

CHAPTER 7 PRAYER SERVICE

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

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

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: In this passage from the gospel of Matthew, Jesus commissions his disciples to go out and spread the good news. Their lives after this moment were not always easy, but the Holy Spirit remained with them, strengthening them and guiding them throughout their mission. Today, the Holy Spirit remains with us as we are called to continue Jesus's mission of discipleship. As we pray the following prayer of St. Augustine, I invite you to ask the Holy Spirit to guide your mind and heart to one a word or phrase that stands out to you. Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know you,
And desire nothing, save only you.
Let me hate myself and love you.
Let me do everything for the sake of you.
Let me humble myself and exalt you.
Let me think of nothing except you.
Let me die to myself and live in you.
Let me accept whatever happens as from you.
Let me banish self and follow you,
And ever desire to follow you.
Let me fly from myself and take refuge in you,
That I may deserve to be defended by you.
Let me fear for myself, let me fear you,
And let me be among those who are chosen by you.
Let me distrust myself and put my trust in you.

Let me be willing to obey for the sake of you.
Let me cling to nothing, save only to you,
And let me be poor because of you.
Look upon me, that I may love you.
Call me, that I may see you,
And for ever enjoy you.
Amen.

Leader: Let us take a few moments to bring a word or phrase from this prayer into a conversation with the Lord. Ask Jesus how he wants to teach or encourage you through this word or phrase.

Play peaceful instrumental music for a few minutes. If appropriate, allow students to journal during this time.

Leader: Lord Jesus, we hear you calling us and we want to follow where you lead. Be with us as we go forth from this place to live joyfully as your disciples and invite others to do the same. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

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