

Prayer for Hope

This prayer service is best used at the conclusion of Chapters 3 and 4 of *Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation*.

Gather around a large lighted candle. Have smaller tapers available.

Opening Prayer

Leader: God, our Creator, inspire us to share hope with all we meet. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our best and brightest hope.

All: Amen.

Leader: Hear us as we offer our Act of Hope from the Prayer of St. Augustine.

All: For your mercies sake, O Lord my God,
tell me what you are to me.
Say to my soul: "I am your salvation."
Speak that I may hear, O Lord;
my heart is listening;
open it that it may hear you.
Say to my soul: "I am your salvation."
After hearing this word,
may I come in haste to take hold of you.
Hide not your face from me.
Let me see your face even if I die,
lest I die with longing to see it.
The house of my soul is too small to receive you;
let it be enlarged by you.
it is all in ruins; do your repair it.
There are things in it—I confess and I know—
that must offend your sight.
But who shall cleanse it?
Or to what others besides you shall I cry out?
From my secret sins cleanse me, O Lord,
and from those of others spare your servant.
Amen.

Psalm of Hope (based on Psalm 33: 1-5, 20-22)

Group 1: Rejoice, you righteous, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Group 2: Give thanks to the Lord on the harp; on the ten-stringed lyre offer praise.

Group 1: Sing to him a new song; skillfully play with joyful chant.

Group 2: For the Lord's Word is upright; all his works are trustworthy.

Group 1: He loves justice and right. The earth is full of mercy of the Lord.

Group 2: Our soul waits for the Lord, he is our help and shield.

Group 1: For in him our hearts rejoice; in his holy name we trust.

Group 2: May your mercy, Lord, be upon us; as we put our hope in you.

Gospel Reading on Hope

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (citation needed)
You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Litany of Hope

Leader: We turn to you, O Lord, with hope-filled hearts.

Group 1: Hope discovers what can be.

Group 2: It never complains of what it cannot be.

Group 1: Hope does not see problems as obstacles to be avoided,

Group 2: but as opportunities to be grasped and used.

Group 1: Hope cherishes no illusion.

Group 2: Neither does it yield to cynicism.

Group 1: Hope opens doors.

Group 2: It never closes options.

Group 1: Hope finds the finest in others.

Group 2: It never whines about the worst.

Group 1: Hope sets high goals.

Group 2: It is not frustrated by setbacks.

Group 1: Hope lights a candle.

Group 2: It never curses the darkness.

Invite all to offer their hopes for the future. After each hope is offered, respond with the following.

All: May God grant you a future of hope.

Leader: Hope is a passion for the impossible. Hope is the difference in us that helps us make a difference in the world. Empower us to live as signs and servants of hope.

Present each person a lighted candle, saying

(Name), receive the bright promise of hope for the future.

After everyone has received a lighted candle, the leader continues.

God of Good News, thrill us with the hope for an awesome future. Remind us that the adventure of tomorrow relies on the ventures of today—the visions we conceive, the decisions we make, the values we act upon. Brighten our lives with the conviction that you continue to act on our behalf, inspire us to act on the behalf of others so that the future may be blessed. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

All share a sign of peace.