

**Closing Liturgy**  
**Arrupe Immersion Program**

**Gathering Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader:** Let us begin our prayer in the name of the one God who Creates us, Redeems us, and Sustains us!

**Assembly:** Amen!

**Leader:** Most blessed God, we give you thanks and praise as we gather this night to listen to your word, share stories, break bread together, and begin to take leave of this place and our new found friendships.

Gracious and loving God, you anoint us as prophets to bring good news to the poor. Help us to recognize the poverty in ourselves, the injustice which stalks our lives, the part we play in the sin of your world. Be with us this night, O God, and bless us with your loving grace. This we ask in your name.

**Assembly:** Amen!

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Micah 6: 6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans: 12: 9-18, 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-40 \_\_\_\_\_

As our response to the readings we have heard, and to all that we have shared during the past two weeks, I invite each of you to come forward and offer the symbol you have brought to this prayer. Place your symbol in the center and share briefly why you chose it and what it means to you.

**(This sharing of symbols constitutes a shared homily.)**

**INTENTIONS**

**Leader:** In the fullness of time, we find ourselves at the end of an extraordinary 10 days in El Salvador, where we have heard new stories about ancient injustices, and we join those stories to our own and now offer our prayers to our God. Our response this evening will be: God of Peace, hear our prayer.

**Leader** begins by offering a prayer and then opens it up to everyone else to add their intentions aloud.

## AGAPE

**Leader:** In the early days of the Christian Church, the ritual of blessing and breaking bread together was known as an Agape – Greek for “love-feast”. It was a way for Christians to come together and to recognize one another as sisters and brothers in the Lord, Jesus, because in sharing a meal together, they experienced community and felt the presence of the Lord among them. Tonight we do the same. As we extend our hands over this bread, let us pray that we will recognize the risen Christ in each one of us.

**Leader (extending hands out):** Loving God, we ask you to bless this bread. We have seen how precious a gift it is...throughout this country, its procurement can literally mean the difference between life and death. May we reverence the blessed earth in which it grows, the hands which sow and tend and reap its harvest, and most of all – you, gracious God, who are the source of all life. May we recognize you in this breaking of the bread. May we recognize ourselves, as the men and women you call us to be, in the sharing of this bread. As we share it, may we recall the promise you have made for all time through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Leader:** When ready, the basket of bread is passed around the circle. While standing, each one passes to the next saying, - “NAME; may this bread nourish you for the journey ahead.” Amen.

*Please be seated once all have received.*

**Communion Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(After communion):** Let us listen to this song with gratitude to God for the gifts we have received during this experience. For new friendships, and for all that the people of Nicaragua have taught us about life, love, and faith.

(Sara Groves – “I Saw What I Saw”)

**Leader:** Tonight, we have listened to the word of God and shared symbols of our own journey. Together as a community, we have blessed and shared the bread of this land. Now, as we prepare to take our leave, let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

**Exchange of peace**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

### **Micah 6:6-8**

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow before God most high? Shall I come before him with holocausts, with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my crime, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

You have been told, O people, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Response: Thanks be to God!*

## **2nd Reading:**

### **Romans 12:9-18, 21**

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## **Gospel**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Response: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.*