

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible

Chapter 5 Prayer Service

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

Leader: Throughout his ministry, Jesus often said things that left people feeling perplexed. As we meditate on one of those passages today, let us begin by asking Jesus to open the Scriptures for us so that we may know him better and answer his call to share the Gospel with others. Let us pray.

All: Creator of all things,
true source of light and wisdom, lofty origin of all being,
graciously let a ray of your brilliance
penetrate the darkness of my understanding
and take from me the double darkness in which I have been born,
an obscurity of both sin and ignorance.
Give me a sharp sense of understanding,
a retentive memory,
and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.
Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations,
and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.
Point out the beginning, direct the progress,
and help in the completion;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reader: A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

They said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen [me], you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day. For this is the will of my Father,

that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Leader: We are now going to spend some quiet time with Jesus. During this time, speak to him in your heart: offer him your questions, worries, or thanks. If you don’t know what to say or think about, revisit the Scripture passage we just read, and focus on one word or phrase that catches your attention.

Play soft instrumental music for a few minutes. If possible, invite students to find a comfortable and respectful position, and to close their eyes. After a few minutes, gently call the class to attention again.

Leader: Now, let us offer our prayers and petitions to the Lord. For what shall we pray today?

Give students some time to say their petitions out loud. After each petition, the class should respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the bread of life. You provide for us and sustain us as we journey to Heaven with you. Be with us this day, and give us your grace, that we may be strengthened in our resolve to know, love, and serve you all the days of 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.