

Going Deeper in Blessing

A prayer service to be used at the conclusion of Chapter 9 of Encountering Jesus in the New Testament.

Leader: In his letters, St. Paul would often give a blessing to the community to whom he was writing. Your prayer today will break down this beautiful blessing from Ephesians.

Reader 1: A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (Eph 3:14-21),

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us fall to our knees before God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, (kneel)

All: That we will be filled with his abounding riches and strength deep in our souls.

Leader: May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith,

All: That our roots will grow down deeply in God's love and keep us strong.

Leader: May we understand more fully how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God's glory is,

All: So that we can experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. And so that we can trust God, who can do in us more than we can ask or imagine.

All: Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.