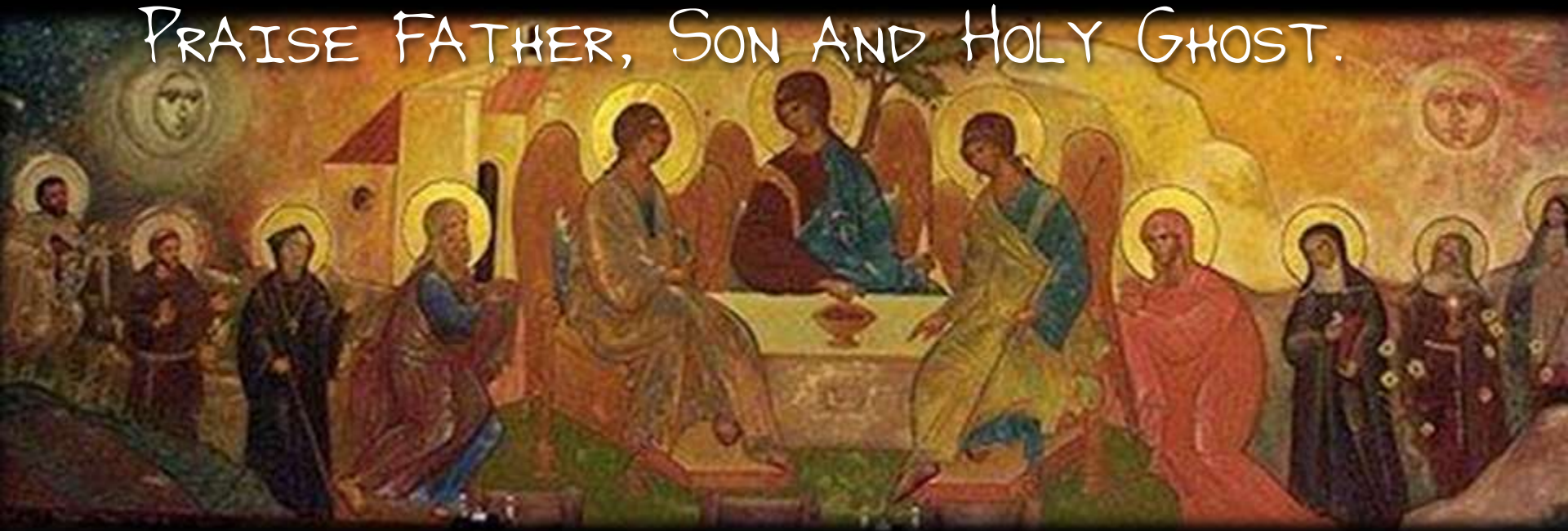
We give thanks to God:

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

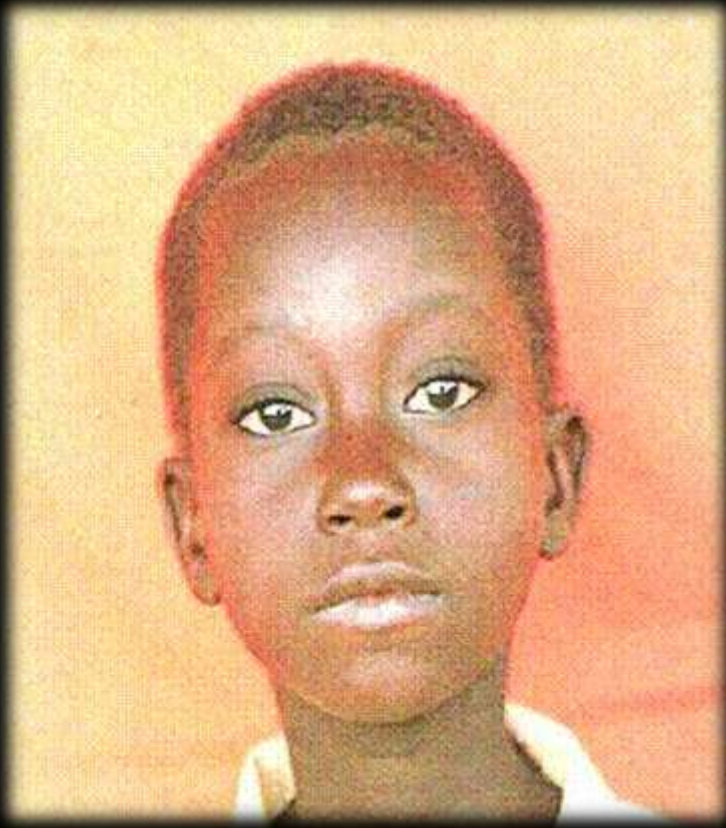
PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW

PRAISE HIM ABOVE YE HEAVENLY HOSTS

PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST.



We are a thankful people.



We pause to remember
Our friend Affisu.

And we pause to remember
the 852 million people
of the world who will
Not eat this evening.

And we give thanks for each other:



LET'S EAT...

the Searching

Hear God's invitation
Hear God's call

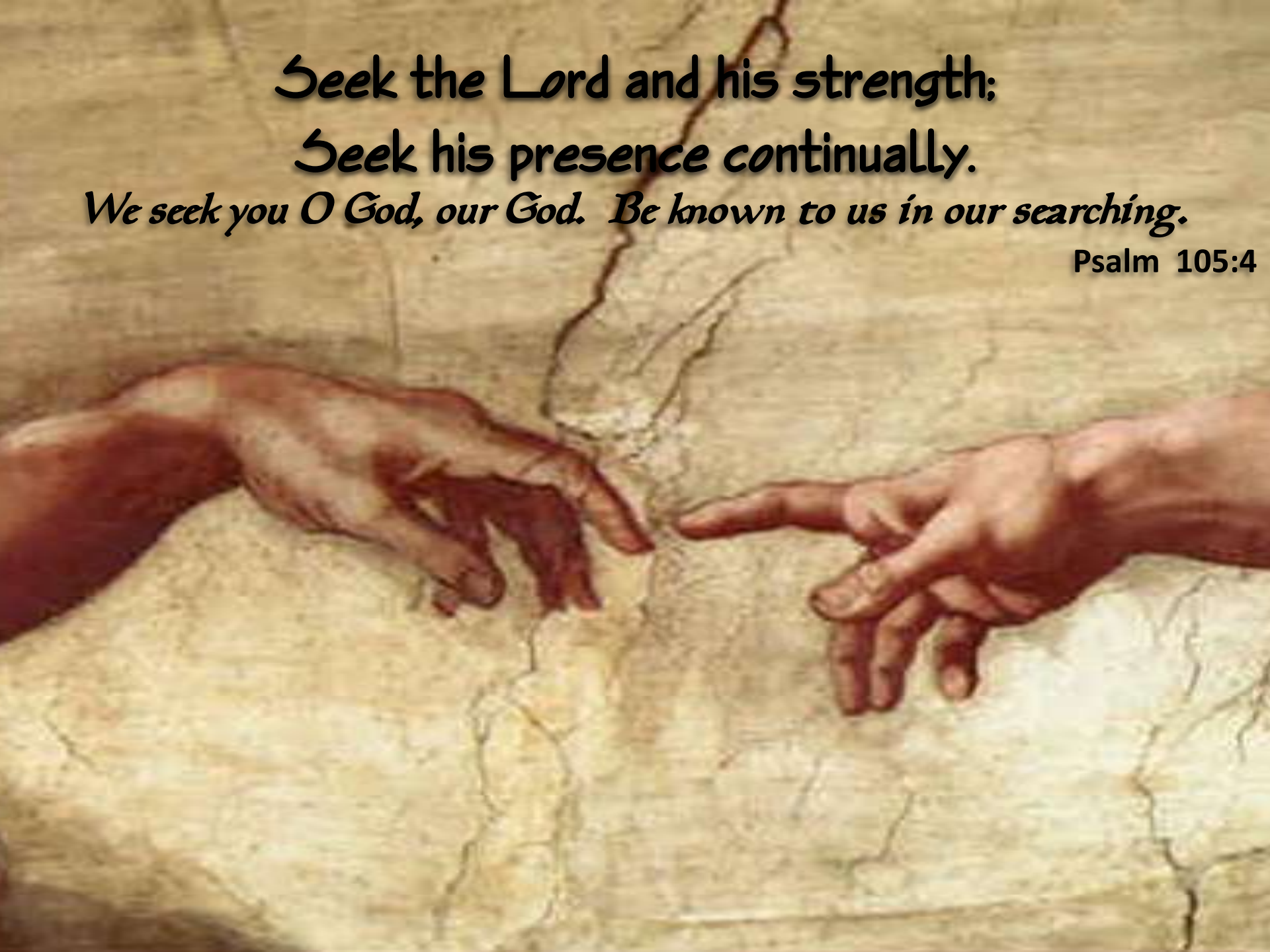
*God wishes to be seen,
and He wishes to be sought,
and He wishes to be expected,
and He wishes to be trusted*

(Julian of Norwich).

*Seek the Lord and his strength;
Seek his presence continually.*

We seek you O God, our God. Be known to us in our searching.

Psalm 105:4



The Practice.





OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT SEE YOUR FACE

OPEN OUR EARS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT HEAR YOUR VOICE.

OPEN OUR MOUTHS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT TELL OF YOUR KINGDOM

OPEN OUR MINDS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT FIND YOUR WAY

OPEN OUR HEARTS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT KNOW YOUR HEALING.

OPEN OUR LIVES O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT REVEAL YOUR GLORY

Psalm 34

- ¹ I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips. ² My soul
will boast in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- ³ Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
- ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
- ⁶ This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
- ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those
who fear him,
and he delivers them.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.
- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- ¹² Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,
¹³ keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking lies.
- ¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their cry;
¹⁶ the face of the LORD is against those who do
evil,
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- ¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears
them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- ¹⁹ A righteous man may have many troubles,
but the LORD delivers him from them all;

The Practice: making it more than words we read.



A little song

Surely God is in this place
Holy Ground.

Surely God is in this place
Holy Ground



“Come let us reason together,” says the Lord.
-Isaiah 1:18

The Bible.

- The map of God's reality.
- A compass to help us through this world.
- Not a code of behavior, a list of do's and don'ts.
- Helps us return to the created order.
- Points us to the way life was intended to be.
- The story contained within the scriptures help us to make sense of the story we live in today.
- The point isn't the story itself, the point is God and God's work in this world and in our lives.

- **Grounded**
- **Communal**
- **Open Ended**
- **Alive**



Isn't this the carpenter? The son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?



The letter of James *the Just*, the brother of Jesus.
One of the three pillars of the early church.
The “Adelphotheos” in Greek.



About the Letter of James

- James was Bishop in Jerusalem
- Written to Jewish Christian house churches outside of Palestine
- James was martyred 62 AD
- We think the letter was written mid 40's
- Conflict with the world and conflict within the church
- Basic theme: living the faith versus knowing the faith.
- Doesn't have the format of an "epistle" but rather is a collection of wisdom sayings.

The letter from James, Ch 1: 19 - 27

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

**The Letter
from James,**

Chapter 2



A Practice:
Listening and Responding to God

CONVERSATIONS

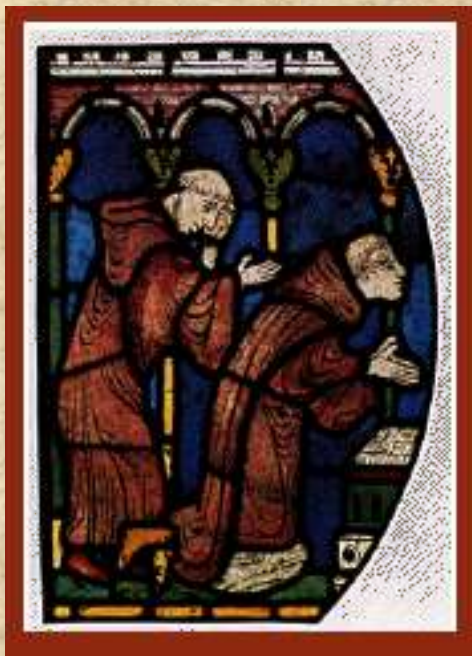
Because *WE'RE IN THIS THING TOGETHER.*



**And we don't want to just talk about it but we want
*To work this out into the details of our everyday life.***

Opus Dei

Our liturgy for So*lah,
Our service to God,
Our *work of God*



Matins

Opus Dei



Why Liturgy?

- a diving board or a Cathedral
- structure
- allows for greater participation
- easier for corporate worship
- liturgy becomes the leader and the guide
- teaches us
- Joins us with the larger church (past, present and future).

Opus Dei

Our Liturgy?

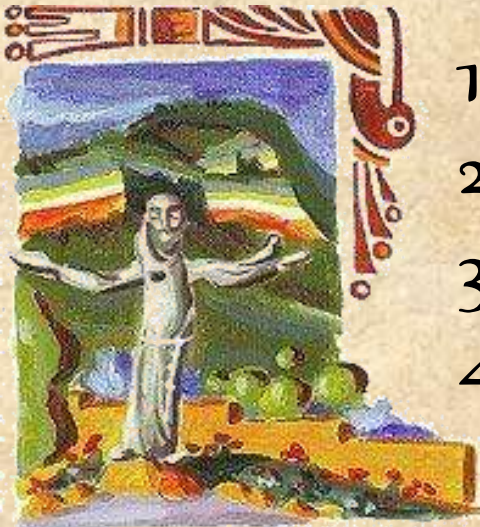
- Invitatory
- Communion
- *Searching through song, art, psalms, quiet, exercises & scripture.*
- *Conversation corporately and in smaller groups*
- Intercessory Prayer
- Benediction



Opus Dei

Four Parts of our Liturgy:
Create them for the season of Lent.

1. Written Prayers
2. Images (pictures on the slides etc)
3. Versicles (sound bites from God) & Psalms
4. Practices and Traditions of the Church



Benediction:

May you this week, taste and see that no matter what you see in this world, God is good.

May you continue to work God into the details of your day so that you might not be just a believer of Jesus but a follower as well.

May you like the monks find and practice your Opus Dei so that every day and all day might be holy to God.

And may you continue to be even more serious in the last weeks of the famine season about making God's way on earth real.

Go in peace .. And heal your world.

SHALOM



Peace Be Unto You



Are we Serious?

Are we really
Serious?

Do we really pray? Do we really mean?

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth...

Americans make up 5% of the world but we
consume 50% of the world's resources.

Think about that.

David A. Livermore

The poorest 60% of the world's
population own only 6% of the world's
wealth, and the richest 20% own 85% of
the world's income.

Miguel A. De La Torre



Are we really

Serious?

*You are the generation
That has the power to
eradicate extreme poverty.*

Americans make up 5% of the world but we
consume 50% of the world's resources.

Think about that.

David A. Livermore

The poorest 60% of the world's
population own only 6% of the world's
wealth, and the richest 20% own 85% of
the world's income.

Miguel A. De La Torre

What then must change if we are to be serious about making poverty history?

What will you change?
How will you live?

Contrary to how we live:

We don't need what we have and we already have what we need

Seriously.