



A LITURGY FOR OPENING A NEW CONGREGATION

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN SCREVEN COUNTY

Priest: Holy God, you have called for yourself a people.

People: **Fill us with your presence, affirm us with your love.**

Priest: O God, the source of all beginnings: we thank you for bringing us to this new day.

People: **Send us your Holy Spirit as we begin our journey as the people of Sylvania. Equip us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, defend us from all evil, and give us the grace to live together in peace and common prayer. In your power, may we become a holy community that transforms the world around us.**

Priest: All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel according to St John:

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remarks

Transfer of the Altar Cross with Blessing

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.

V. Christ for us became obedient unto death:

R. **Even death on a cross.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

O gracious God, who in your mercy ordained that your Son should suffer death on a cross of shame: We thank you that it has become for us the sign of his triumph and the banner of our salvation; and we pray that this cross may draw our hearts to him, who leads us to the glory of your kingdom; where you live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,
Have mercy upon us.

Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy Spirit , whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,
Have mercy upon us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,
Have mercy upon us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all human-kind for your love,
Savior, deliver us

From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,
Savior, deliver us

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,

Savior, deliver us

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,

Savior, deliver us

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name on lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

O God the Creator and ruler of all things, your reign grows like a mustard seed into abundant life: Bless those who plant and tend the new life of your

Church, that it may become a place of welcome, refuge of healing, a school for souls, and a life-giving spring; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ, our strength and our salvation. **Amen.**

The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.