

Jesus, the Man on Earth

A prayer service to be used at the conclusion of chapter 3 *Jesus Christ: His Mission and Ministry*.

Gathering

LEADER: Father in Heaven, you have given us your Son whom we can know as our brother. Christ's earthly pilgrimage affirms all holy men and women to go forth and do your works. Help us, Lord, to know through the suffering of your Beloved Son the true man and true God in you. We ask this through your holy name,

ALL: Amen

The Word of the Lord (Luke 1: 26-38)

READER: In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalms Response (Psalm 2)

LEADER: **"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"**

GROUP 1: Why do the nations protest
and the peoples conspire in vain?
Kings on earth rise up
and princes plot together
against the LORD and against his anointed one:

ALL: **"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"**

GROUP 2: "Let us break their shackles
and cast off their chains from us!"
The one enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord derides them,

ALL: **"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"**

GROUP 3: Then he speaks to them in his anger,
in his wrath he terrifies them:
"I myself have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain."

ALL: **"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"**

GROUP 4: I will proclaim the decree of the LORD,
he said to me, "You are my son;
today I have begotten you.
Ask it of me, and I will give you the nations as your
inheritance, and, as your possession, the ends of the
earth."

ALL: **"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"**

GROUP 5: "With an iron rod you will shepherd them,
like a potter's vessel you will shatter them."
And now, kings, give heed; take warning,
judges on earth. Serve the LORD with fear;

exult with trembling, Accept correction
lest he become angry and you perish along the way
when his anger suddenly blazes up.

ALL: **Blessed are all who take refuge in him!**

The Magnificat (Mary's Cantic to the Lord)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.

He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and His children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER: Thank you, Lord for helping us to know you through your Son, Jesus, our Lord. Amen