



*Liturgical Reflections*

# Transatlantic Writing Project Closing Liturgy

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## *Final Online TWP Webinar May 2025*

### Welcome

### Introduction

Lord Jesus, you promised your disciples that “many will come from the east and the west, north and south and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 8:11). Give each one of us a place at your table to read, to research, to write, to publish, to heal, to feast, and to rejoice at your table with Christ, in Christ, and through Christ.

### *Amen*

As we bring our Transatlantic Writing Project to a close, we want to use this compass-guided ritual to mark our time together. Given the nature of our project, the complex histories and realities, the metaphor of a compass aligns with our group. And so, we begin with the WEST.

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### **Meditative Reading for the WEST**

The Westerly direction is that of the setting sun and is associated with leaving and endings. For many of our foreparents, these westerly journeys marked both the leaving of their homeland and the loss of loved ones. For us, it signifies the ending of our time in its present format.

#### **Let us pray:**

*Sovereign Lord, giver of the gift of speech, words, imagination, and creativity to humans to turn words into different genres and art forms: As we gather to mark the ending of our journey together may we remember the joy, the truth, and the contestations that that brings.*

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: “Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man *claimed* to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

(John 19:19–22, NIV)

**Amen.**

#### **Psalm 118:1–10 (NIV) (*read responsively*)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.  
Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.”

*Let the house of Aaron say: “His love endures forever.” Let those who fear the Lord say: “His love endures forever.”*

When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

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*The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans.*

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord, I cut them down.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen*

**Silent Meditation on Reading**

*Followed by group sharing on some of the struggles and times of feeling hard pressed that you have experienced during our project.*

**Meditative Reading for the EAST**

As we turn our attention to the EAST, the direction of the rising sun, we are reminded that God is the God of resurrection, and it is in dying that life comes to us. As we meditate on this scriptures and responsive phrases in this section, let us call to mind the goodness of the Lord during the project.

**Reading: Luke 1:1–4**

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (NIV)

*Group sharing on objects collected from Ghana and Jamaica and the fruits of your involvement in the project.*

**Meditative Reading for the NORTH**

In orienting ourselves to the NORTH, the true north — we recall that it is a fixed point in our lives that guides us and directs us in the way we should go. We acknowledge the God who gives us this calling to write and to be scholars who offer our gifts to God's Church.

**Reading: Isaiah 49:13–16**

Sing for joy, O heavens!  
Rejoice, O earth!  
Burst into song, O mountains!  
For the LORD has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on them in their suffering.  
Yet Jerusalem says, "The LORD has deserted us;

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the Lord has forgotten us.”  
“Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child?  
Can she feel no love for the child she has borne?  
But even if that were possible,  
I would not forget you!  
See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands. (NIV)

**Responsive Reading:**

O God make speed to save us.  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
*O my God, in you I trust.*

I am giving you worship with all my life, I am giving you obedience  
with all my power,  
*I am giving you praise with all my strength; I am giving you honour  
with all my speech.*

I am giving you love with all my heart; I am giving you affection with  
all my sense,  
*I am giving you my being with all my mind, I am giving you my soul,  
O most high and holy God.*

*Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit, the Three in  
One.*

Let us share the commitments we have made to ourselves and the Lord to  
live out our vocation as writers. As we share, we recommit ourselves to this  
work to which we have been called.

As we turn our attention to the last direction, the SOUTH, we acknowledge  
that staying true to our commitments is hard, we require support from  
others and things that give us life to encourage us to hold the course.

**Meditative Reading for the SOUTH**

**Reading: Habakkuk 2:1-3**

I will stand at my watch  
and station myself on the ramparts.  
I will look to see what he will say to me,  
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

Then the Lord replied:  
“Write down the revelation  
and make it plain on tablets  
so that a herald may run with it.  
For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
it speaks of the end

and will not prove false.  
Though it linger, wait for it.  
it will certainly come  
and will not delay. (NIV)

**Sharing Stories and Experiences from Ghana and Jamaica that continue to provide encouragement and support as you live into your calling as writer, during the project and going forward.**

### **Intercession**

The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. (Psalm 145:14, NIV)

What is written is written: God of love hear the cry of those who yearn for love; use our writings to heal fractured families, broken and neglected homes, those who feel unwanted and are alone.

***God of love, hear our prayer.***

What is written is written: God of justice hear the cry of those who yearn for justice; use our writings to bring freedom to persecuted and oppressed, exploited, ill-treated, broken.

***God of justice, hear our prayer.***

What is written is written: God of peace hear the cry of those who yearn for peace; use our writings to heal historical trauma and ongoing trauma in battle zones and broken states, and for those who are frightened, fearful, anxious.

***God of peace, hear our prayer.***

### **Collect**

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: grant us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may truly serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

As Our Saviour has taught us so we pray . . .

***Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed by thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.***

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*And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen*

May Christ our redeemer bring to us enthusiasm for learning, writing research, healing and wholeness. **Amen**