

Faithful to the Word

A CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Arrange chairs in two semi-circles on either side of the prayer center, leaving an open space around the prayer table. Gather at the back of the meeting space. Form a procession behind the reader, who should hold the Bible high and lead a procession to the area around the prayer table. You may wish to sing a song, an acclamation or a psalm, such as Psalm 19, as you go.

Remain in line behind the reader as he or she places the Bible reverently on a stand on the prayer table and opens the Bible to the reading (1 Samuel 3: 1-10). Each person should then bow before the open Bible and form a circle around the prayer table.



GATHERING

Leader: Let us begin by recalling our Baptism as we pray:

ALL: **In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Leader: Loving God,
in every age your Word has guided,
encouraged, and challenged people of faith.

We gather today to celebrate your Word,
to honor you and give you praise.

Open our minds and hearts to receive its message
today and always.

ALL: We ask this through Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Leader *invites all to trace a cross on their foreheads
as he or she prays:*

ALL: May we always remember and live by your Word.
AMEN.

Leader *invites all to trace a cross on their lips as he
or she prays:*

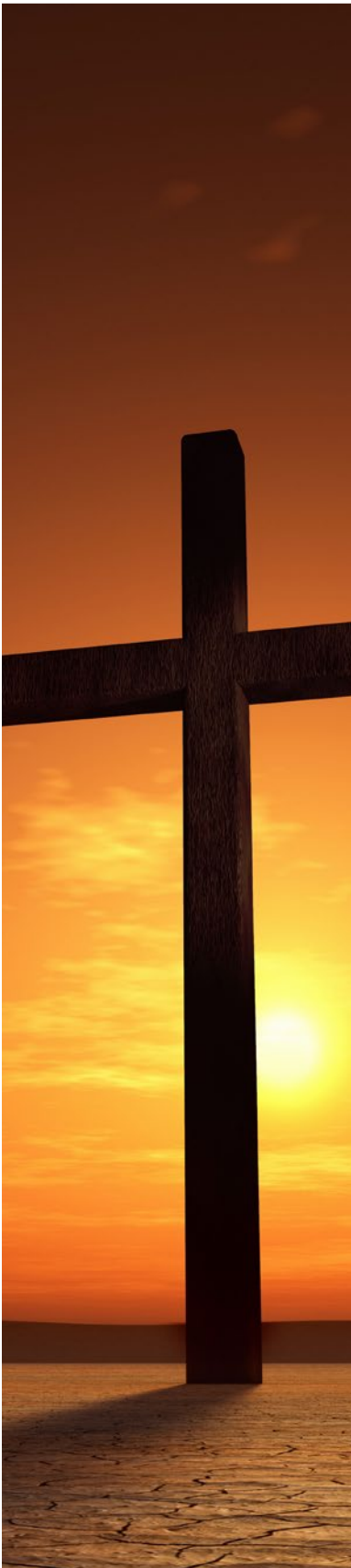
ALL: May we speak your Word to those who need
to hear the Good News.
AMEN.

Leader *invites all to trace a cross on their hearts as
he or she prays:*

ALL: May we always treasure and hold your Word
in our hearts.
AMEN.

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WORD OF GOD

Leader: The Bible is God's own Word to us. Let us sit and listen as the Word of God is proclaimed in our midst today.

Reader: *Proclaim 1 Samuel 3:1-10*

(Silent Reflection)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: God our loving Creator,
today we have gathered to honor
and listen to your Word.

May it guide us as we answer Christ's call
to be his disciples in our actions,
in our words,
and in our daily living.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: **AMEN.**

(You may wish to conclude with a song, acclamation of praise or sung psalm.)