

## **For Such a Time as This**

*A prayer service to be used with Chapter 5: The Journey Takes New Shape: A People at Home in the Promised Land .*

**Leader:** Have you ever felt called to do something, or to make a choice that was unpopular, but you felt inadequate or that it wouldn't make a difference? This is how Gideon felt when God called him to action – to save Israel despite being seemingly poor and insignificant. Like Gideon, God has called you to be his instrument, his hands and feet for such a time as this. Let us reflect on this through Gideon's calling.

**Reader 1:** A Reading from the Book of Judges (Jg 6:11-16),

Joash's son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press to save it from the Midianites, and the messenger of the Lord appeared to him and said: The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior! "My Lord," Gideon said to him, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are his wondrous deeds about which our ancestors told us when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' For now the Lord has abandoned us and has delivered us into the power of Midian." The Lord turned to him and said: Go with the strength you have, and save Israel from the power of Midian. Is it not I who send you? But he answered him, "Please, my Lord, how can I save Israel? My family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the most insignificant in my father's house." The Lord said to him: I will be with you, and you will cut down Midian to the last man. The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Reader 2:** God has a plan for your life. He has prepared you, through the grace of baptism, to accomplish something special for his kingdom. The world and individual lives are changed when men and women like you realize that you have been called for such a time as this, and through faith, you take action.

**Reader 3:** It is not an accident that you were born where you were, in the time you were. Like Gideon, in a special way God has prepared you to accomplish certain tasks for his kingdom. God is at work in each moment, setting up divine appointments for his glory, the goodness of others, and yourself.

**Leader:** So, my friends, do not doubt, get discouraged, or be afraid. Trust God and seek out the individual moments God is calling you to each day. Be faithful to him, and you he will bless you and unfold his plan for you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.