

CHAPTER 5 PRAYER SERVICE

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

Reader 1: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Oh Lord.

Reader 1: When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right,

Reader 2: ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Reader 1: Then the righteous will answer him and say,

Group 1: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

Reader 1: And the king will say to them in reply,

Reader 2: ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Reader 1: Then he will say to those on his left,

Reader 2: ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

Reader 1: Then they will answer and say,

Group 2: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’

Reader 1: He will answer them,

Reader 2: ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Jesus calls us to seek and serve him in people who are poor and vulnerable. We begin this work by asking for the grace to find him and love him in our brothers and sisters who are suffering and oppressed. Let us pray.

Group 1: Lord of all hopefulness, awaken us.

Show us the meaning in our toil

That we may ever rejoice in the promise of the seeds we sow.

Group 2: Lord of all righteousness, awaken us.

Show us the good path

That we may walk in confidence in Your wisdom and understanding.

Group 1: Lord of all hospitality, awaken us.

Show us the refuge of eagles’ wings

That we may always be people of shelter in times of storm.

Group 2: Lord of all freedom, awaken us.

Show us the courage that called our forefathers out of bondage

That we may always stand with the bound and the oppressed,
and be their champions.

Group 1: Lord of all peace, awaken us.

Show us the heart that stills even raging waters

That we may make still raging hearts, and reconcile warring neighbors.

Group 2: Lord of all charity, awaken us.

Teach us of the unending return on our sacrifice

That we may rejoice more fully in our giving.

All: Lord, you have eyes for the just and ears for their cry.

Awaken in us a heart of justice

That you may count us among their number.

Amen.

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