



More Than
STONE SOUP

A Stewardship and Giving Emphasis Program for Congregations

A BRIEF ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF THE STONES

- 1. When set within either the liturgy for Holy Communion or the liturgy for Service of the Word, this order is said following the presentation of the offering and prior to the offertory prayer. (An alternate placement of this order is prior to the blessing of the congregation.)*
- 2. The liturgical color for Commissioning shall honor the color for the Proper of that day.*

The Presiding Minister addresses the congregation:

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: Today, as we begin with thanksgiving our stewardship and giving emphasis journey, we seek God's blessing as we dedicate these stones to his glory.

A reading from 1st Peter: "Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:4-5

The Presiding Minister holds up the stones and addresses the congregation:

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ever present king of the universe and creator of all that is. Be with us now and bless us as we dedicate these stones to your glory and praise. We come to you, as living stones, to ask your blessing on these simple items plucked from your own good earth. May these stones provide for us a daily reminder of your generosity and love. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, and continue your blessings to us through the bounty of your creation. May we find joy in celebrating the blessings of your love and generosity.

C: Amen

The Presiding Minister addresses the congregation:

P: People of God: Do you commit to carrying these stones with you as a reminder of God's faithfulness in providing for our daily needs? If this is your commitment, please respond: Yes, with the help of God.

C: Yes, with the help of God.

P: Let us Pray... Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, provider of all that is good: We thank you for the many gifts we receive from you daily, signs of your gracious love. Strengthen and encourage us to be faithful stewards of your bountiful gifts. Move us to respond with generosity to your gracious love; through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

C: Amen.

The service continues with the offertory prayer. (Alternate placing: with the blessing of the congregation.)