

Dedication and Blessing of St. Matthew's Memorial Garden

Antiphon

As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.

V. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land:

R. Indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

Let us pray.

God, our Father, at the dawn of creation you placed your children in a garden and walked with them in the cool of the day:

Be present with us as we walk in this garden, and open our eyes to the beauty of your creation.

Jesus, our good Companion, on many occasions you withdrew with your friends to a garden for quiet and refreshment:

Be present with all who come to meet you in this place, and teach them your ways.

Jesus, our Redeemer, you suffered anguish and betrayal in a garden, and there you submitted to your Father's will:

Be present with all who come in sorrow and pain to this place, and give them the grace of your redeeming love.

Jesus our Savior, after your crucifixion your body was laid in a tomb in a garden, and there you first revealed yourself to your friends after you rose from the dead:

Be present with all who come to this place when it seems that all is lost, and awaken them to new life by your resurrection power.

Holy Spirit of Truth and Power, our Advocate and Friend,

Be present with all who come to this place seeking direction and strength, fill their hearts with the love of God, and send them out in witness to Jesus.

Bishop

We now dedicate this Memorial Garden to the Glory of God and the memory of all whose lives are honored here, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all evermore. *Amen.*