

CHAPTER 2 PRAYER SERVICE

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

Reader: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times.

Reader: I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise shall be always in my mouth.

My soul will glory in the LORD;

let the poor hear and be glad.

Magnify the LORD with me;

and let us exalt his name together.

All: I will bless the LORD at all times.

Reader: I sought the LORD, and he answered me,

delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him and be radiant,

and your faces may not blush for shame.

This poor one cried out and the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

All: I will bless the LORD at all times.

Reader: The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and he saves them.

Keep your tongue from evil,
your lips from speaking lies.

Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are directed toward the righteous
and his ears toward their cry.

All: I will bless the LORD at all times.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Although God may ask us to do difficult things, he never leaves us to meet these challenges alone. This includes the call to live out the virtue of chastity. With confidence in God's wisdom and providence, let us pray.

All: Dearest Jesus! I know well that every perfect gift, and above all others that of chastity, depends upon the most powerful assistance of your providence, and that without you a creature can do nothing. Therefore, I pray you defend, with Your grace, chastity and purity in my soul as well as in my body. And if I have ever received through my senses any impression that could stain my chastity and purity, may you, who are the Supreme Lord of all my powers, take it from me, that I may with an immaculate heart advance in your love and service, offering myself chaste all the days of my life on the most pure altar of your divinity. Amen.

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