

CHILDREN'S DAILY PRAYER

2019–2020



CHILDREN'S DAILY PRAYER

for the School Year 2019–2020



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and Vivian E. Williams



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Many of the concepts and guidelines, as well as various prayer services offered in this book, were originally conceived and developed by Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, Ms. Gianna Gobbi, and their collaborators. Theological underpinnings and many elements of these prayer services were first documented in Cavalletti's foundational books including, *The Religious Potential of the Child* and *The Religious Potential of the Child, 6 to 12 Years Old*.

Liturgy Training Publications acknowledges the significant contribution made by Elizabeth McMahon Jeep to the development of *Children's Daily Prayer*. For more than fifteen years, Ms. Jeep worked tirelessly to cultivate this book into the essential prayer resource it is today for children and their parents, as well for teachers and catechists. We are indebted to her for her authorship and guidance.

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The editors appreciate your feedback.
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INTRODUCTION

UNDERSTANDING THE ORDER OF PRAYER

Children's Daily Prayer is a form of the Liturgy of the Hours, adapted for children. It is based on the Church's tradition of Morning Prayer. A selected psalm is prayed for several weeks at a time. The readings for the daily prayers have been chosen to help children become familiar with significant themes and major stories in Scripture. The Sunday reading is always the Gospel of the day. Reflection questions for silent meditation or group conversation follow the reading.

For schools and homeschooling families, this book provides an order of prayer for each day of the school year (Prayer for the Day). For religious education settings, it provides prayer services for once a week (Prayer for the Week). Not every prayer element in the order of prayer will be useful in every situation. From the elements listed below, you can choose the ones that will be most effective for your group, setting, and time available.

OPENING

This gives the context for the Scripture reading and, when space allows, introduces the saint to be remembered that day. It also indicates when a particular theme or focus will be followed for the week. Sometimes difficult words or concepts in the reading are explained.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

An essential ritual action Catholics use to begin and end prayer. By making the Sign of the Cross, we place ourselves in the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Young children may need to practice making the Sign of the Cross.

PSALM

Praying the psalm is central to Morning Prayer. You may use the short version on the prayer page or the longer version on the Reproducible Psalms pages.

READING OR GOSPEL

Daily Scripture texts have been carefully selected to help children “walk through the Bible” and become familiar with the great stories and themes of Salvation History. By following a story or exploring

a theme for several days, the children experience how God has spoken to us through the words of Scripture and also through particular people and events in history. They begin to see how people have cooperated with God in bringing about God's Kingdom on earth and to realize their role in this great work. The Prayer for the Week always uses the Sunday Gospel.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

This is designed to be a time of silence so the children can ponder the Scripture they have heard and experience the value of silence in prayer. You might prefer to use this question at another time when discussing the reading or for journal writing. You may want to substitute your own instruction and questions. Regardless, some silence should be kept after proclaiming the Scripture.

CLOSING PRAYER

This prayer element begins with intercessions and ends with a brief prayer related to the liturgical season. In preparing for daily prayer, children can write the intercessions for the day and include relevant events to school and classroom life, as well as the world. They can also be encouraged to offer their own intentions spontaneously. You may choose to end with the Our Father.

PRAYER SERVICES

Children need to learn that the Church's prayer forms are rich and varied. We have the celebration of the Eucharist and traditional prayers such as the Rosary. We also have a long tradition of other forms of prayer, such as the Liturgy of the Hours, which emphasizes the psalms, or the Liturgy of the Word, which focuses on Holy Scripture. Additional prayer services are offered in this book for specific liturgical times, memorials, feasts, or solemnities. (Check the table of contents.) You may prefer to use one of these instead of the Prayer for the Day. Consider using these prayer services when the whole school gathers to celebrate a season. You might add an entrance procession and children and adults can do the ministerial roles.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS AND PRAYER AT DAY'S END

In order to instill in children the habit of prayer, use these prayers before lunch or at the end of the day.

PSALMS AND CANTICLES

Additional psalms and canticles (liturgical songs from the Bible: e.g., the Magnificat) are provided at the end of the book, and you will find many more in your Bible. Substitute these for any of the psalm excerpts in the prayer services or pray these with the children at any time a different choice is better for what is happening in your classroom community.

HOME PRAYERS

Children enjoy connecting their classroom and home lives. The Home Prayers offer a wonderful catechetical tool and resource for family prayer. You may photocopy these pages to send home.

CREATING A SACRED SPACE AND TIME FOR PRAYER

Children and adults benefit from having a consistent time for prayer. Where possible, it is helpful to the formation of prayer life to have a “sacred space”—that is, a designated place or table with religious objects such as the Bible, a cross, a beautiful cloth that reflects the color of the liturgical season. The introductions to each liturgical season will offer specific ideas on how to do the following:

1. Use the language in the introduction to help the children understand the character of the time.

2. Look for practical suggestions for how to celebrate the liturgical time in a classroom setting:

- how to arrange a sacred space within the classroom
- what colors and objects to use in the sacred space
- what songs to sing in each liturgical time
- suggestions for special prayers for that liturgical time and how best to introduce them to children
- help with adapting ideas from this book to special circumstances, especially for catechists who meet with students once a week

HOW CHILDREN PRAY

THE YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Children are natural liturgists and theologians. Young children (up until age 6) will pray simple but profound acclamations when they are given a real opportunity to hear the Word of God or to experience the language of signs found in our liturgy. Their spontaneous prayers most often reflect their understanding of the Word of God, their thanksgiving for God’s goodness, and the joy they receive in their relationship with Christ. Here are some examples of prayers collected by catechists: “Thank you, Lord, for the light!” (a 3-year-old); “Thank you

TIPS FOR GIVING CHILDREN A GREATER ROLE IN PRAYER

This book is intended to be used by children. It will help them become comfortable as leaders of prayer and will form them in the habit of daily prayer.

1. Ideally daily prayer takes place at the beginning of the day in individual classrooms. Consider inviting the children to work in groups to prepare and lead the prayer in your classroom. The group can take on the roles of leader, psalmist, lector, and perhaps music leader for the *Alleluia*. An intercessor might compose and lead a few petitions and then invite the class to add individual ones.
2. If it is necessary to begin the prayer over the public address system, consider doing only the opening and Sign of the Cross over the loud speaker. Then invite the individual classrooms to continue the prayer in their own setting.
3. If you wish to lead the whole prayer over the public address system, consider inviting children from the various grades to do the roles listed in the first paragraph.
4. To help the younger children learn to lead prayer consider inviting older children to lead in the lower grade classrooms as mentioned in item one.
5. Invite your older students to help orient the younger ones to the prayer service. The older ones can help the younger ones practice the readings and compose intercessions so that eventually the younger ones can lead prayer in their own classrooms.

for everything!” (a 4-year-old); “I love you!” (a 3-year-old); and “I want to take a bath in your light” (a 4-year-old). These prayers point to the young child’s ability to appreciate the greatest of realities: life in relationship with God.

When praying with these “little ones,” it is best to proclaim the Scripture (explaining difficult words in advance to help their understanding) and then to ask one or two open-ended questions to help them to reflect on what the passage is saying to them. If you then invite them to say something to Jesus about what they’ve heard, you may be surprised at what comes out of the mouths of those budding little theologians!

PRAYING WITH OLDER CHILDREN

Older children (ages 6–12) begin to appreciate the gift of prayer language. We should go slowly and use a light touch, though. When they’re younger, give them one beautiful phrase (“Our Father, who art in heaven”) that they can begin to appreciate and love. As they grow you can add a second phrase, then a third. But make sure that they understand the words they are using, and encourage them to pray slowly.

Older children also enjoy leading prayer and composing their own prayers. If you give them each a small prayer journal and give them time to write in it, they will produce meaningful prayers and little theological drawings (particularly if you give them time to write and draw right after reading Scripture together).

PSALMS

The psalms offer a treasure trove of prayer language. Consider praying with one or two verses at a time. You could write one or two verses onto an unlined index card and display it up on your prayer table. You can invite older children to copy them into their prayer journals. But remember to go over each word with the class, asking them to reflect on what the prayer wants to say to God. Children need time to explore the rich implications in their prayer. Also, psalms may be sung or chanted (after all, they were written as songs). Perhaps a parish cantor or choir member would lead a sung version of the psalm once in a while. At least the refrain might be sung on one note.

MUSIC IN PRAYER

It is a fact that the songs we sing in church are all prayers, so include singing in your classroom prayer life. What a wonderful difference it makes! Don’t be shy, and don’t worry about how well you sing. Even if you don’t think you have a good voice, children will happily sing with you. So go ahead and make a joyful noise! Children enjoy the chance to lift their voices to God. You may even have a few gifted singers in the class who can help you lead the singing.

The best music to use in the classroom is what your parish sings during the Sunday liturgy. You might incorporate the Penitential Act (“Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy, Lord Have Mercy”) in Lent, the refrain of the Gloria in Easter, the Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia), even a chanted Our Father. But any songs, hymns, or chants that your parish sings would be a good choice. Your parish music director or diocesan director of music can be good resources.

Also, in the introductions to each liturgical time, you will find a wealth of music suggestions.



ART AS PRAYER

Once in a while suggest the children draw a picture after having heard the Scripture reading. Their drawings often reveal their joy and love in ways that language can’t always express. Some children are more visual than verbal. Drawing allows them to lengthen and deepen their enjoyment of prayer time.

Don’t give the children assignments or themes for these “prayer” drawings, and don’t offer a lot of fancy art supplies or media. The best, most reverent drawings come from children who are simply invited to draw something that has to do with what they have just heard in the Scripture reading, something to do with the Mass, or anything to do with God. These open-ended suggestions allow the Holy Spirit room to enter into the children’s work.

PRAYER CANNOT BE EVALUATED

This book is most often used in school or religious education programs. In these settings, teachers are often required to give children a grade in religion. However, prayer is not class work and teachers and catechists who have any choice in the matter should make certain **not to give the children a grade for prayer!** Prayer expresses an inner, mysterious reality, for which teachers can provide the environment. Prayer is a person’s conversation with God. Consider Jesus’ teaching on prayer (Matthew 6:5–13) or take a close look at his parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9–14). We don’t want the children to pray for the benefit of a grade or praise from the teacher; rather, we want them to pray from their feeling of relationship with a listening God.

JOY

In all you do with the children, feel free to communicate your joy to them, especially your joy in praying. Joy is a great sign of the presence of Christ. If you take pleasure in your students' company, they will understand that they are precious children of God. If you take pleasure in your work, they will understand that work is a beautiful gift. If you listen to them and take their words seriously, you will be incarnating Christ, who so valued children.

Perhaps you will be the initial prayer leader and model that role. Something to model is a relaxed attitude when things go wrong (e.g., someone begins the Scripture too early). Try to give simple, clear directions ahead of time and then correct the situation as gently as possible. While you must keep order in your classrooms and an atmosphere of dignity in prayer, don't be afraid of a little silliness at times. Both laughter and tears are signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Vivian E. Williams holds a master of arts degree in pastoral studies, with a concentration in Word and Worship, from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. She formerly served as liturgy director for the St. Giles Family Mass Community in Oak Park, Illinois; a Catholic school teacher; and a parish catechist. Vivian writes and speaks on topics related to liturgy, ministry, and catechesis. She is the author of *Classroom Prayer Basics* (Oregon Catholic Press), co-author of the *When Children Gather* series (GIA Publications, Inc.) and *Children's Liturgy of the Word 2016-2017* (Liturgy Training Publications), and a contributor to *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons and Weekdays* (Liturgy Training Publications) in 2012 and 2013.

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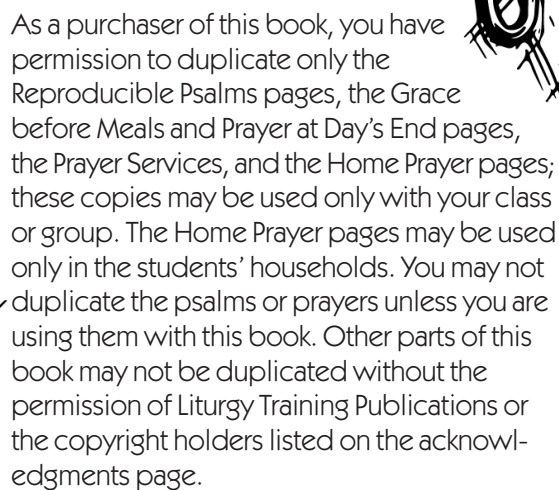
ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND THE ART

The cover art is by illustrator Mikela Prevost, who received her BA in painting from the University of Redlands, California, and her MFA from California State Fullerton. Her artistic rendering of children leading prayer and praying together in the classroom captures the spirit and intent of this annual resource.

The interior art is by Paula Wiggins, who lives and works in Cincinnati. At the top of the page for each day's prayer, you will find a little picture that reflects on the liturgical time. During Ordinary Time in the autumn, a sturdy mustard tree with tiny seeds blowing from it reminds us of the parable of the mustard seed. For Advent we find the familiar Advent wreath. During the short season of Christmas Time, there is a manger scene with sheep and a dove. As we begin counting Ordinary Time, we find an oyster shell with pearls—an image for the parable of the pearl of great price. During Lent, bare branches remind us of this time of living simply, without decoration and distraction, so that we can feel God's presence. During Easter Time, we find the empty tomb in the early dawn of the first Easter. And as we return to Ordinary Time after Pentecost, a beautiful grape vine reminds us of Jesus' parable of the vine and the branches.

At the beginning of each new liturgical time, special art accompanies the Grace before Meals and Prayer at Day's End, and you will find appropriate scenes for the various prayer services throughout the year. Finally, notice the harps accompanying the psalms, reminding us that these prayers were originally sung. The incense on the pages of canticles pictures the way we want our prayers to rise to God.

A NOTE ABOUT COPIES



As a purchaser of this book, you have permission to duplicate only the Reproducible Psalms pages, the Grace before Meals and Prayer at Day's End pages, the Prayer Services, and the Home Prayer pages; these copies may be used only with your class or group. The Home Prayer pages may be used only in the students' households. You may not duplicate the psalms or prayers unless you are using them with this book. Other parts of this book may not be duplicated without the permission of Liturgy Training Publications or the copyright holders listed on the acknowledgments page.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRAYER FOR THE DAY AND WEEK

FOR THE WHOLE GROUP

All of us participate in the prayer each day by lifting our hearts and voices to God. When the leader begins a Scripture passage by saying, “A reading from the holy Gospel according to . . .,” we respond “Glory to you, O Lord.” At the conclusion of the Gospel, we say, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” At the conclusion of other Scripture readings, we say, “Thanks be to God.” We offer our prayers and our intentions to God. When we conclude a prayer we say, “Amen.”

Amen means: “Yes! I believe it is true!” Let your “Amen” be heard by all.

FOR THE LEADER

1. Find the correct page and read it silently. Parts in bold black type are for everyone. All others are for you alone.

2. Practice reading your part aloud, and pronounce every syllable clearly. The parts marked with ♦ and + are instructions for what to do. Follow the instructions but do not read them or the headings aloud. If you stumble over a word, repeat it until you can say it smoothly.

3. Pause after “A reading from the holy Gospel according to . . .” so the class can respond. Pause again after “The Gospel of the Lord.” Remember to allow for silence when the instructions call for it, especially after the Gospel and after reading the questions “For Silent Reflection.”

4. Pause after “Let us bring our hopes and needs to God . . .” so that individuals may offer their prayers aloud or in silence. After each petition, the group responds, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

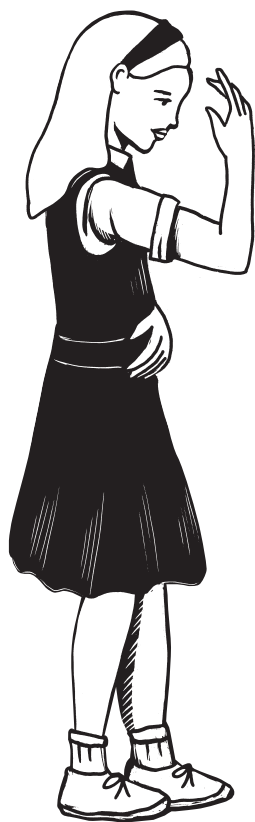
5. When you make the Sign of the Cross, use your right hand and do it slowly and reverently, first touching your forehead (“In the name of the Father”), next just below your chest (“and of the Son”), then your left shoulder (“and of the Holy Spirit”), and finally your right shoulder (“Amen”).

6. At prayer time, stand in the front of the class straight and tall. Ask the students to use their reproducible sheet of psalms for reading their part. Read slowly and clearly.

IF THERE ARE TWO LEADERS

One leader reads the Reading or Gospel while the other reads all of the other parts. Practice reading your part(s). Both leaders should stand in front of the class during the entire prayer.

Remember to read very slowly, with a loud, clear voice.





REPRODUCIBLE PSALMS

LENT; EASTER TIME



LENT

Psalm for Wednesday, February 26—Wednesday, April 8

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

LEADER: The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

ALL: **The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.**

LEADER: I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

ALL: **The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.**

Short version: use above only; Long version: use above and below.

SIDE A: This poor soul cried, and was heard by
the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and
delivers them.

SIDE B: The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them
from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help,
the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all
their troubles.

ALL: **The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.**

LEADER: The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from
them all.

ALL: **The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.**

EASTER TIME

Psalm for Monday, April 13—Friday, May 1

Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

LEADER: Let the hearts of those who seek the
LORD rejoice.

ALL: **Let the hearts of those who seek the
LORD rejoice.**

LEADER: O give thanks to the LORD, call on
his name,
make known his deeds among
the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

ALL: **Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

Short version: use above only; Long version: use above and below.

SIDE A: Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the
LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

SIDE B: O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

ALL: **Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

REPRODUCIBLE PSALMS

EASTER TIME; ORDINARY TIME, SUMMER



EASTER TIME

Psalm for Sunday, May 3—Sunday, May 31

Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

LEADER: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

ALL: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

LEADER: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

ALL: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

Short version: use above only; Long version: use above and below.

SIDE A: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SIDE B: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you,
give us success!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name
of the LORD.
We bless you from the house
of the LORD.
The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

ALL: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

ORDINARY TIME, SUMMER

Psalm for Monday, June 1—Friday, June 26

Psalm 85:8–9, 10–11, 12–13

LEADER: The LORD speaks of peace to his people.

ALL: The LORD speaks of peace to his people.

LEADER: Let me hear what God the LORD
will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to
him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those
who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

ALL: The LORD speaks of peace to his people.

Short version: use above only; Long version: use above and below.

SIDE A: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss
each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from
the ground,
and righteousness will look down
from the sky.

SIDE B: The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

ALL: The LORD speaks of peace to his people.

ORDINARY TIME AUTUMN



SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 — WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

AUTUMN ORDINARY TIME

THE MEANING OF ORDINARY TIME

Times and seasons on our liturgical calendar, in contrast to the secular calendar, are valued in a different, altogether new way. Our Christian calendar even has a different shape! Instead of a rectangle, we draw all the days of a year in a circle. Instead of marking off times according to the weather, we celebrate those great moments when God reveals a great love for us in marvelous and mysterious ways.

Our liturgical calendar has four primary seasons. Advent (the four weeks before Christmas); Christmas; Lent (the six weeks before Easter); Easter (which extends for fifty days after Easter through Pentecost) but, the longest part of the calendar is called Ordinary Time.

Ordinary Time is thirty-three or thirty-four weeks a year. It is called “Ordinary Time” because the weeks are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series and stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Ordinary time is therefore “ordered time.” Calling it “Ordered Time” reminds us of God’s great plan for creation. There was a specific time for the creation of light, planets, water, earth, plants, animals, and humankind. Ordinary Time begins after Christmas, continues until Ash Wednesday when it stops for Lent and Easter, then picks up again after Pentecost Sunday and runs through the summer and autumn until the beginning of Advent. Each Sunday in Ordinary Time has a number and the numbers increase each week.

During autumn Ordinary Time, there are weekly themes for the Scripture readings. Some of the themes help us to understand qualities of our faith: importance of community, friendship, keeping the Sabbath holy, prayer, service and the great commandment to love God and love one another. In these weeks, the readings cover a historical spectrum of Scripture.

From the New Testament, we will read parables or stories that Jesus told. With moral parables in week twenty-one, like the sower, the wicked tenants, and the barren fig tree, Jesus teaches us about the consequences of our behavior.

From the Old Testament we will read beautiful passages about Wisdom in the Book of Sirach. We will read from the Book of Genesis and wonder at the marvelous story of Creation. We will spend three

weeks on the story of Moses who was one of the greatest heroes in the Old Testament. God chose Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt. During their escape and on their long journey through the deserts, the people met many challenges: the Egyptian army, lack of food and water, hostile tribes. But God was always with them and taking care of them. One of the greatest gifts God gave to the Hebrew people and to people of all time is the Gift of the Law: the Ten Commandments, which give clear instructions on how people can live together in peace.

As we come to the end of Ordinary Time and prepare for Advent in the thirty-third and thirty-fourth weeks, the theme is, “Who is Jesus?” Jesus is Messiah, Savior of Israel, Son of Man, Lord of the Sabbath, Teacher and Healer, Good Shepherd, and Christ the King!

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE ORDINARY TIME IN THE CLASSROOM

SACRED SPACE

You want the prayer table or space to be in a place where the children will see it often and perhaps go to it in their free moments. If you can have a separate prayer table it should not be too small, perhaps a coffee-table size. You may wish to buy one or two inexpensive cushions to place before your prayer table so that children will feel invited to sit or kneel there. The essential things for the prayer table are a cross or crucifix (unless one is on the wall), a Bible, a substantial candle and a cloth of liturgical color. Cover the prayer table with a plain green cloth or one that mixes green with other Autumn colors. Large table napkins or placemats work, or remnants from a sewing store. Green, the color of hope and life, is the color of Ordinary Time. If you can, set the Bible on a bookstand. Point out the candle beside the Bible, and remind them that Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world” (John 8:12). You might light the candle, open the Bible, and read that verse to the class. Other objects you might want to include are a simple statue of Mary (September 8), images of angels (Archangels, September 29 and Guardian, October 2), an image of St. Francis or the children’s

pets (October 4), a rosary (October 7). Use natural objects, too, such as flowers, dried leaves or small gourds. If there is the space, pictures of loved ones who have died would be appropriate in November.

MOVEMENT AND GESTURE

Consider reverencing the Word of God in the Bible by carrying it in procession. Place a candle ahead of it and perhaps carry wind chimes as it moves through the room. At the prayer space the processors turn and the Bible is raised. The class reverences with a profound bow (a bow from the waist) then the Bible and candle are placed, and the chimes' are silenced. Also consider reverencing the Crucifix or the Cross near September 14, the Triumph of the Cross. Take the crucifix from the wall (or use another one) and carry it in procession at the beginning of prayer in a similar manner or take the cross to each child and let them kiss it or hold it or make a head bow before it.

FESTIVITY IN SCHOOL AND HOME

For Ordinary Time in autumn, *Children's Daily Prayer* provides several special prayer services to use in the classroom—or with larger groups such as the whole school—to celebrate the beginning of the school year, to pray for peace (on September 11), and to honor Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The Home Prayer pages can be duplicated for the students to take home and share with their families: Morning Prayer for Families Departing for the Day; Home Prayer for Remembering the Dead; and a Meal Prayer for Thanksgiving.

SACRED MUSIC


One of the best ways to help the children enter into the special qualities of this or any liturgical time is by teaching them the Sunday music of their parish. Teach the children (or invite the school music teacher, parish music director or a choir member/cantor to do it) how your church sings her “Alleluia!” See what songs and hymns the children know and love. For example, in Ordinary Time, consider “For the Beauty of the Earth” and “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace.” Learn and sing just a good refrain. Singing is an integral part of how we pray.

PRAYERS FOR ORDINARY TIME

During this season, take some time to discuss the meaning of the various intercessions of the Our Father with the children in your class. In particular, discuss the Kingdom of God—that time of peace and justice proclaimed by and fulfilled in Jesus. Ask what it means for God's Kingdom to come. Go through the prayer one intercession at a time asking what each means. Explore with them what Jesus is teaching us about how we should pray: We ask for God's name to be treated as blessed and holy, for the coming of the Kingdom of God, for God's will to be accomplished on earth, for our “daily bread,” for forgiveness, and for strength in the face of temptation.



A NOTE TO CATECHISTS



Because you meet with your students once a week, you may wish to use the Prayer for the Week pages. These weekly prayer pages contain an excerpt from the Sunday Gospel and will help to prepare the children for Mass. Sometimes, though, you may wish to substitute the Prayer for the Day if it falls on an important solemnity, feast, or memorial of the Church (Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7, for example). In this introduction, you will see the suggestions for your prayer space. You may have to set up a prayer space each time you meet with your group. Think in advance about where to place it, have all your materials in one box, and always set it up in the same place.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

FOR ORDINARY TIME • AUTUMN

LEADER:

Lord, you gift us with your love in so many ways.

ALL: We praise you and thank you!

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

LEADER:

Father, Son, and Spirit,
you bring us joy
through your abundant grace.
As we gather to share this meal,
may we be grateful for the
loving people who prepared it
every step of the way.
We thank all those in lands far from us
and those nearby who
helped grow, nurture, package,
transport, store, and cook our food.
We bless these brothers and sisters
as we bless each other here,
for you created all of us in
your image of goodness and love.
May this meal nourish our bodies
to give you glory and to build your Kingdom.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



PRAYER AT DAY'S END

FOR ORDINARY TIME • AUTUMN



LEADER:

God of all wisdom,
we offer back to you
all that we have done today
through the gift of your gentle Spirit.

ALL: For your love is in our hearts!

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

LEADER:

We are grateful for
the signs and wonders of this day,
for the ordinary events and its surprises,
big and small.
We thank you for the
loving people who surround us.
May we continue to reflect your goodness
to others in your name.
We ask this through your beloved Son, Jesus.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER SERVICE

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR FOR SCHOOL STAFF



Seek volunteers to lead this prayer service. You may involve up to seven leaders (as marked below). The fourth leader will need a Bible for the Scripture passage. Choose hymns for the beginning and ending if you wish.

FIRST LEADER:

We gather in Christ's name
to celebrate all of God's children.
Let us ask the Holy Spirit for guidance
as we begin our journey again with them.

◆ Gesture for all to stand.

Together we enter this time of prayer as we
make the Sign of the Cross.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SECOND LEADER:

Spirit of God,
enlighten our minds
as we begin another school year, for
these children are gifts of new life.
Draw us closer to all
that is good and true
so that through us
all that they see
is you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THIRD LEADER:

Spirit of your Son Jesus,
grant us your wisdom and
integrity each and every day,
for you are the breath of all
that is holy.

Refresh us with ideas that
inspire our youth with your energy
and enthusiasm.

We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

- ◆ Gesture for all to sit.

FOURTH LEADER:

Romans 8:31b–35, 37–39

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Romans.

- ◆ Read the Scripture passage from the Bible.

The Word of the Lord.

- ◆ All observe silence.

FIFTH LEADER:

- ◆ Gesture for all to stand.

Let us bring our hopes and needs to God as we
pray from the Opening Prayer of our Church
leadership as they embarked on the Second
Vatican Council. Our response will be: **Guide
us with your love.**

For light and strength to know your will,
to make it our own,
and to live it in our lives,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Guide us with your love.

For justice for all;
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favor,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Guide us with your love.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Guide us with your love.

May we temper justice with love,
so that all our discussions and reflections
may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful servants,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Guide us with your love.

SIXTH LEADER:

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father . . . Amen.

- ◆ Pause and then say:

Let us offer one another the sign of
Christ's peace.

- ◆ All offer one another a sign of peace.

SEVENTH LEADER:

Let us pray:
God, our Creator,
your presence through the
Holy Spirit strengthens us
for the days ahead.
Guide us with your patience
and compassion as we
mentor our future leaders in Christ.

Amen.

- ✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER SERVICE

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR FOR STUDENTS



This prayer service may be led by the eighth grade students or by older students. The third and fifth leaders will need a Bible for the passages from Matthew and Luke. Take time to help the third and fifth leaders practice the readings. You may wish to sing “This Little Light of Mine” as the opening and closing songs. If the group will sing, prepare someone to lead the songs.

FIRST LEADER:

We are embarking on a journey together
in this brand new school year.
As we look ahead at all that this year
might reveal,
let us remember Jesus,
who will walk beside us every step of the way.

SONG LEADER:

Let us begin by singing the first few verses of
our song.

- ◆ Gesture for all to stand, and lead the first few verses of the song.

SECOND LEADER:

- ✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Let us pray:
God our Creator,
we were made in
your image and likeness.
Help us to be gentle with
ourselves and each other
as we mature this year with your grace.

Guide us in our studies and help us develop
with knowledge and maturity.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

◆ Remain standing and sing Alleluia.

THIRD LEADER: Matthew 5:14–16
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOURTH LEADER:

◆ Gesture for all to stand.

Let us bring our hopes and needs to God as we
pray, Let your light shine through us.

ALL: Let your light shine through us.

Help us to show honor and respect
to all those who teach and coach us,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Let your light shine through us.

Guide us with your counsel, Lord,
when we are frustrated with our studies,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Let your light shine through us.

Help us to take care of our
minds and bodies
so that we give you glory in
everything we do,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Let your light shine through us.

Help us to remember all that we learn
so that we can apply it to our lives
in the months and years ahead,
we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Let your light shine through us.

FIFTH LEADER: Luke 6:31–36
Let us listen to what Jesus teaches
to his disciples:

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

SIXTH LEADER:

Let us pray:

O God,
we know you are with us on this journey.
Help us to love one another
as you love us.
Guide us with your light of mercy and justice.
May we be considerate with our friends
and respectful of all who lead us.
Help us to learn and grow in your
wisdom throughout this year.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SONG LEADER:

Please join in singing the final verses of our
closing song.

HOME PRAYER

MORNING PRAYER FOR FAMILIES DEPARTING FOR THE DAY

The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the family the “domestic church” where children are first introduced to the faith (CCC, 2204 and 2225). A blessing is a prayer that acknowledges and thanks God for the good things in our lives and asks God to be with us. When the household gathers in the morning, perhaps at breakfast, a parent, grandparent, or other adult may lead this blessing.

The longer prayer can be used on one of the first days of school and other special occasions. At other times, you may just want to bless the child with the Sign of the Cross on the forehead and a “God bless you” as he or she leaves for school.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER:

Holy God,
giver of all good gifts,
walk with us today,
guide our words and our actions,
and keep us on the path of truth.
Bring us back together in peace
at the end of this day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

✙ The Leader makes the Sign of the Cross on one person's forehead saying:

“God bless you and keep you today.”

ALL: Amen.

LEADER:

We each have important things
to do today, and so we ask God's blessing.
We go to school and to work.
We learn and play.
We praise and thank God for each other
and for the love we share.
We ask God to be with those
who are lonely or sick
or without basic needs.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

LENT



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 — WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

LENT

THE MEANING OF LENT

On Ash Wednesday the Church enters into her great retreat time called Lent. It is a time to reflect on how we are with God, with our neighbor, and with ourselves and to make some changes in our attitudes or speech or actions if we need to. We should do this often throughout the year, but we do it more consciously in Lent to prepare for the celebration of Easter when some people will be baptized and the rest of us will renew our Baptismal promises.

We have six weeks to concentrate on this conversion of heart, this turning back to or moving closer to God. During this time we might ask ourselves a simple question: “What do I need to stop doing or start doing to be the very good person God made me?” If we find we have some bad habits or have hurt someone (even ourselves) or have neglected to do something we should, we can express our sincere regret and willingness to change in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The three Lenten disciplines can help us to train our hearts in love. We are called to pray, fast, and give alms. We pray more regularly and perhaps for longer periods of time. Praying is a conversation with God and a way to be closer to God.

We fast to remind ourselves that there is nothing more important than God and the needs of God’s people. Perhaps we give up a certain food and give the money we save to the poor. We might give up playing video games and use the time to help around the house. Part of fasting is abstaining from meat on Fridays of Lent so we eat simply and sparingly as poor people must.

The third discipline is almsgiving. The word comes from the Greek meaning “compassion” and is associated with giving food, money, or clothing to the poor. The money we save by giving up a favorite food or activity might be used this way. We may have a toy, games, or clothes we no longer use very often that we could give to someone else.

Lent’s purpose of preparing us to celebrate Easter becomes more focused as we enter into Holy Week. Lent ends with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening. At that moment we enter the Triduum, the three holiest days of the Church year.

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE LENT IN THE CLASSROOM

SACRED SPACE

Remember that on Ash Wednesday, you will need to change your prayer tablecloth from green to purple. If you have a growing plant in the prayer space, remove it. Ask the children to bring in their family’s dried palms from last year and put them in a simple vase. A clear bowl full of ashes would be appropriate. They are available through local religious goods stores. (Use the same bowl to hold water in Easter.)

MOVEMENT AND GESTURE

You may want to use some incense during some of the prayers. Ask the parish priest or deacon for some charcoal and incense. You’ll also need a pot full of sand to place the charcoal in. An altar server can help you light the charcoal about ten minutes before the prayer. Then the leader can place just enough incense on the charcoal before the Scripture is proclaimed. Be sure to have open windows and let people know you are using the incense. Ask the children with allergies and asthma to stand in the back of the space in case the smoke bothers them. At the end of the prayer cover the charcoal with sand to stop it from smoking.

FESTIVITY IN SCHOOL AND HOME

Lent is a more solemn time. Festivity is kept to a minimum, although there may be special feasts such as St. Joseph’s Day or St. Patrick’s Day, where it is the custom to celebrate and honor these saints. Because we are not in school during the three sacred days leading up to Easter, we have provided prayers the children can bring home. You will find Home Prayer pages to copy and send home so that families can keep Holy Thursday and Good Friday (pages 249–250). The Prayer Service for Ash Wednesday (pages 206–207) can be used for the classroom or for a larger group.

SACRED MUSIC


Lent is a more solemn time and our music reflects this. Our songs are more plaintive and contemplative. Children love to sing “Jesus, Remember Me,” and “What Wondrous Love Is This?” Other songs for Lent are “Amazing Grace,” the African American spiritual “Somebody’s Knockin’ at Your Door,” and the Latin hymn “Ubi Caritas.” We don’t sing “Alleluia” during Lent. Tell the children we are saving all our Alleluia joy for Easter. For the Prayer for the Week, and during the week where there is a Gospel, we sing an acclamation, such as “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ” to whatever tune the parish is using.

PRAYERS FOR LENT

Lent is the perfect time to learn or to review an Act of Contrition. Psalm 51 is also a beautiful prayer for this season of penance and conversion.



A NOTE TO CATECHISTS



If any children in your group are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, gather them to read the following three great accounts from the Gospel of John: (1) Jesus teaches the Woman at the Well who finally understands Jesus is the Messiah (John 4:5–15, 19b–26, 39a, 40–42); (2) Jesus cures the Man Born Blind of physical blindness and the man “sees” and follow him (John 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38); and (3) Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45). These are long passages and may require some time to read and discuss with your students, but fight the temptation to rush through them!

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

LENT

LEADER:

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

ALL: because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER:

God of compassion,
we thank you for this meal
and for those who prepared it.
May we be nourished by this food
and by the love and friendship we share.
Help us to be mindful of people
in our community and other regions
who will remain hungry today.
May we become your true food for others
through gifts of your Spirit and our works
of charity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



PRAYER AT DAY'S END

LENT



LEADER:

Blessed be the Lord,

ALL: for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER:

Merciful Lord,
sometimes we fail in what
we say or do.

As our school day ends,
help us to remember that
your mercy and love
are never-ending.
Guide us as we renew our
commitment
to deepen our relationship with you
throughout this season of Lent.
We ask this in your name.

All: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020**

OPENING

In Jesus' time, Jews hated people from Samaria and had nothing to do with them. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that God's love and forgiveness are for everyone.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

John 4:7, 9ab, 10–14a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get

that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Jesus is like life-giving water. Receiving the Body of Christ in Holy Communion keeps us spiritually alive.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God our Creator,
you sent your Son Jesus
to show us the way to you.
May our thirst for you be quenched
by the Living Water that is Christ Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020



OPENING

The Sadducees and the Pharisees were the ruling class and religious leaders of Israel. They taught the importance of religious law. In today's reading, the lawyer who questioned Jesus was really trying to trip him up because to choose one law as the greatest would be a challenge to those who chose another law as greatest. Jesus did not choose any law that was written at the time. He said the greatest rule is the love of God and love of neighbor on which all religious law is built.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34–40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test

him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How do you follow the two greatest commandments?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Once again, O God,
you call us to love.
During this Lenten season,
help us to grow in love for you,
and to treat our neighbors
as we wish to be treated.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

OPENING

The traditional religious laws of Jesus' time focused on rules about what you ate, or how you dressed, or when you prayed. Jesus had a different focus, as we will hear today. Today we celebrate the Irish saint, Patrick. He is revered in Ireland because he converted the people there to Christianity.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalms 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:34–37, 40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave

me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How does God want us to treat those who have less than we do?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God of love and compassion,
in caring for others we honor you.
May we each know how to respond
to the needs of those who are suffering.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER SERVICE

MEMORIAL OF ST. PATRICK



Prepare six leaders for this service. The third reader will need a Bible for the Gospel passage and may need help finding it and practicing. After the story of St. Patrick, you may wish to begin by singing “Lord of All Hopefulness,” and end with “Christ Be Beside Me” (to the tune of “Morning Has Broken”) or “The Summons.” If there will be singing, prepare a song leader.

◆ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST LEADER:

Praise be to God,
who in every age sends great missionaries
like St. Patrick
to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ!

ALL: Amen.

Listen now to the story of St. Patrick, who lived in the fifth century: As a teen, St. Patrick was kidnapped from Scotland and sold as a slave in Ireland. Several years later, with God’s help, he escaped to Britain, where he studied to become a priest and later was ordained a bishop. Then he went back to Ireland and brought the faith of Jesus to all the Irish people. He helped them believe that God didn’t live in the trees of the forest, but in the hearts of all people.

SONG LEADER:

Please join in singing our opening song.

SECOND LEADER:

Let us pray:

Holy Trinity, one God in three persons,
we thank you for sending us holy men

and women

who help people to know you.

May we always look for guides who will
give us a deeper knowledge of
your mysteries.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

- ◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

THIRD LEADER:

Matthew 28:18–20

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

- ◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

- ◆ All observe silence.

FOURTH LEADER:

Let us bring our hopes and needs to God as
we pray, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

For all the children of the world, may we
find good guides and models of faith. May
we develop our talents and use them wisely,
we pray to the Lord.

For our Irish ancestors and all those who
came before us. May we live the faith they
passed on to us and treasure the heritage they
have given us, we pray to the Lord.

For the homeless and the hungry, for those
who are sick or suffering in any way, and for
those who have died, we pray to the Lord.

FIFTH LEADER:

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . . Amen.

- ◆ Pause, and then say:

Let us offer one another a sign of
Christ’s peace.

- ◆ All offer one another a sign of peace.

SIXTH LEADER:

Let us pray:

God of our ancestors,
give us the strength and courage
of St. Patrick

so that we may bring the love and joy
of your Kingdom

to all the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

- ✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020



OPENING

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and love your neighbor as yourself. In today's reading, St. Paul says that it is not enough to just have faith—to believe in the teachings of Jesus. We must prove that we believe by our actions. The word *works* means “actions.” St. Cyril of Jerusalem, whose memorial we celebrate today, sold gifts from the emperor to raise money for the poor. He was well loved for his charity and generosity.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

READING

James 2:14–19a, 24, 26

A reading from the Letter of James.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have

faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How will you show your faith by what you do?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Again, O God,
we hear of your command to help others,
especially those who are in need.

May we be generous and respond to them
as best as we can.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

OPENING

We hear about the Beatitudes in today's Gospel. The word *beatitude* means "to be blessed." Jesus is teaching his disciples a way of living that will deepen their relationship with God. The words *poor in spirit* and *meek* mean to be humble, not self-centered or boastful. *Righteousness* means to want what is fair and just. *Merciful* means to be kind and forgiving. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, a righteous man who was the husband of Mary and raised Jesus.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:2–9

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

Jesus began to speak to his disciples, and
taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in
spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will
inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness, for they will be
filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will
receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for
they will see God. Blessed are the peacemak-
ers, for they will be called children of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Which
of the Beatitudes can you act upon today? How?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the
needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and
the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear
our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God, during this holy season
help us to come closer to you.
Help us to fast from those things
that separate us from your love,
to give generously to others,
and to pray always.

We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER SERVICE

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH



Prepare six leaders for this service. The third leader will need a Bible for the passage from Matthew. Take time to help the third leader practice the readings. You may wish to sing “You Are the Light of the World,” “Blest Are They,” or “We Are Called,” as opening or closing songs. If the group will sing, prepare someone to lead.

FIRST LEADER:

Today we remember St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus here on earth. At several key times in his life, St. Joseph listened and followed special messengers that God directed to this humble carpenter. St. Joseph’s faith led him to marry his fiancée, even though she became pregnant in a divinely inspired way. He courageously took them to Egypt to escape Herod’s wrath. And St. Joseph raised Jesus as his own son, guiding his growth.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us remember St. Joseph as we begin by singing the opening song.

SONG LEADER:

◆ Gesture for all to stand, and lead the first few verses of the song.

SECOND LEADER:

Let us pray:
Almighty Father,
may we look to St. Joseph as our guide
as he responded to your call to be
a devoted husband and father.

We pray with him to your Son Jesus,
our Lord and Savior,
in union with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

- ◆ Remain standing and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

THIRD LEADER:

Matthew 2:13–15

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

- ◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

- ◆ All remain standing and observe silence.

FOURTH LEADER:

Let us bring our hopes and needs to God as
we pray, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the courage to live our faith
through word and action
as St. Joseph did throughout his days,
we pray to the Lord.

For all who are struggling with
tough decisions in life,
may they look to St. Joseph as
a brave friend,
we pray to the Lord.

For all married couples,
may they continue to be an example
of the love and devotion that
St. Joseph and Mary shared,
we pray to the Lord.

For all fathers
and those who nurture others.
Help us to respect and protect life
from conception until natural death,
we pray to the Lord.

May we have the conviction
to lead the way, as St. Joseph did
to hope and the promise
of new life through Jesus Christ,
we pray to the Lord.

FIFTH LEADER:

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . . Amen.

- ◆ Pause, and then say:

Let us offer one another the sign of
Christ's peace.

- ◆ All offer one another a sign of peace.

SIXTH LEADER:

Let us pray:
Heavenly Father,
your servant St. Joseph
was a man of great faith.
He listened to you in prayer
and to angels whom you sent
in dreams.
He is a symbol for courage
in following God's will.
May we look to him
in times of trouble or doubt.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

- ✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020



OPENING

Today's Gospel reading is the parable of the true vine. Many of the stories or parables that Jesus told are metaphors. It sounds like the story is about one thing, but Jesus is really talking about something else. Jesus' parables teach us about the nature of God. The word *abide* means "to stay" or "remain."

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

John 15:1–6a, 7

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by

itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. We are like leaves on the vine. What helps us to stay attached to the vine that is Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Gracious God,
show us your mercy and forgive us
when we do not bear good fruit.
We thank you for the gift of your Son,
the True Vine,
and by your grace we abide in him,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020**

OPENING

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, Jesus teaches that sickness is not a result of sin. This was a common belief in his time. Jesus heals the blind man and gives him his sight. We are also called to be healers in our world.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalms 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

John 9:1–7

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am

the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How can you be a person who heals those who are hurting in some way?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Good and gracious God,
may we follow Jesus.

May we be a light that shows
your goodness.

May we be a healing presence
to those who are suffering.

We ask this in Christ’s name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020



OPENING

This week we will look at the ways Jesus is present in our lives. Today's reading says Jesus is our "advocate"; that is, someone who supports and defends us. Even though we fail to be our best selves at times, Jesus will always stay with us and help us get back on track. Remember that we are called to be like Jesus in our actions.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

READING

1 John 1:5; 2:1–5

A reading from the First Letter of John.

This is the message we have heard from Jesus and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his

commandments. Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Who needs your support, encouragement, or defense this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God,
as we continue on our Lenten journey,
we pray that we may be faithful
to your commands.

By our fasting, prayer, and almsgiving,
may we be bearers of Christ's light.
We ask this in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020

OPENING

Jesus taught people who were often excluded. Jesus' disciples were shocked that he taught the Samaritan woman as if she were a disciple too. Jesus wants all people to know God better. God's love is for everyone, not just for those who are like us.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

John 4:7, 9ab, 10–12a, 13–14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What would you ask Jesus if you met him at the well like the Samaritan woman did?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Generous and loving God,
Jesus showed us that your love is
for all people in all times.
We thank you and praise you.
We pray to you in Christ Jesus' name.
Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020



OPENING

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, when the angel Gabriel came to Mary and asked her to be the mother of the Savior. In this we see how God prepared for his Son, Jesus, to be born into the world.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–33

A reading of the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid,

Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will call him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. The angel Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid. Can you find strength in those words when you have to be courageous?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Most holy God, because you loved the world you sent your Son Jesus to become one of us. We thank you for Mother Mary, who is a model for us.

May we trust in you
and always try to do your will.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

OPENING

Jesus has been our advocate, our teacher, and our healer. Jesus also assures us that death is not the end for us. Our Church teaches that Jesus will raise us to new life in heaven when we die. We see the power of his work with Lazarus.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

John 11:21, 33–34a, 38b–39a, 41–44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” So they took away the stone.

And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How can you participate in giving people “new life”? By being more helpful and kind? By being a better friend?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
by raising Lazarus
Jesus revealed your power over death.
You desire that we have life here on earth and
someday with you in heaven.
For this we give you thanks and praise.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020



OPENING

St. Paul gives good suggestions for specific ways we can carry on Jesus' work at home and in school. He encourages us to be imitators of Christ and to act as the beloved children we are.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

READING

Ephesians 4:25b–29, 32; 5:1–2

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians [ee-FEE-zhuhnz].

Let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one

another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How can you imitate Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God,
you desire that we live in peace
with one another.

You sent Jesus to show us the way.
May we imitate him by forgiving others and
being kind, loving, and forgiving.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020**

OPENING

Jesus' reputation grew with each miracle that he performed. People believed in him and started to follow him. As he attracted larger and larger crowds of people, the religious leaders began to see him as a threat.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

John 11:21–22, 25ab, 26b–27b, 34, 39a, 43–45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” Jesus said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus said, “Take away

the stone.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What problem or concern would you like to ask Jesus to help you with today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Good and loving God,
hear us call to you
when we are suffering.
Grant us your comfort and strength.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020



OPENING

The stories we hear this week tell what happened to Jesus before he was arrested. Jesus rode a donkey into the city of Jerusalem and the people honored him. Many people hoped for a king to fight Rome, but Jesus was a different kind of king.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1ac–2, 6–11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they had come near Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A

very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Jesus Christ came to teach us to change the world, not through force, but through love.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God,
as we near the end of Lent,
may we learn from
and be true to Jesus’ teachings.
May we remember his great sacrifice for us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020

OPENING

The reading today continues the story of Jesus the week before he died. We hear about one of the disciples, Judas, who was willing to betray Jesus.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:1b–5, 14–16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas [KAY-uh-fuhs], and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.” Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot

[ih-SKAYR-ee-uht], went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Judas was not a good friend. How can you be a better friend? Have you ever betrayed someone? Did you ask for forgiveness? Have you been betrayed? Can you forgive the person who betrayed you?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy God,
Jesus knew what was to come,
and yet he remained faithful to his mission.
May we be faithful to you
and your commands,
even when it is difficult.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020



OPENING

Passover is the Jewish feast that commemorates Israel's deliverance from bondage in Egypt. In Jesus' time, thousands of people came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast with their families. As observant Jews, Jesus and his disciples, also came to Jerusalem for Passover.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17a, 19–25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?"

He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. To betray means to be disloyal. How do you think Jesus felt about Judas?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We give you thanks, O God, for Jesus.
He showed us how to love you
and one another.
Help us to follow his example.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

OPENING

When the priest says the words of consecration over the bread and wine at Mass, it is called the Memorial. He is remembering Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper. The words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper are repeated in hundreds of languages all over the world where Christians celebrate the Mass. Today we remember St. Francis of Paola, who gave spiritual guidance to kings of France in the 1400s.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:26–30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from

it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Jesus Christ is with us always, and especially at the celebration of the Holy Mass.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God,
may we always appreciate this great gift of the Holy Eucharist.

May we never forget how much you love us.
We give you thanks and praise
for the gift of your Son Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020



OPENING

The Gospel today tells about Judas who betrayed Jesus for money. He probably didn't think Jesus would be put to death. We know from later Scripture passages that Judas felt sorry for what he did.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:36, 47b–49, 50b, 55b–56a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After the Passover meal, Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Jesus said, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Judas did something that he later felt sorry for. God will always forgive if we are sorry and ask for forgiveness.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Loving and forgiving God,
help us to be truly sorry for ways that we
have offended you
or hurt one another.
May we look to Jesus
as our supreme example.
We pray in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020**

OPENING

Today is Palm Sunday and begins Holy Week, a very important week in the Church. We will remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, and his passion and death.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1ac–2, 6–11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they had come near Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and

spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your hearts. How can we welcome Jesus in our hearts today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God,
we sing our Hosannas of praise:
Jesus is our beloved teacher.
Jesus is our Lord and savior.
May we follow his way of love.
We pray this in Christ Jesus' name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020



OPENING

Jesus criticized the religious leaders of his time for serving themselves rather than caring for the people. When Jesus' popularity began growing quickly, those leaders felt so threatened that they got people to lie about Jesus so that they could accuse him of a crime.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:57, 59–62b, 63–64a, 65c–66

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. The chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, “This fellow said,

‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’” The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer?” But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said so.” Then the high priest said, “You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?” They answered, “He deserves death.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. When angry, do you ever accuse people of things they didn't say or do?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God of mercy,
give us the courage to always speak the truth.
May our words be helpful and supportive.
May our actions be honest and kind.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

OPENING

Pilate was the Roman governor in Jerusalem. Pilate didn't think Jesus had done anything to deserve death, but he was afraid for his own job. If there was a riot because people were angry, the Roman emperor would remove him. Pilate could have helped Jesus but he didn't.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 27:2, 15–17, 21c–22, 24c, 26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The chief priests and elders bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you,

Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Pilate took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man's blood.” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Pray to have courage to defend people when they are being treated unjustly.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy and loving God,
Jesus bore his trials with dignity
and with faith in you.
May we be constant in our faith,
even when it is difficult.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020



OPENING

In the ancient world, crucifixion was a death sentence of shame and disgrace. It was usually reserved for slaves, criminals of the worst sort from the lowest levels of society, military deserters, and especially traitors. It is almost impossible to imagine what Jesus' disciples and friends must have felt to see him being treated so cruelly.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

The LORD saves the crushed in spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

GOSPEL

Matthew 27:27–31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his

right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Is there someone who is sick or hurting that you would like to pray for today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy God,
we thank you for Jesus,
our king and our savior.
May we follow his example and be obedient
to your will for us.
We pray in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

HOME PRAYER

HOLY THURSDAY

Before you begin, find the reading (John 13:3–5) in your Bible, ask for a volunteer to read it, and help the reader to practice reading it a few times. You could begin with a simple song, such as “Jesus, Remember Me,” or “Amen.” (We don’t sing “Alleluia” until the Easter Vigil.) An older child or adult reads the leader parts.

LEADER

Today is Holy Thursday, and this evening we will remember two important things that Jesus did for his disciples and for us. On this night of the Last Supper, Jesus offered himself in the form of bread and wine and said, “This is my Body. . . . This is my Blood. Do this in memory of me.” Later, he washed the feet of his followers, teaching them by example how we must be a servant for all.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER:

Psalm 27:1, 4, 11, 13–14

Let us repeat the Psalm Response:
Teach me your way, O LORD.

ALL: Teach me your way, O LORD.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

ALL: Teach me your way, O LORD.

One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

ALL: Teach me your way, O LORD.

I believe that I shall see the goodness
of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

ALL: Teach me your way, O LORD.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

LEADER:

John 13:3–5

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Why did Jesus, the disciples’ leader,
wish to be their servant?

LEADER:

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . . Amen.

LEADER:

Almighty God,
we remember Jesus’
act of service of washing his friends’ feet.
May we honor you with
our acts of love and service today and always.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

HOME PRAYER

GOOD FRIDAY

Before you begin, find the reading (John 18:33–37) in your Bible, ask for a volunteer to read it, and help the reader to practice it a few times. You could begin with a simple song, such as “Jesus, Remember Me,” or “Amen.” (We don’t sing “Alleluia” until the Easter Vigil.) An older child or adult reads the leader parts.

LEADER:

Today we remember Jesus’ anguish and Death on the Cross. It is a sad time we don’t understand. But Good Friday is also a day that we recall the goodness of God’s Son who chose to die so that he could save us from sin and death. This day gives us so much hope because of the promise of new life!

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER:

Psalm 31:1, 2, 5a, 21

Let us repeat the Psalm Response:
Into your hand I commit my spirit.

ALL: Into your hand I commit my spirit.

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

ALL: Into your hand I commit my spirit.

Blessed be the LORD,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast
love to me
when I was beset as a city under siege.

ALL: Into your hand I commit my spirit.

◆ All stand and sing **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ . . .**

LEADER:

John 18:33–37

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

LEADER:

As I reflect on Jesus’ love for me, how can
I thank him?

LEADER:

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father . . . Amen.

LEADER:

Today we remember Jesus’ great love.
Help us to honor him with our lives.
We ask this in the name of the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

EASTER TIME



MONDAY, APRIL 13— SUNDAY, MAY 31

EASTER TIME

THE MEANING OF EASTER

The heart of Easter lies in the word *covenant*. A covenant is an agreement or contract between two parties. The history of salvation is the story of God's covenant with his people—God's promise to provide and care for humankind and humankind's response to return God's love and follow God's teachings to care for one another and all creation. In the Old Testament, God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses. In the New Testament, Jesus is the new covenant: "Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). With the Resurrection, God promises that the covenant of love will extend to all peoples for all time.

The Prayer for the Week will reflect the Sunday Gospels but during the week we will again "walk through the Bible." Scripture stories tell us of people throughout history from King David, to the Israelites, to the people of Jesus' time, to Paul and the early Christians who believed that faith and trust in God helped them to live joyfully in spite of difficulties.

As we read the stories of Jesus' appearances to his disciples after the Resurrection, we can reflect on how Jesus is always present in our lives. We will read stories of St. Paul and the early Christians who carried Jesus' teachings to people in many lands. Easter Time ends with the wonderful celebration of Pentecost. After Jesus died, his disciples were filled with fear and confusion. Jesus promised that he would send the Spirit to strengthen them. On Pentecost, we celebrate the Spirit that strengthened the disciples. This same Spirit fills us with wisdom, knowledge, courage, and love. These gifts make our lives and the world a better place for all God's creation.

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE EASTER IN THE CLASSROOM

SACRED SPACE

The liturgical color for Easter Time is white, so your prayer table cloth will need to change once more. You may want to add to your prayer table a vase of fresh daisies or lilies and a small glass bowl with a little water in it. When you introduce the water to your students you may say, "Jesus said, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink'" (John 7:37b–38a). Have chil-

dren process in single file to the prayer table, carrying and placing the white cloth, a small white pillar candle, the flowers, and the bowl of water. Make sure you dim the lights before you begin. Then after all the objects have been placed on the prayer table, light the white pillar and chant the following phrase and response three times:

LEADER: The Light of Christ!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Perhaps one of your students, or someone they know, received the Sacrament of Baptism at the Holy Saturday celebration of the Easter Vigil. If so, while standing before the water, you could explain that the water of Baptism recalls the great flood that Noah had to pass through to reach God's promise of peace, the Red Sea that Moses and the Israelites had to pass through to reach freedom, and the death that Jesus had to pass through to reach the life of the Resurrection. When we pass through (are baptized with) the water in the baptismal font, we enter into that same new life of the resurrected Christ.

Easter Time ends with the Solemnity of Pentecost. When you celebrate Pentecost as a group, make sure you exchange your white prayer table cloth for a red one.

MOVEMENT AND GESTURE

Children love this expanded form of the Easter Procession. After you have changed the color of the prayer cloth to white, carried in the white pillar candle, placed the objects on the prayer table, and lit the candle, sing "The Light of Christ" on one note. When you are finished singing, read a Gospel account of the Resurrection (such as John 20:11–18). Sing Alleluia and then announce the following: "Jesus has risen from the dead; Jesus, the Light of the World, has destroyed death. The light of the Risen Christ will never go out, for he shares his light and life with each of us. Not only that, but his light can spread and grow. Jesus shares his new life with each of us." Then call each child by name, one at a time, inviting them to come forward. For each child, light a small votive candle from the large pillar. As you give it to the child, say, "The Risen Christ shares his light with (child's name)." The child will then put the votive candle on the prayer table and sit down. Don't rush. Wait

until the child is seated before you call the next child's name. If you are worried about fire, allow each child to hold his or her votive holder briefly, then you can place the candle on the table beside the lit pillar. Make sure you light a votive candle for yourself. When all the small candles are lit, sit in silence with the children and enjoy the beauty of the light. End your celebration by singing all the Alleluias that you know!

FESTIVITY IN SCHOOL AND HOME

You might want to engage some of the older children in making an Easter candle like the one that stands beside the altar in church. Use a tall white pillar candle. The Easter, or Paschal, candle has three symbols: a central cross identifies it as the Christ candle, and its flame burns despite the death Christ endured. The letters alpha and omega, which begin and end the Greek alphabet, signify that God is the beginning and the ending of all things. The current year indicates that God is present not just at the beginning and the end of time, but throughout history and among those gathered here and now around the candle. You can stand this candle on a candle holder beside the table in your prayer corner at school or at home.

In this book you will find special prayer services that may be used in the classroom or with a larger group. There is the service for Easter, pages 256–257; for the Ascension, pages 296–297; and for Pentecost, pages 304–305. There is also a special prayer service to honor May as the month of Mary, pages 276–277. In May, you might add pictures of Mary and fresh spring flowers to your prayer table. Invite children who know the Rosary to say a decade as part of your daily prayer.

SACRED MUSIC

Here are some Easter songs that children love: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today,” “What Wondrous Love Is This,” “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus,” “Come Down, O Love Divine,” and “O Sons and Daughters.” For Pentecost you might enjoy singing “Come, Holy Ghost” or “Veni Sancte Spiritus,” or “Spirit of the Living God.”

PRAYERS FOR EASTER


The following prayer is a beautiful psalm from the Easter Vigil:

Psalm 42:1–2, 43:3–4

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.
Then I will go to the altar of God
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.



A NOTE TO CATECHISTS



You may wish to study the prayers of Baptism with your students. The prayer of Blessing the Waters of Baptism is particularly rich in symbolism. You can recall with the children baptisms they remember seeing as well as stories and pictures of their own baptisms. You can find the Baptismal Rite online or ask your parish priest for a copy.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

EASTER TIME

LEADER:

Jesus Christ is risen! He is truly risen!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

LEADER:

God, our Creator,
we are thankful for the
air we breathe and the
nourishment you offer
in our every moment on earth.
We are grateful for the meal
we are about to share,
for its nutrients sustain us and
give us energy for
working and playing for the glory
of Christ our Savior.
We ask this in his name.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



PRAYER AT DAY'S END

EASTER TIME



LEADER:

All the ends of the earth have seen

ALL: the victory of our God.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

LEADER:

Heavenly Father,
we are grateful for
what we've learned today.

We thank you for our
teachers, assistants, coaches,
and friends who guide us
along our path.

Help us through the remainder of this day
as we are renewed by your Spirit
and the promise of an
eternal Easter.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER SERVICE

EASTER



Prepare seven leaders for this prayer service. The third and fourth leaders will need Bibles for the Scripture passages and may need help finding them and practicing. You may wish to begin by singing “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” and end with “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus.” If there will be singing, prepare a song leader.

FIRST LEADER:

The grace, peace, and light of the Risen Christ be with us all.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST LEADER:

Today we celebrate Easter, the holiest, most important *solemnity* [suh-LEM-nuh-tee] of the Church, when we remember the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus won a great victory over death! He rose from death to new life and he will never die again! We can follow him and we too can rise from the dead and live forever with him. Easter is so important to us that one day could never contain all our joy, so we celebrate Easter for fifty days!

SECOND LEADER:

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

our hearts are filled with thankfulness

and praise

as we think about Jesus’ great love for us,
the sacrifice he made,

and the never-ending life he lives and shares
with us now.

May we always thank you for the gift your
Son has given to us.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

THIRD LEADER: Isaiah 42:10–12
A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

◆ Read the Scripture passage from the Bible.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence. Then all stand and sing
Alleluia.

FOURTH LEADER: John 20:11–18
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FIFTH LEADER:
Let us stand and bring our hopes and needs
to God as we pray, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

For all who live in fear or worry, may the
power of the Resurrection give them new
hope, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to hatred, divisions, and war,
we pray to the Lord.

For all who are unable to see the hand of
God at work in their lives, may God open
their eyes, we pray to the Lord.

For those who are sick and for those who
have died, we pray to the Lord.

SIXTH LEADER:

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

ALL: Our Father . . . Amen.

◆ Pause, and then say the following.

Let us offer one another a sign of
Christ’s peace.

◆ All offer one another a sign of peace.

SEVENTH LEADER:

Let us pray:

Lord God almighty,
in the Death and Resurrection of your Son,
Jesus Christ,
you have created a new heaven and
a new earth.

Bring the light and life of the Resurrection
into our hearts so that we too may be
renewed in holiness.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020



OPENING

Christ's Resurrection was part of God's saving plan for us. The ancient Jewish people also believed in God's saving power. David wrote this song of thanksgiving when God saved him from being killed by King Saul.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalms 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

2 Samuel 22:2–3abc, 4ab, 7, 29, 31–32, 47

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

David said: The LORD is my rock, my fortress,
and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom
I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my
savior. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to
be praised. In my distress I called upon the
LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he
heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.
Indeed, you are my lamp, O LORD, the LORD

lightens my darkness. This God—his way is
perfect; the promise of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all who take refuge in him. For
who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock,
except our God? The LORD lives! Blessed be
my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of
my salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What
should we thank God for in our prayers
this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the
needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and
the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear
our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We rejoice and are glad, O God,
in this Easter season.

We know that like Jesus Christ,
we will rise to new life.

Help us to be faithful followers of Jesus
and to live as he showed us.

We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

OPENING

The prophet Isaiah reminds Israel that God has called them by name. Israel is precious and honored by God. That's how God feels about us too.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

Isaiah 43:1, 3a, 4–5a, 10ab, 11–12ac

A reading from the Book of the
prophet Isaiah.

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, God who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you. You are my witnesses, says the LORD, and my servant

whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, and you are my witnesses, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How can we be witnesses to our loving God today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We believe, O God,
in your promises.
You are the Lord our God.
Through your power,
Christ our Savior has risen.
We praise you!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020



OPENING

Through Jesus, God makes God's salvation known not just to Jews but to everyone. Today's reading tells of the Samaritan woman's recognition of Jesus as the Savior.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

John 4:25ab, 26, 28–30, 39a, 40–42ad

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

The woman said to Jesus, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”

They left the city and were on their way to him. Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “We know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Just as he knew the Samaritan woman, Jesus knows each of us.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

At Easter Time, let us rejoice.

Christ is risen!

Let the earth proclaim God's glory.

Christ is risen!

May our hearts be joyful in the Lord.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

OPENING

In the Letter to Timothy we hear that we're never too young to train ourselves to be good and loving servants of God. All of us, no matter our age, can be witnesses of God's saving power.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

1 Timothy 4:6, 7b–8, 10–12

A reading from the First Letter to Timothy.

If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who

is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Do you believe that you can be a witness to God's power to save? How?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Although we are young, O God,
you call us to holiness.

You call us to serve you by being kind,
truthful, and strong in our faith.

May our lives give you praise.

We ask this through our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020



OPENING

It is God's love for us that saves us. In Jesus God revealed his great love for us. We, in turn, love God back by loving one another, and especially by caring for the poor and the oppressed.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

1 John 4:7, 9, 11–14, 16bc

A reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,

because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Who teaches you the most about God's love?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We rejoice and are glad, O God,
We give you thanks for the gift of Jesus,
our Savior.

Jesus showed us how to love you
and to love one another.

May we follow him always.

We ask in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020**

Imagine how the disciples felt after Jesus died. His arrest and death happened so quickly. They must have been terribly sad, confused, and afraid. Jesus appeared to them several times after his Resurrection, and each time he comforted them and told them not to worry.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

**Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

**Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

John 20:19–22

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day
of the week, and the doors of the house where
the disciples had met were locked for fear of
the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them
and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said
this, he showed them his hands and his side.
Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the

Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with
you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
When he had said this, he breathed on them
and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Jesus
sent his disciples out to do God’s work. How
do we do God’s work?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the
needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and
the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear
our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God, grant us your peace.
Just as you sent your Son Jesus to bring peace,
so you send us to be peacemakers
in our classrooms, our families,
and our communities.
Help us to do your will with courage.
We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020



OPENING

In accordance with burial tradition, women went to Jesus' burial place to put spices on the body. What they found greatly surprised them.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1–6, 7b, 8

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the

women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. He has been raised from the dead and is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Why is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead a joyful story?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We continue to rejoice, O God.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

May we be joyful in our faith
and share this joy with others.

We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

OPENING

This week we hear the stories of Christ's appearances to his disciples after his Resurrection. The two friends in today's story don't recognize him. Today we celebrate the feast of St. Anselm, a bishop and Doctor of the Church.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13ab, 15b, 16–17ab, 18b, 19ab, 20, 21b–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

On the day it was discovered that Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus. Jesus himself came near, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk?" Cleopas answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the

things that have taken place?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. It is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Can we be so absorbed in our own concerns that we miss seeing the holiness in people around us?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Loving God,
like Jesus' disciples, we do not always recognize the Lord's presence.
Help us to see Jesus in one another.
We ask this through our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020



OPENING

The story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus continues. Although Jesus joined them, they did not recognize him. Then something very particular happened and they recognized him.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:28–32ab, 33, 35

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and

gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. Then they told what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Do you recognize and experience Christ’s presence when you receive Holy Communion?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Loving God,
Christ is present in the gift of the Eucharist.
May we receive him with joy
and thanksgiving.
We pray in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

OPENING

After Jesus' Death, his disciples were afraid. But Jesus wanted them to continue his work. He gave them strength and courage. His appearances gave the disciples comfort, and they were encouraged to continue God's work.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36–43

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

While the disciples were talking, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.

Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Do you sometimes feel the presence of someone you have loved who has died?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God of peace,
may we take to heart Christ's words of peace
and know that we need not be afraid.
We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020



OPENING

After Jesus' death the Apostle Paul is responsible for spreading the teachings of Jesus to non-Jewish peoples. In today's reading, he is talking to people of Corinth [KOHR-ihnth], Greece.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalms 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

1 Corinthians 15:1ab, 3b–8

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to
the Corinthians [kahr-IN-thee-unz].

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters,
of the good news that I proclaimed to you: that
Christ died for our sins in accordance with the
scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he
was raised on the third day in accordance with
the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas
[SEE-fuhs], then to the twelve. Then he
appeared to more than five hundred brothers
and sisters at one time, most of whom are still

alive, though some have died. Then he appeared
to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as
to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Paul
calls the stories and teaching of Jesus “good
news.” How are they “good news” to us?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the
needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and
the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear
our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy and loving God,
may we hear the good news of the Gospel.
Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection,
he revealed your power.
He taught us to believe in you.
May we always be faithful to his teachings.
We pray in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020**

OPENING

In this third week of Easter Time, we continue to rejoice that Christ is risen. The two disciples in the Gospel were very sad until they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)

Psalms 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13a, 15–16, 28–29ab, 30–31, 33–34

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

Now on that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they

urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us.” When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Where, besides at Mass, do we recognize the presence of Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy God,
help us to recognize the presence of Jesus.
Help us to see him in one another.
Help us remember that what we do to others,
we do to him.
We pray in Christ’s name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020



OPENING

In our third week of Easter rejoicing we'll hear stories of the earliest Christians. They were called "Followers of the Way," and the "Way" was Jesus. They were baptized, and they participated in the Breaking of the Bread, what we call Mass.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

Acts 2:14ac, 22b, 23a, 32, 37–38, 41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

But Peter, raised his voice and addressed them, "Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs, this man, this Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent,

and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come to you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We thank you, loving God,
for the gift of Baptism.
In Baptism you call us
to our Christian dignity;
you call us to be your sons and daughters.
We pray that we may be faithful to this call.
We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020

OPENING

Usually the first Christians were a small group in a town. They lived communally; that is, they shared all their food, money, clothes, and homes with one another. Religious communities still live that way. Today is the feast of St. Peter Chanel, a missionary priest who spread Christianity in the South Pacific region. We also remember St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, who preached extensively on God's mercy.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

**Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

**Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

READING

Acts 2:42–47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and

distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. These early Christians shared everything they had, perhaps even with strangers. What do you think made them do that?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Generous and loving God,
we pray for the same spirit
that inspired the early Christians.
Help us to be generous
and loving to all we meet
and to share our love for you
as Sts. Peter and Louis did.
We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020



OPENING

We continue to hear about the extraordinary sharing done by the early believers in Jesus. Today we remember St. Catherine of Siena, a philosopher and theologian. She is a Doctor of the Church because of her important writings and her leadership.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

Acts 4:32–37

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought

the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What does it mean to be "in need"? Are only poor people "in need"?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Generous and loving God,
we see your Spirit at work
in the lives of the early Christians.
May we learn to share what we have
with others, especially those who are poor
or are in need.
We pray in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

OPENING

Jesus' disciples were not always received with a welcome. In some towns they were persecuted and punished for speaking about Jesus and his message.

✚ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

Acts 5:17bd, 18, 27c–28a, 29a, 33b, 35ab,
38b, 39c–42

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The high priest and all who were with him, being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.” They were enraged and wanted to kill them. Then Gamaliel said to them, “Fellow Israelites, I tell you, keep away from these men and let

them alone.” They were convinced by him, and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. As they left the council, the apostles rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Pray to be strong and courageous in your faith.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy God,
some people do not respect or love you.
But may we stay strong in our faith and be
witnesses to your love for everyone.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✚ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020



OPENING

Today the Church honors St. Joseph the Worker. All over the world, people celebrate the dignity of labor—taking pride in what we do. In our reading we hear how the early followers of Jesus were called “Christians,” because they followed Jesus, the Christ.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.

READING

Acts 11:20, 22–26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch [AN-tee-ahk], spoke to the Hellenists also proclaiming the Lord Jesus. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devo-

tion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What does it mean to be a Christian?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God, our Father in heaven,
may we respect the dignity of all who labor
and work to make this world a better place.
May all who work know the importance
and value of what they do.
We ask this through Christ our Risen Lord.
Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020**

OPENING

Jesus often told stories to make his point. Today's Gospel has two metaphors, or comparisons. Jesus calls himself the shepherd and the gate. Jesus wants us to trust him and follow his teachings, which will lead us to God.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xiv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

John 10:1–5, 7a, 9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the

gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” So again Jesus said to them, “I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Who has been a gate for you? Who has shown you the way to follow Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We pray, O God, that we may know the voice of the Good Shepherd.

We pray that we will follow him and enter through the gate that leads to life with you. We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER SERVICE

TO HONOR MARY IN MAY



Add an image or statue of Mary, flowers, and candles to the sacred space. Prepare six leaders for this service. The third leader will need a Bible for the passages from Luke. Take time to help the lector practice the readings. You may wish to sing “Sing of Mary” as the opening song. If the group will sing, prepare someone to lead it.

FIRST LEADER:

Throughout the month of May, we remember Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus. She was a life-giving caregiver for our Savior, and she remains so for us today. She represents the fullness of holiness, for she was conceived without sin and was assumed into heaven because of her special role in our salvation. She serves as an example for all of us to say “yes” in practical ways to God’s Spirit of goodness. Many Catholics turn to this beloved first disciple of Christ for inspiration and for prayer, particularly as the events of Jesus’ life unfold in Scripture during the Church year.

SONG LEADER:

- ◆ Gesture for all to stand, and lead the first few verses of the song.

SECOND LEADER:

- ✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:
Almighty Father,
we honor Mary as our Mother
because you chose her to be
the human vessel for
your Son Jesus,
who was both human and divine.

Help us to be open to
the same Spirit
who appeared to Mary,
guiding her throughout her
challenging life with
the Savior of our world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

◆ Remain standing and sing **Alleluia.**

THIRD LEADER: Luke 1:26–38
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

◆ Read the Gospel passage from the Bible.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOURTH LEADER:

◆ Gesture for all to stand.

Let us bring our hopes and needs to God as
we respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.”
For all mothers
and those who nurture others
throughout life.
May they be open to
God’s creative Spirit to bring
new life into the world,
we pray to the Lord . . .
For those facing difficult decisions.
May they look to Mary
for guidance
in following God’s plan,
we pray to the Lord . . .

For all married couples.
May they remain devoted
to God, to each other,
and to their Sacrament of Marriage,
we pray to the Lord . . .

For the sick and the abandoned.
For those who have passed
to the other side of life.
May they feel the loving arms
of Mary with Jesus,

we pray to the Lord . . .

FIFTH LEADER:

Let us pray the Hail Mary:

ALL: Hail Mary, full of grace . . .

◆ Pause, and then say:

Let us offer one another a sign of
Christ’s peace.

◆ All offer one another a sign of peace.

SIXTH LEADER:

Let us pray Mary’s special prayer,
the *Magnificat*:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness
of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will
call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things
for me,
and holy is his name.”

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020



OPENING

This week we'll look at some of Jesus' titles in the Gospel of Matthew. A title often reveals something about the person's character or work. The title "Son of David" means Jesus was descended from King David as the Messiah was supposed to be.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:27–31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them,

“Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How do we spread the good news about Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Loving God,
each of us has blind spots, places where we do not clearly see how you love us.
May we have the faith of the blind men and trust in your healing power.
We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

OPENING

Jesus called himself “Son of Man” eighty-one times in the Gospels! It literally means a “human being.” Our Church teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully human.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:1–7

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After getting into a boat Jesus crossed the sea and came to his own town. And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” Then some of the scribes said to

themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.” And he stood up and went to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Jesus often made people feel better. How can you make someone feel better today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Loving God,
your Son Jesus understood our human needs.
He healed those who were suffering
in body, mind, and soul.
Help us to turn to him in our need.
We ask this in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020



OPENING

In today's reading we hear that Jesus welcomes the children. He teaches that children have a special relationship to God and reveal something about God's Kingdom to us.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Matthew 19:13–17acd, 18–19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom

of heaven belongs.” And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. Then someone came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Jesus, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Why do you think Jesus wanted the little children to be brought to him?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We pray that we might grow in our understanding of your Kingdom, O God. Help us to trust that although we are young, we can serve you by how we live our lives. We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

OPENING

Jesus was sometimes called by the title, “Son of God.” The men in today’s reading recognized Jesus as God’s Son.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalms 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Matthew 8:28–33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes [GAD-uh-reenz], two demoniacs [deh-MOH-nee-acks] coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, “What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us

before the time?” Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged him, “If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.” And he said to them, “Go!” So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Pray for an end to violence in our communities and our world.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Loving God,
as Jesus cast out demons
from those who were suffering,
help us to do our part
to stop bullying and violence.
We pray in the name of Christ our Risen Lord.
Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020



OPENING

Today we will hear an invitation from Jesus. Jesus wants the people to come to him, and he extends that same invitation to us.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:28–30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What is troubling you? Can you bring that to Jesus in prayer?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Loving God,

Jesus understood that sometimes we are tired or sad or frustrated.

Help us to turn to you at those times, and to trust that you will give us the strength we need.

We ask this in Christ Jesus’ name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020**

OPENING

The disciples' hearts were deeply troubled by Jesus' death. Jesus assured them that he had taught them all they needed to know. Jesus tells us that he is the way, the truth, and the life. Through him, we will know God the Father.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 14:1a, 3, 5–7a, 11–12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know

the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How can you show someone you love them today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy God,

Jesus loves us so much that he showed us the way to you.

We believe that he is the way, the truth, and the life we need.

Help us to follow him.

We ask this in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020



OPENING

In today's Gospel reading we hear Jesus call himself the Good Shepherd. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus knows his sheep and he protects them from harm. Jesus uses these images to communicate how he cares for each of us.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

John 10:9–15a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, “I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good

shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. We know that Jesus is trustworthy. How do you experience his love and protection?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We thank you and praise you, God,
for Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

As a shepherd cares for the sheep,
Jesus cares for us and knows what we need.
We pray in the name of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

OPENING

Jesus wants all people to live happy and healthy lives. He tells us how to make that happen. The word *love* is mentioned six times in today's reading. The word *abide* means "to stay" or "remain."

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 2–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 15:9–12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things

to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Whom can you tell that you love them today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We rejoice and are glad, O God.

We long to remain in your love
and to keep your commandments.

Please give us the grace we need.

We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020



OPENING

The four Gospels tell the stories of the life of Jesus. The stories in these four Gospels are a wonderful gift to us because they tell us how to live. Jesus taught us and showed us the way. Today we honor Mary, Our Lady of Fatima. In 1917, the Blessed Mother appeared to three children and urged them to pray for sinners and to pray the Rosary.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 14:6–7a, 8–9ab, 10bc–11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my

Father also.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the words themselves.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What do we know about God the Father from Jesus’ life and teachings?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We continue to praise and thank you,
O God, for the gift of your Son, Jesus.
He revealed your love for us
and for all that you have created.
Help us believe and follow him.
We ask this in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

OPENING

Following Jesus is not always easy. But Jesus says that those who love him and keep his word will receive courage and peace through the Holy Spirit. Before the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Apostles chose St. Matthias to replace Judas as one of the Twelve. We celebrate St. Matthias' feast day today.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a–9

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

John 14:23–27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep

my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Jesus helps us to not be afraid. Would you like to ask Jesus for courage today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God of peace,
once again we hear Jesus
wish his disciples peace.
We know that peace is your gift to us.
May we bring that peace to others.
We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020



OPENING

Jesus says he came as light to the world so that people would not remain in darkness. Light helps us see things. Jesus helps us understand God and the meaning of our lives. Today we honor St. Isidore of Seville, who is the patron saint of farmers. He was devoted to God, attending daily Mass before working in the fields.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

John 12:44–46, 49–50

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Then Jesus cried aloud: “Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about his silently in your heart. Jesus is the Light of the World. What are some other positive qualities of light?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy God, our Father,
help us to listen to Jesus,
the Light of the World.

Help us to be like St. Isidore

and increase our devotion to you.

We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020**

OPENING

We continue to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. God loves us and we too will live with God after our physical death. God's Holy Spirit reminds us of that love and how we should respond to it.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 14:15–17ac, 18–21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth. You know the Spirit, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you

orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. How do you show your love for God when you keep the commandments?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Most holy God,
your Son Jesus cared for the disciples
and for us so much that he promised to send
the Holy Spirit.

Help us to show our thanks and our love by
keeping your commands.

We ask this in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020



OPENING

Stephen, the first deacon of the Church, invited others to follow Jesus. He was persecuted by Saul, who later was converted to Christianity and whom we know as St. Paul.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

READING

Acts 6:8–9ac, 10–11, 13; 7:54, 58–59, 60c; 8:1a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops

saying things against this holy place and the law.” When the Council heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” When he had said this, he died. And Saul approved of their killing him.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Do we ever stone; that is, really hurt someone with our words or actions?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God of truth and justice,
we pray that we may follow Jesus
as St. Stephen did.

Even when it was hard,
he was faithful to your word.

Help us to overcome challenges
and to be true to you.

We ask this in Christ’s name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

OPENING

We continue the story of Saul. In spite of Saul's persecution, the Apostles kept telling people about Jesus. Today we hear about the Apostle Philip and how he helped to spread Christ's Good News.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

READING

Acts 8:1b–8

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

O God,
we know that even today people are
persecuted and suffer because of their faith.
Please help all people to be respectful
of others.

We ask this in the name of our Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020



OPENING

St. Paul believed in Jesus completely after his experience with the Risen Christ and became a great Christian teacher and writer. This was a conversion experience; that is, it changed Paul and he acted differently.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

READING

Acts 9:1, 2bc, 3–6, 8–9

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying

to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Who or what has helped convert you; that is, helped you change to be a better person?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

In the conversion of Saul, O Lord Jesus, we see the power of your grace. Help us to remember that no one is beyond your care or your healing power. May St. Paul be an example for us of how to honor you, who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

OPENING

Jesus sends Ananias [a-nuh-NĪ-uhs] to heal Saul/Paul's blindness. This Scripture hints that Paul will not have an easy time following Jesus.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25a–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

READING

Acts 9:10a, 11–12, 16–18a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias [a-nuh-NĪ-uhs]. The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight. I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and

entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Are we “blind” to the goodness of any of our classmates or someone in our family?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy God,
just as you helped St. Paul
to see the truth of your Word,
help us to recognize the truth of the Gospel.
Help us to be open
to the power of your Spirit.
We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020



OPENING

Saul was a very good speaker and convinced many people that Jesus was the Messiah. But, sometimes, speaking the truth makes people angry when it challenges what they believe.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

READING

Acts 9:18c–21ab, 22–23, 24b–25

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Saul got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name?” Saul became increasingly

more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah. After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

The Word of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What do I need to speak the truth about in school or at home?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God of truth and justice,
sometimes it is not easy to speak your truth.
Send your Spirit to help us speak and hear
the truth.

We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020**

OPENING

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Before he went back to the Father, Jesus commissioned the disciples to carry on his work. He assures them, and us, that he will be with us always.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalms 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16–20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth

has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. In what ways is Jesus with you? Does this change anything for you?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

How good, O Lord,
is the message of your Son, Jesus.
Although he reigns with you in heaven,
he is also with us, until the end of time.
Help us to know his presence with us.
We ask this in his name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER SERVICE

ASCENSION



Prepare six leaders and a song leader for this service. The second and third leaders will need Bibles to read the Scripture passages and may need help finding and practicing them. You may wish to begin by singing “All Will Be Well” and end with “Sing Out, Earth and Skies.” Help the song leader prepare to lead the singing.

SONG LEADER:

Please stand and join in singing our opening song.

FIRST LEADER:

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST LEADER:

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. We are joyful on this fortieth day of Easter because Jesus Christ returned to his Father in heaven, and he promised that we could experience his Presence in Spirit forever.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:
Almighty God,
you fulfilled your promise
of sending a Savior
to redeem the world.
Now he sits at your right hand
and your Spirit guides us
with holy Presence.
Help us to listen and act according to
your will

so that we can enter into
your Kingdom too.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

- ◆ Gesture for all to sit.

SECOND LEADER:

Colossians 3:2–4

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the
Colossians.

- ◆ Read the Scripture passage from the Bible.

The Word of the Lord.

- ◆ All observe silence.

THIRD LEADER:

Acts 1:6–11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ◆ Read the Scripture passage from the Bible.

The Word of the Lord.

- ◆ All observe silence.

FOURTH LEADER:

Let us stand and bring our hopes and needs
to God as we pray, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

For our brothers and sisters around the world
who do not know Christ.

May they experience
our Risen Lord in eternity,

we pray to the Lord . . .

For our parents and family members
who care for us.

May we remain grateful for their
acts of sacrificial love
that are a reflection of
God’s abundant love for us,

we pray to the Lord . . .

For the teachers, school assistants,
and coaches who
guide us in our school activities.

May they continue to
teach us about God
through their
kindness and generosity,

we pray to the Lord . . .

For those who suffer from
illness, hunger, or political strife.

For those who have died,

we pray to the Lord . . .

FIFTH LEADER:

Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:
Our Father . . . Amen.

- ◆ Pause and then say the following:

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ’s
peace.

- ◆ All offer one another a sign of peace.

SIXTH LEADER:

Let us pray:

Lord our God,
your immense love for us
shines for all to see
in the glory of your Resurrection
and in your return to God.

We praise you for your Spirit
of truth and light
and the promise of your
return again.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER FOR MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020



OPENING

In today's reading, we hear the message that Jesus gives to his followers. He calls them his friends.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 15:12–17

A reading of the holy Gospel according to John.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you

friends, because I have made known to you everything that I heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Do you think of Jesus as your friend? What kind of friend is he?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Your love for us is so great, O God!

We are connected to you through Jesus.

May we remember that Jesus chose us to be his friends.

Help us to understand what this means for our lives.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

OPENING

In today's reading Jesus tells us that we will have what we need. He reminds us that God knows our needs, and so we should not worry. St. Philip Neri, whose feast we celebrate today, believed that people needed the Eucharist and encouraged them to receive Holy Communion frequently.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalms 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25abce, 26, 28abd–30c, 32b

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, what you will wear. Look at the

birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you? And indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What do you need? Trust in God and bring that need to him in prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
we know that you love us and you want us to trust in your care.
Thank you for everything you provide to us.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020



OPENING

Today we hear how Jesus provided for the needs of the people who came to listen to him. In Jesus' actions we see how generous and loving God is.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)

Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

Luke 9:12–13a, 14–17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to Jesus and said, “Send the crowd away, so that they may go to the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.” But Jesus said to them, “You give them something to

eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish.” For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” They did so and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. What message do you hear in today's Gospel reading?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Generous and gracious God,
help us to trust in your abundant love.
Help us to give what we can to others
and to trust that you will provide for us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our
Risen Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.



PRAYER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

OPENING

In today's reading, St. Paul reminds us that the commandments help us to live together in community. They are a guide, and when we follow them we are able to live with peace. *Adultery* means "to have sexual relations with someone other than your husband or wife." To covet means "to want something that belongs to another person."

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

READING

Romans 12:9–10; 13:8–10

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. Why do you think that love is the basis of all of the commandments?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

God of love,
thank you for giving us the commandments that help us to live in peace and in community. May we learn to love one another. We ask this in Christ's name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020



OPENING

On Sunday we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen them to carry on his mission. This promise comforted the disciples and gave them hope.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 15:26ab, 26d–27; 16:12–15a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me

from the beginning. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about this silently in your heart. To testify means “to give evidence” or “bear witness.” How do you testify to your faith in Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

Holy Spirit,
walk with us each day
and remind us to testify our love for Jesus
by our kindness and fairness to others.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

WITH A READING FROM THE GOSPEL FOR **SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020**

OPENING

On this day of Pentecost (fifty days after Easter), we celebrate the birth of the Church. We hear of how Jesus appeared to the Apostles who were fearful and gathered together in an upper room. He assured them with a greeting of peace. Then he breathed the Holy Spirit upon them and sent them out into the world to do his work.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM

(For a longer psalm, see page xv.)
Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

◆ All stand and sing **Alleluia**.

GOSPEL

John 20:19–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of

the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

◆ All sit and observe silence.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Think about his silently in your heart. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do God’s work in the world also. How do you do God’s work?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our family, neighborhood, and the world. For each need we say, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

◆ All may add their own prayers here.

Let us pray: **Our Father . . . Amen.**

We thank you, O God,
for sending your Holy Spirit.
We pray that the Spirit will fill our hearts
with love and joy,
as well as the courage to tell others about you.
We ask this in Christ’s name.

Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

PRAYER SERVICE

PENTECOST



Prepare a simple environment with a table covered with a red cloth. Leave a Bible and candle off to the side until the entrance procession. If possible, ring wind chimes during the procession. “Come, Holy Ghost,” may be sung. Prepare the three leaders, the reader, and the three processors. The processors get in place: chimer, candle bearer, and lector with Bible. As the song begins they move slowly to the table in a solemn manner with chimes ringing gently. At the table the chimer moves to the side, the candle bearer places the candle, and the lector places the Bible. Then the chimes are silenced and the processors move away. When the song ends:

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

FIRST LEADER:

**In the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

ALL: Amen.

FIRST LEADER:

God came to us in the Person of Jesus
to let us know
how much we are loved and forgiven.
Jesus promised the disciples that when he
ascended into heaven
they would not be left alone.
God the Holy Spirit would be with them
always.
That promise was for us, too.

Let us pray:

We call on you, Holy Spirit,
to give us wisdom in everything we do
and courage to always do the right thing.
We ask for the gift of wonder and awe
so we will always know the beauty of
God’s world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

◆ Gesture for all to sit.

LECTOR:

Acts 1:8–9; 2:1–4

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

◆ Read the passage from the Bible.

The Word of the Lord.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

FIRST LEADER:

What gifts of the Holy Spirit do we see in our friends?

◆ All observe silence.

SECOND LEADER:

Let us stand. (pause)

◆ All stand.

We say together, “Come, Holy Spirit, come!”

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

SECOND LEADER:

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

And from your celestial home

Shed a ray of light divine!

Come, Father of the poor!

Come, source of all our store!

We say together:

ALL: Come . . .

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;

On our dryness pour your dew;

Wash the stains of guilt away;

Bend the stubborn heart and will;

Melt the frozen, warm the chill;

Guide the steps that go astray.

We say together:

ALL: Come . . .

On the faithful, who adore

And confess you, evermore

In your sevenfold gift descend;

Give them virtue’s sure reward;

Give them your salvation, Lord;

Give them joys that never end. Amen.

We say together:

ALL: Come . . .

THIRD LEADER:

Let us pray:

Holy Spirit, strengthen us with your many
good gifts.

Help us become more and more

a part of the Holy Trinity’s life of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

THIRD LEADER:

**In the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Let us offer one another a sign of
Christ’s peace.

◆ All exchange a sign of peace.

HOME PRAYER

PENTECOST

Pentecost Sunday concludes our celebration of the Easter season. Just as we celebrated Easter in our homes, so we, as a family, can also mark this important feast at home. A parent or older child can lead the prayer and another read the Scripture. If possible, light a red candle or place the Bible on a red tablecloth. If you are familiar with a song that celebrates the Holy Spirit, be sure to sing it.

LEADER:

Today we celebrate Pentecost and give thanks for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and to guide us.

And so we pray:

We call on you, Holy Spirit,
to give us wisdom to know what is right
and the courage to follow God's will.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

READER:

Acts 2:1–4

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

◆ Read the passage from the Bible.

The Word of the Lord.

FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Give thanks for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and
ask the Holy Spirit to give you what you need
to follow Jesus.

◆ All observe some silence.

LEADER:

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.



Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

ALL: Amen.

✙ All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



CHILDREN'S DAILY PRAYER 2019–2020

This book contains an order of prayer for each day of the school year; it is organized for easy use, and it is a great catechetical tool.

These features will help you deepen and enrich classroom prayer:

- A choice of shorter or longer psalms, available on reproducible pages so each child can participate easily
- Resource pages, which offer insights into how children pray and how to help them be the leaders of prayer
- Weekly Sunday Gospel and Scripture readings for each weekday that have been selected to introduce children to the major stories and themes of the Bible
- Opening remarks that orient children to the Scripture reading, explain difficult words, and introduce the saint celebrated that day
- Prayer services, suitable for classroom or large gatherings, which offer a fuller order of prayer for solemnities, feasts, and other special occasions
- Commentary explaining each liturgical time, its character, and how to create conducive prayer environments for it