

## CHAPTER 1 PRAYER SERVICE

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

*Begin by playing the hymn “Be Thou My Vision.” Various versions of this hymn, including both contemporary and traditional arrangements, are available for free on YouTube.*

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, as we come together in prayer, we ask you to be our vision. When we look at ourselves, the circumstances of our lives, and the created world around us, help us to see what you see. May your vision of the Kingdom of God on earth guide us to our heavenly home with you one day. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

**Reader:** The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I lack.

**Group 1:** The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I lack.

In green pastures he makes me lie down;  
to still waters he leads me;  
he restores my soul.

He guides me along right paths  
for the sake of his name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff comfort me.

**Group 2:** You set a table before me  
in front of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for endless days.

**Group 1:** Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Group 2:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

**All:** The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I lack.

**Reader:** A reading from the First Letter of John.

We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God in him. In this is love brought to

perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. We love because he first loved us. The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Leader:** In his great love for us, Jesus Christ gave us the Church and the sacraments to help us remain close to him on our lifelong journey to Heaven. With joyful praise, we thank God for these gifts.

**All:** With joyful praise, we thank God for these gifts.

**Leader:** Because they are signs of God's great love for us.

**All:** With joyful praise, we thank God for these gifts.

**Leader:** Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** With joyful praise, we thank God for these gifts.

**Leader:** Lord, you said, "Remain in me, as I remain in you . . . because without me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:4-5). With this in mind, let us pray.

**All:** Lord Jesus, reveal yourself to me.

Give me the strength to go out and profess that I am your disciple.

Show me that you alone can fill my heart.

Teach me to accept your freedom and embrace your truth.

Make me a messenger of the certainty that I have truly been liberated through your Death and Resurrection.

Let my experience of your love generate through me a more just society and a better world. Amen.

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