



### Statement of Intention for Centering Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier,  
alive at the center of our being, we  
wish to surrender in love to You.  
May our sacred word,



which we will gently pray  
when we engage with our thoughts,  
be a sign and symbol of our intention to  
consent to Your Divine Presence  
And Action within.

*Readings for September 28, 2008 (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

#### **Reading 1** (Ez 18:25-28)

Thus says the LORD:  
You say, "The LORD's way is not fair!"  
Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or  
rather, are not your ways unfair?  
When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit  
iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he  
committed that he must die.  
But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed,  
he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life;  
since he has turned away from all the sins that he has  
committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

#### **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14)

##### **R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

##### **R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your love are from of old.  
The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not;  
in your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD.

##### **R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
and teaches the humble his way.

##### **R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

#### **Reading II** (Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5)

Brothers and sisters:  
If there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit,  
any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of  
the same mind, with the same love, united in heart,  
thinking one thing.  
Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather,  
humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,  
each looking out not for his own interests, but also for  
those of others.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus,  
Who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.  
Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
coming in human likeness; and found human in  
appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the  
point of death, even death on a cross.  
Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on  
him the name which is above every name, that at the name  
of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### **Gospel** (Mt 21:28-32)

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:  
"What is your opinion?"

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not, '

but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,  
you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him."

*In thanksgiving for the holy space provided to our  
contemplative prayer groups, let our intentions include the  
needs of each pastor of each worshipping community.*

