

Pastoral Prayers
By Zac Koons
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 19

God our Guide, you walked alongside the Israelites through the wilderness, where shorn of the distractions of their everyday life in Egypt, you helped them to see what mattered most: that they were your treasured possession and that their destiny was to be for you a priestly kingdom. In our present wilderness, having also been taken out of everyday rhythms and habits, walk beside us and give us eyes to see what matters most: give us your church a renewed vision of our identity in your sight, that we may be your light for the wandering world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

God of every nation, you called your leader Moses to go up the mountain to meet you, that coming back down he might interpret your desires to the world. By your Spirit send out your call again to the leaders of our present moment, that they might seek after you and find you, that their lives may be transformed by your Gospel, and that they might make your will be known on earth as it is in heaven; Amen.

God of the persecuted, you rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but many in our world are still suffering within complex systems of oppression and injustice—deliver them, we pray, bear them up on eagles wings, and bring them to live even now in your kingdom of reconciliation and everlasting peace. Give the rest of us courage to confront the history of Egypt that is still alive in our hearts, that you might purge from us our sins idolatry and greed, that the fire of your grace may transform our bodies into ever-more-sanctified temples of your love. Amen.

We commend to your mercy those who have died, esp. _____, bring them to yourself.

We give you thanks for the example of your saints who have gone before us, especially Harriett Tubman; may we be inspired by her witness of Moses-ing your kingdom into reality.

Amen.