Space for God Among Ourselves

PREPARATION

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

CONFESSION

Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

Romans 14:21-13

ADORATION and GRATITUDE

For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name.

Hebrews 13:14-15

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION - Mark 9:38-50*

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group."

"Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a mira-

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read Slowly, several times.

Reflect What does the text say?

Respond How does it relate to my life?

Rest

t I welcome God's healing and renewal.

cle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

"But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter

the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 'where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.'

"For everyone will be tested with fire. Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other."

ANCHORING PRAYER

"I belong to the Messiah."

REVIEW OF THE HEART (previous 24 hours)

When did I act in Jesus' name and not my own?

What part of my life has lost it's flavour?

WISDOM

Proverbs 17:3 Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

Psalm 119:79-80 Let me be united with all who fear you, with those who know your laws. May I be blameless in keeping your decrees; then I will never be ashamed.

TESTIMONY What is God saying to me?

INTERCESSION Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, You ask that we always be humble and gentle. That we be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. We make every effort to keep ourselves united in the Spirit, binding ourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as we have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

Ephesians 4:2-4 (adapted)

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year B.. Scripture Quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation.