

The Paschal Lord

This prayer service is best used at the conclusion of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation*.

Divide the parts of the prayer service among three small groups. Gather near or around the Paschal Candle or a crucifix.

The Paschal Lord (Part 1)

Leader: Come to me.

Lay claim to a life of holiness and happiness.

Come to me and live!

The Voice of Doubt

Group 1: I would if I could,

but I'm just not sure.

Sometimes my head is filled with doubt.

I'm not always sure what is right or wrong.

I'm not always sure that God is listening,

or near, or even real.

How can I come to someone

I'm not sure is there?

The Paschal Lord (Part 2)

Leader: My child,

I live in the doorway of your doubt,

at the corner of your questioning,

on the threshold of your fear.

I will find you there,

for I am sure of you.

See, as on the cross,

my arms are stretched open in welcome.

Come to me.

Let me embrace you.

I will never betray your trust.

The Voice of Shame

Group 2: I would if I could,

but I'm embarrassed and ashamed.

If I let you see into my heart,

you will be so terribly disappointed.

Dark secrets live in me.

I'm afraid to let you uncover them.

The Paschal Lord (Part 3)

Leader: My child,
before your heart pulsed life,
I loved you and shared all your secrets.
You can create no darkness
that will blind my piercing love for you.
Be not afraid.
Come to me.
I will fight your way.

The Voice of Helplessness

Group 3: I would if I could,
but I don't feel strong enough.
No matter how hard I try,
I keep falling on my face.
The same sins trip me up
over and over again.

The Paschal Lord (Part 4)

Leader: My child,
when you stumble,
I will pick you up.
When you fall, I will carry you.
I will be your strength.
There is no fault in stumbling,
only in refusing to walk.
Come to me.
Follow me.
I will guide your steps.

The Voice of Hope

All: Lord, troubled by doubts,
wrestling with fear,
crippled by failure,
we dare to approach you, Paschal Lord.
Will you continue to rescue us
and redeem us?
Will you still come to us
that we might live?

The Paschal Lord (Part 5)

Leader: My children,
nothing that you feel,
nothing that you fear,
nothing that you fail,
nothing that exists,
nothing still to come,
no power,
no height,
no depth
can destroy
the love I have for you.
Come to me and live!

Paschal Lord, God of life and love, we turn to you, we come to you. Embrace us.
Receive us as your own, today, tomorrow, and forever.

All: Amen.

Concluding Hymn

Conclude by joining in a hymn of grace and mercy such as "Neither Death nor Life"
(Marty Haugen).