

### **Gathering Music:**

### **Gathering Prayer:**

With the rising of the sun  
life rises again within me, O God.  
In the dawning of the morning light  
you lead me from the mists of the night  
into the clarity of the day.  
In the new light of this day  
bring me to a clearer knowing  
of the mystery that first bore me from the dark.  
Bring me to a clearer knowing  
of the love from which all life is born.  
- John Philip Newell

### **Reflective Reading:**

True spiritual gratitude embraces all of our past, the good as well as the bad events, the joyful as well as the sorrowful moments. From the place where we stand, everything that took place brought us to this place, and we want to remember all of it as part of God's guidance. That does not mean that all that happened in the past was good, but it does mean that even the bad didn't happen outside the loving presence of God. . . . Once all of our past is remembered in gratitude, we are free to be sent into the world to proclaim good news to others.  
Henri J. M. Nouwen

### **Reflective Music:**

### **Participatory Prayers:**

As the dawn of the day breaks and we have found ourselves here to greet this new day...

We proclaim, rise, shine, for our light has come

As we embrace all that was, and is, and is yet to be this new day...

We proclaim, rise, shine, for our light has come

As new energy and new opportunities begin to spring forth this new day...

We proclaim, rise, shine, for our light has come

As all that is in us opens to that which you are inviting us to the new day...

We proclaim, rise, shine, for our light has come

- Brian N. Prior

**Sending Prayers:**

May the peace of God be with you.

I do not know what you face.

I do not know what you have been through or what awaits you still.

But I do know that your heart hopes for strength,

your mind seeks for answers,

your soul longs for the companionship that only faithful friends can offer.

May God's strong arm hold you up.

May God's wisdom guide you.

May God's good people come to stand beside you.

Take this prayer with you.

Let it rest quietly in your spirit, come what may.

Let it be what you most need it to be: the peace of God within you.

-Steven Charleston

**Sending Music:**