

## CHAPTER 1 PRAYER SERVICE

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

**Leader:** Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you came into the world to bring healing and hope. You want to restore our relationship with the Father and make us sons and daughters of the King. You want to invite us into your saving mission by giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Be with us now as we enter this time of prayer and place our faith and trust in you. Amen.

**Reader:** A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully."

He said to him, "I will come and cure him."

The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."

And Jesus said to the centurion, "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you." And at that very hour [his] servant was healed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Leader:** During every Mass, we echo the words of the centurion as we prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We acknowledge our humility before the Lord and boldly ask him to heal us. When we consume his body, blood, soul, and divinity in the host, Jesus comes to be with us in a real way that can restore us, strengthen us, and enliven us for the work he has called us to do.

Let us now pray the Anima Christi prayer, a prayer that many people say in the quiet of their hearts after they have received Jesus in the Eucharist.

**All:** Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Within thy wounds hide me.  
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.  
From the malicious enemy defend me.  
In the hour of my death call me  
and bid me come unto thee,  
that I may praise thee with thy saints  
and with thy angels  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Leader:** Jesus, we trust that you are present with us now and in the holy Eucharist.  
Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may taste and see your good presence in our  
lives. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

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