



### Opening Prayer

*Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### Gathering Question

Group members take turns answering the gathering question, designed to help folks get to know each other better in classic ice-breaker fashion. Each one shares briefly before the group takes up the primary conversation for this particular time together.

*If you could break bread with Jesus, what would you serve?*

### Communal Reading: John 20:19–31

*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."*

*But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

### Sharing and Conversation

Sharing among the group unfolds organically, prompted by conversation starters for each session and guided by generous listening so that all members of the group have opportunity to participate.

*Can you relate to Thomas? If so, how? If not, why not?*

*How do you continue to believe (abide in love) in a world that casts doubt/creates friction to destroy community?*

*What are ways you communicate your faith through actions and not words?*

## Closing Prayer

Each gathering concludes with a time of prayer. Leadership roles are shared on a volunteer basis among group participants.

Adapted from Steven Charleston's *Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage* (Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books, 2021).

*One: The Spirit says, "Awake, you winter sleepers, you tired and burdened believers,*

**All: For this ancient season of renewal, this brightening time of green shoots and first flowers.**

*One: This is the sign from deep within that life is never ended, that change is never complete, but forever making itself over, finding a fresh start.*

**All: Life is rising out of the cold ground of the past to discover the sun waiting once again, a different way of being, but being all the same:**

*One: Lord, you draw us close, from diverse places and experiences.*

**All: You alone know our hearts and our needs, now and always.**

*One: Stronger for the struggle, more grateful for the warmth, drinking in hope like rain, rising up to be seen once more, joyful and refreshed.*

**All: We are children of God, graced by this sacred spring, as our slumbering souls are brought back to life by the great promise of healing, fulfilled. Amen.**