

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible
Chapter 2 Prayer Service

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

Leader: Today we will pray with the opening lines of the Gospel of John. As we begin, let us ask the Holy Spirit to be with us, opening our minds and hearts to the truth, beauty, and goodness present in Scripture. I will read the passage out loud slowly and then give you time to reflect on one word or phrase that stands out to you.

Leader: A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD,
AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD,
AND THE WORD WAS GOD.
HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD.
ALL THINGS CAME TO BE THROUGH HIM,
AND WITHOUT HIM NOTHING CAME TO BE.
WHAT CAME TO BE
THROUGH HIM WAS LIFE,
AND THIS LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF THE HUMAN RACE;
THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,
AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Leader: As we listen to this hymn, spend some time reflecting on one word or phrase that stands out to you from this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and reveal to you God's love and providence through these lines from Scripture. Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and open our minds to your Word.

Play a soft instrumental version of a traditional hymn such as "Be Thou My Vision," "What Wonderful Love is This," or "How Great Thou Art," available for free on YouTube (or on another music platform with a subscription).

Leader: Let us pray.

Reader 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Reader 2: Jesus, you are the Word of God. Give us ears to hear your truth in Scripture.

Reader 1: He was in the beginning with God.

Reader 2: Jesus, you are the Son of God. Give us eyes to see your presence in our lives.

Reader 1: All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.

Reader 2: Jesus, you are the King of the Universe. Give us minds to believe in your goodness and providence.

Reader 1: What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race.

Reader 2: Jesus, you are the Savior of the World. Give us hands to create beauty in our homes and communities.

Reader 1: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Reader 2: Jesus, you are the Light of the World. Give us hearts willing to bring your light to those in need.

Leader: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.