**Liturgy for Re-Entering the Sanctuary**

**Source: Book of Common Prayer & Book of Occasional Services 2003**

**Curated by The Rev. Matt Stone, Rector, Calvary Episcopal Church, Bastrop**

Throughout the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of his holy Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for this building of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Episcopal Church, we are now gathered to re-enter it in God’s name after a year of exile and pandemic.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for making us in your image, to share in the ordering of your world. Thank you for leading us back into this place, which has been set apart for your worship, the building up of the living, and the remembrance of the dead, to the praise and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Presider: Our help is in the Name of the Lord; *People: The maker of heaven and earth.*Presider: Let us pray.

Everliving Father, watchful and caring, our source and our end: All that we are and all that we have is yours. Accept us now, as we re-enter this place to which we come to praise your Name, to ask your forgiveness, to know your healing power, to hear your Word, and to be nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son. Be present always to guide and to judge, to illuminate and to bless your people.

*A Warden or other representative of the congregation continues*

Lord Jesus Christ, make this a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to you, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we are made one with you and with one another, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for your service.

Presider: Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom;  
*People: And you are exalted as head over all. Amen.*

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### **A Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church**

Let us thank God whom we worship here in the beauty of holiness.

Eternal God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Graciously receive our thanks for this place, and accept the work of our hands, offered to your honor and glory.

For the Church universal, of which these visible buildings are the symbol,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered together in your Name,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For making us your children by adoption and grace, and refreshing us day by day with the bread of life.   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the knowledge of your will and the grace to perform it,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the pardon of our sins, which restores us to the company of your faithful people,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the fellowship of [***N.***, our patron, and of] all your Saints,   
*We thank you, Lord.*

*After a brief silence, the Celebrant concludes with the following Doxology*

Celebrant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty;

*People: For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.*

Celebrant: Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom;

*People: And you are exalted as head over all. Amen.*