

Stay With Me, Lord

A prayer service to be used at the conclusion of Chapter 2 of Encountering Jesus in the New Testament.

Leader: St. Pio, or Padre Pio as he is more often known, was a Franciscan monk in the last century. He was given great spiritual gifts (including the ability to read hearts in the confessional), but he also had a solitary life that often included suffering. In this excerpt from a prayer he wrote, ask if you see yourself in his words of longing to remain close to Jesus. As we pray, give yourself permission to ask the Lord, “stay with me.”

Reader 1: Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Reader 2: Stay with me Lord, because I am weak, and I need Your strength, so that I may not fall so often.

Reader 3: Stay with me Lord, for You are my light, and without you, I am in darkness.

Reader 4: Stay with me Lord, to show me Your will.

Reader 5: Stay with me Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Reader 6: Stay with me Lord, for I desire to love you very much, and always be in Your Company.

Reader 7: Stay with me Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Reader 8: Stay with me Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more.

Leader: Dear Jesus, you lived one solitary life, but today the nations of the world bow down before you. So do I. But at times, Lord, I feel like I am all alone. No one notices me. My accomplishments often do not stand out, no matter how hard I try. I get lonely. Help me realize that if you are for me, no one can be against me. If you stay at my side, I will never be lonely. With you as my friend, I have everything I need. Help me to know and experience your love for me. Jesus, I promise to take your love and share it with someone else. Amen.