

**CLOSING PRAYER SERVICE**  
**St. Rita Faith Formation 2019-2020**

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Hymn: "[People of God/Alleluia](#)" by David Haas

*Play verse 1 of "People of God." After verse 1, lower the volume but let it keep playing as you pray...*

Greeting

Leader: *Leading the Sign of the Cross.* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Leader: Praise be to God, who loves us and fills our lives with joy, now and forever.

All. Amen.

Leader: As we gather at the end of this year of Faith Formation, let us look at this time as an ending but also as one of new beginnings. During this Season of Easter, a season of new beginnings, we remember our Baptism – our birth into life with Christ Jesus.

Sprinkling Rite

*Pour warm water into a bowl and place it in the middle of your prayer space.*

Leader: Praise to you, God our Creator, you have create water to nourish the land and to quench the thirst of those who are in need of drink.

Cantor: Alleluia!

All: Alleluia!

Leader: Praise to you, Christ Jesus. We have been formed as your people, baptized into one family.

Cantor: Alleluia!

All: Alleluia!

Leader: Praise to you, Holy Spirit, for calling us from the waters of Baptism to live as children of peace.

Cantor: People of God, rejoice and sing!

*Raise the volume of the “People of God” song. During the verse that is currently playing, invite everyone to dip their fingers in the water and make the Sign of the Cross as a reminder of their Baptism. This is not holy water, but all water is sacred, and reminds us of our Baptism. When everyone has made the Sign of the Cross, lower the volume. Continue in prayer...*

Leader: Let us pray. God of new beginnings, you have blessed us with a future of hopes and successes. May our work this past year help us to see your wonders in the is world. We praise you as the God who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

*If there is still music left, you can raise the volume and finish the song.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you. You will seek me, and you will find me because you will seek with all your heart. Yes, I say, you will find me, and I will restore you to your land. I will gather you from every country and from every place to which I have scattered you, and I will bring you back to the land from which I had sent you away into exile. I, the LORD, have spoken. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

[“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”](#) from OCP

### Gospel Acclamation

Restart [“People of God/Alleluia”](#) from the beginning. Play through the first chorus of Alleluias.

### Gospel Reading

Reader: The Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord. *Make the sign of the cross on your forehead, on your lips, and over your heart.*

Reader: Jesus answered, “Those who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and my Father and I will come to them and live with them. Those who do not love me do not obey my teaching. And the teaching you have heard is not mine, but comes from the Father, who sent me. I have told you this while I am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.” The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Reflection

Watch Ms. Thomas' "[Closing Prayer Service Reflection](#)"

### GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Knowing that God hears and answers our prayers, let us present the needs of the day.

Cantor: For our Church and all who share the faith with us. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Cantor: For peace in our world and in our lives. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Cantor: For those in our world who are without a home or food. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Cantor: For those waiting to be baptized. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of hopes and dreams, your Spirit calls us to be people of peace. May we walk by faith confident that you are always with us. We praise you with Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

#### Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us join in the words Christ himself has given us.

All: Our Father...

#### Sign of Peace

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*Exchange a sign of peace.*

## CONCLUDING RITE

### Blessing

Leader: Let us bow our heads and ask for God's blessing.

Loving Creator, you are our God and we are your people, called by your Spirit. Shelter and protect us as we share your story and sing your praises. May you protect and guide us always. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us walk by faith , loving and serving our God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing hymn: "[We Walk By Faith](#)" by Marty Haugen