

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: People of God, welcome! Surely God is in this place!

P: **We come to worship and to rest in God's presence.**

L: Breathe deep for the goodness of God surrounds us.

P: **For the Holy One who sustains is near us.**

L: When we are tired, worn down, and carrying heavy burdens, God is with us.

P: **God strengthens us so that we might help carry one another's burdens.**

L: So, let us join together in wonder and thanksgiving for God's love that lifts us up on wings like eagles.

P: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

FIRST LESSON (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

GOSPEL LESSON (John 20:19-23)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Reader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

END OF READINGS