

CHAPTER 7 PRAYER SERVICE

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

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

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the priesthood and modeled its nature of servant leadership. Let us pray for our priests who will follow in Jesus's footsteps today.

Reader: Our response will be "Lord, hear our prayer." For priests who live and minister in communities facing poverty, addiction, or violence, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For priests who must have challenging conversations or make difficult decisions today, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For priests who are privately suffering in mind, body, or spirit, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all men discerning or preparing for a vocation to the priesthood, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We offer these prayers and petitions to Jesus Christ our Lord through the intercession of Mary, his Mother, as we pray.

All: Hail Mary . . .

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God, please give to your Church today
many more priests after your own heart.
May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd.
May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance;
be examples of humility and poverty;
shining models of holiness;
tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God;
zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.
May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist
and to Mary his mother
be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry.
Amen.

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