

**SUSTAINING A HEALTHY MINISTERIAL VINEYARD
APRIL 8, 2021 PRAYER
2:00-3:30 PM CST VIA ZOOM**

INVITATORY

Presider *(Making the sign of the Cross)*

*Let us, like God's field, open our hearts
to welcome the grace of this time, alleluia.*

All **We open ourselves to the planting and harvesting
of the vineyard of the Lord, alleluia.**

Presider *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit*

All **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end, Amen. Alleluia.**

After this invitatory, the session continues.

Around 3:10-3:15, the concluding prayer time begins.

OPENING DIALOGUE: Luke 24:46-48

Presider *Today is Thursday in the Octave of Easter.*

*Let us remember we are in the presence of the risen Lord,
and announce the good news!*

Reader 1 *Jesus said to his disciples,*

*"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things."*

All **We are witnesses of these things:**

resurrection

repentance

forgiveness

healing

Thanks be to God, alleluia!

SONG: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and

joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and

o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom.

EPISTLE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

Reader 3 *A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy*

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who is to judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,
I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message;
be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable;
convince, rebuke, and encourage,
with the utmost patience in teaching.
For the time is coming
when people will not put up with sound doctrine,
but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves
teachers to suit their own desires,
and will turn away from listening to the truth
and wander away to myths.
As for you, always be sober, endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.*

The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION: C. VANESSA WHITE

At the end of the reflection, the presider introduces the prayers:

Let us turn now in prayer to the Holy Spirit.

*Bless us, God of all loving;
send your Spirit to make our lives
a living sign of your Christ.*

INTERCESSIONS: LITANY OF PRAISE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Reader *Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters.*

All **Holy Spirit, come!**

Reader *Holy Spirit, Creator, from your breath all creatures drew their life. R.*

Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration the prophets bore witness to the Word of God. R.

Holy Spirit, you descended upon Jesus on the day of his baptism; in our baptism you bring us to birth as God's children. R.

Holy Spirit, you led Christ into the desert; you assisted him in proclaiming the Kingdom. R.

Holy Spirit, Christ promised you would always be with us and in us. R.

Holy Spirit, you awakened the faith of the women who were the first witnesses of the resurrection. R.

Holy Spirit, you came down upon Mary and the apostles to gather them into a new communion, the Church. R.

Holy Spirit, you make us a living sign of God's presence, praying within us. R.

CLOSING PRAYER

Presider *Holy Spirit, you breathe upon what is fragile.
You kindle a flame of living charity and love
that remains within us, still alive under the ashes.
And through you,
even the fears and the nights of our heart
can become the dawn of a new life
in Christ, our Risen Lord.*

All **Amen.**

SONG: ALWAYS, WE BEGIN AGAIN

Please add your voice to the song. The melody is the bottom line. Image taken from manuscript.

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Refrain

Lord, you are the vine, and
steps, O where is your presence my God?
Lord, you are the vine, and

you, Your hand lifts up all those who serve.
heart, With you there is no-thing I fear.

23

we are the bran-ches. We will put our trust, hope, you give! O,
we are the bran-ches. We will put our trust in the hope that you give! Make us a

30

Lord, re - newed and em - pow-ered, we bear fruit in your love. In your
people re - newed and em - pow-ered, in you we will bear good fruit. Al

37

1.

love we will bear fruit!
ways we be gin a gain.