

## CHAPTER 6 PRAYER SERVICE

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

**Reader 1:** A series of readings from the holy gospel according to Mark.

They brought the boy to [Jesus]. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. Then he questioned his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” He replied, “Since childhood. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Jesus said to him, “‘If you can!’ Everything is possible to one who has faith.”

Then the boy’s father cried out, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, rebuked the unclean spirit and said to it, “Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!”

Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out. Jesus took him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up.

**All:** I do believe, help my unbelief!

**Reader 2:** People from the synagogue official’s house arrived and said, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?”

Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid; just have faith.” When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.

So he went in and said to them, “Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.” And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was.

He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. [At that] they were utterly astounded.

**All:** I do believe, help my unbelief!

**Reader 3:** They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging.

On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.”

And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have pity on me.” Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage; get up, he is calling you.”

He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man replied to him, “Master, I want to see.”

Jesus told him, “Go your way; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

**All:** I do believe, help my unbelief!

**Leader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** In these stories from the gospel of Mark, Jesus affirms the faith of those who are seek His healing, help, and hope. In hope, let us bring our prayers and petitions to the Lord as we affirm our faith, too.

**All:** I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we bring you our desires, needs, and questions this day, and trust that you will respond to us in accordance with your will. Open our minds and hearts, that we may be aware of the miracles you are working in our lives. Strengthen us for the days ahead as we listen and respond to your call. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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