

## FEBRUARY 14—FEBRUARY 20

The readings for this week are taken from the various Eucharistic prayers in the Book of Common Prayer (Rite I, Rite II A-D). The Eucharistic prayers provide summary statements of God's work of salvation in the world, concluding with Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.

Though they are at the core of our weekly worship service, familiarity often affords us the sense that we don't need to pay attention to the words. So use this opportunity to pause for a moment and reflect on the nature of the God described in these prayers, and on our existence as God's human creatures.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we...be filled with the grace and heavenly benediction and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. (Rite I)

*Did you know that you are also part of the sacrifice offered on Sunday morning? But notice whose action is necessary for us to fulfill this role. Does this change how you present yourself on Sunday mornings?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

*These are the words by which the bread is given to communicants in Rite I (you'll here Rev'd Morrison use these words every week). What is it the Body of Christ does? What are you supposed to do in response?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

*These are the words by which the wine is given to communicants in Rite I. What is it the Blood of Christ does? What are you supposed to do in response?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. (Prayer A)

*Why is it that Jesus came? And why do you think we proclaim this every week at the Eucharist?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. (Prayer A)

*As in Rite I, we the people are also the object of the Eucharistic prayer? What are we asking God to do for the bread and wine, and what are we asking God to do for us?*

## FEBRUARY 21—FEBRUARY 27

Continuation of readings from the Eucharistic prayer. See last week's introduction.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets, and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. (Prayer B)

*This is a summary statement about God's work in the world. Can you identify the four main parts and think of some stories that go with each part?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

*What is our sacrifice, as described here? And since the bread and wine are the fruit of God's own creation, are we really giving God anything that is not properly God's to begin with?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. (Prayer C)

*Some people call Prayer C "The Star Wars Prayer" because of this line, but why do you think it is included? What does it emphasize about creation and the greatness of God?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, from his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. (Prayer D)

*Prayer D speaks quite explicitly about the different persons of the Trinity. This is the section about the role of the Holy Spirit? How do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life?*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*This is the final prayer of the people after receiving. We are sent out like this each time we receive communion. How do you try to enact this each week?*