

Meeting Jesus in the Church's Universal Prayer

Use this complete prayer service with Chapter 1 or Chapter 2 of Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments. You may also choose to use only individual parts of the prayer service.

Needs:

- copies as needed
- an internet connection and computer queued to play *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* by Isaac Watts on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3WPGbluKZo>

Prayer Introduction

Leader: There are many ways to cultivate a life of prayer. Remember that when you pray, you are opening your heart to the Father's great love for you. One way to pray is through the official liturgical prayer of the Church called the Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office.

The Liturgy of the Hours is a way for the whole Church to continue meditating on Christ's redemptive love using a dialogue of Scripture and prayer. Though priests and religious have committed to praying the Liturgy of the Hours each day, many lay people also participate in at least a few of the hours of prayer. Today you will be introduced to a shortened version of the Liturgy of the Hours, taken from Morning Prayer.

In Morning Prayer the Canticle of Zechariah is always recited, recalling Christ as "the dawn from on high [that] breaks upon us ... to guide our feet into the way of peace." It is good to unite yourself to Christ through the universal Church as you join in praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

(Divide the class into two groups, Side 1 and Side 2, for the Psalm. There should also be a designated person to be the reader.)

Morning Prayer

Leader: God, come to my assistance. (Make Sign of the Cross)

All: O Lord make haste to help me.

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn Interlude and: I Sing the Mighty Power of God by Isaac Watts

(Play a recording of this hymn or provide lyrics and have the students sing it together in chorus.)

Psalm Response (Psalm 84)

Leader: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O LORD.

All: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O LORD.

Side 1: How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD, God of hosts.

Side 2: My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

Side 1: The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

Side 2: They are happy, who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

Side 1: As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs,
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.
They walk with ever growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Zion.

Side 2: O LORD, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

Side 1: One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

Side 2: For the LORD God is a rampart, a shield;
he will give us his favor and glory.
The LORD will not refuse any good
to those who walk without blame.

Side 1: LORD, God of hosts,
happy the man who trusts in you!

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;

Side 1: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Leader: Bless your people, Lord. You have given us the law that we may walk from strength to strength and raise our minds to you from this valley of tears. May we receive the gifts you have gained for us.

All: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Reading (1 Thes 5:14–18)

Reader: We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all. See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good [both] for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Responsory

Reader: Blessed be the Lord our God, blessed from age to age.

All: Blessed be the Lord our God, blessed from age to age.

Reader: His marvelous works are beyond compare,

All: Blessed be the Lord our God, blessed from age to age.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Gospel Canticle: Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79)

Leader: Blessed be the Lord our God.

Side 1: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Side 2: Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

Side 1: He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

Side 2: You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Side 1: In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Leader: Blessed be the Lord our God.

Intercessions

Leader: Men and women were created to glorify God through their deeds. Let us earnestly pray: *may we give glory to your name, Lord.*

All: *May we give glory to your name, Lord.*

Leader: We bless you, Creator of all things,

All: for you have given us the goods of the earth and brought us to this day. *May we give glory to your name, Lord.*

Leader: Look with favor on us as we begin our daily work,

All: let us be fellow workers with you. *May we give glory to your name, Lord.*

Leader: Grant joy and peace to us,

All: and to all we meet this day. *May we give glory to your name, Lord.*

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Lord God,
king of heaven and earth,
direct our minds and bodies throughout this day,
and make us holy.
Keep us faithful to your law in thought, word, and deed.
Be our helper now and always,
free us from sin,
and bring us to salvation in that kingdom
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Leader: May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.