

This prayer service is best used in connection with Chapter 2 in the book *Catholic Social Teaching*.

**Prayer Service:**  
**“Justice: Serving as Jesus Served”**

**Needs:**

- a decorated prayer table with the Bible
- Choose readers for each of the Gospel stories before you begin.
- Each student should have a Bible as well as a prayer journal or paper on which to write reflections.

**Prayer Introduction**

Our textbook says that “the key to working for justice is to serve as Jesus served” (pg. 37). In each of the Gospel readings we will hear today, Jesus gives an example of service. For each reading imagine you are beside Jesus, sharing these experiences with him and seeing the impact he makes on the lives of the people he loves. Let us pray that through our prayer and reflection and through our study of Catholic social teaching, we will see through the eyes of Jesus and be agents of justice in our world.

**Opening Prayer**

Jesus,  
by your life, you give us an example  
of how to live justly.  
Through your loving words and actions,  
teach us to reach out to all people,  
to extend your gifts of compassion and healing,  
and to serve others as you did.  
Amen.

**Reflecting on Jesus’ Example**

**Example 1: Luke 5:27-32**

*Jesus eats and drinks with sinners.*

- **Pause for Reflection/Journaling**
  1. As you stood beside Jesus, what impact, do you imagine, did he make on the people at that dinner?
  2. Who are the people on the fringe in your society, family, or school? How would Jesus treat these “outcasts”?
  3. What can you do to be more compassionate and inclusive of them?

**Example 2: Mark 6:30-44**

*Jesus has compassion on a hungry crowd.*

- **Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

1. As you stood beside Jesus, what was the reaction of the apostles and of the crowd to his compassionate response to their hunger?
2. Who are the people most in need in your community? What can you do to become more aware of the needs in your community?

**Example 3: Luke 5:12-16**

*Jesus heals a person with leprosy.*

- **Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

1. As you stood beside Jesus, what was the sick person's reaction to Jesus' healing touch?
2. Who among your friends or family is sick—physically, emotionally, or spiritually?
3. What can you do to touch the sick? (Be creative.)

**Example 4: John 8:2-11**

*Jesus forgives a condemned woman.*

- **Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

1. As you stood beside Jesus, what was the woman's reaction to Jesus' forgiveness?
2. Is there anyone whom you need to forgive? Ask Jesus for the strength to forgive them.
3. Is there anyone with whom you hold a grudge? Make plans to forgive and be forgiven.

**Example 5: \_\_\_\_\_**

*Ask the students to find another story of Jesus in the Gospels that shows his compassionate service. Tell the students to stand beside Jesus in the story and watch the reactions of the people around him. Say that later you will ask volunteers to tell about their stories and reactions.*

*When all are finished reading, reflecting, and sharing:*

**Closing Prayer**

Leader: Let us pray.

Jesus,

we thank you for your example of service

We pray to see with your eyes

the needs of our brothers and sisters

and to respond compassionately to them.

Stand beside us as we reach out and serve

in your name. Amen.