

CHAPTER 2 PRAYER SERVICE

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

Reader: A reading from the book of Psalms.

The LORD is my shepherd;

there is nothing I lack.

In green pastures he makes me lie down;

to still waters he leads me;

he restores my soul.

He guides me along right paths

for the sake of his name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff comfort me.

You set a table before me

in front of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me

all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of the LORD

for endless days.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Jesus wants to provide for our every need, but it can be hard to entrust them to him. The scriptures and the saints tell us that he is trustworthy and faithful, and perhaps you have seen his providence in your life. Let us now take a few minutes to speak to the Lord in the quiet of our hearts. What do you want or need to ask God for today?

Provide a few moments of silence. If appropriate, invite students to speak their petitions out loud.

Leader: Let us now pray an act of abandonment to divine providence, entrusting our wants and needs to the One who can satisfy them.

Group 1: O sovereign goodness of the sovereign Providence of my God! I abandon myself forever to thy arms. Whether gentle or severe, lead me henceforth whither thou wilt; I will not regard the way through which thou wilt have me pass, but keep my eyes fixed upon thee, my God, who guidest me. My soul finds no rest without the arms and the bosom of this heavenly Providence, my true Mother, my strength and my rampart.

Group 2: Therefore I resolve with thy divine assistance, O my Savior, to follow thy desires and thy ordinances, without regarding or examining why thou dost this rather than that; but I will blindly follow thee according to thy divine will, without seeking my own inclinations. Hence I am determined to leave all to thee, taking no part therein save by keeping myself in peace in thy arms, desiring nothing except as thou incitest me to desire, to will, to wish.

Group 3: I offer thee this desire, O my God, beseeching thee to bless it; I undertake all it includes, relying on thy goodness, liberality, and mercy, with entire confidence in thee, distrust of myself, and knowledge of my infinite misery and infirmity. Amen.

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