

CHAPTER 4 PRAYER SERVICE

If possible, bring students into the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in Adoration or in the tabernacle for this 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 Matthew.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.” Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: At the Last Supper, Jesus gave thanks and then invited his disciples to “take and eat” and “take and drink.” In Greek, the word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” Let us take a moment now to think about the good things in our life. How can we give thanks for these gifts?

Play a traditional Eucharistic hymn, such as “Tantum Ergo” or “O Salutaris Hostia,” or a contemporary worship song, such as “Remembrance (Communion Song)” by Matt Maher. Various versions of these songs are available for free on YouTube.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord for the good things in our life.

Reader: Our response will be “We thank you, Lord.” For our families, caregivers, and loved ones . . .

All: We thank you, Lord.

Reader: For the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the shelter over our heads . . .

All: We thank you, Lord.

Reader: For the opportunity to learn and grow in this school community . . .

All: We thank you, Lord.

Reader: For the love and grace that comes from God and sustains us each day . . .

All: We thank you, Lord.

Reader: For what else do we give thanks today?

Pause to give students time to name the good things in their lives out loud. Once everyone has had an opportunity to share, end with . . .

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: When Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper, he said, “This is my body,” and “This is my blood.” When we receive the Eucharist, we have a radical opportunity to be close to Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. With this in mind, and placing ourselves in Jesus’ presence, we now pray . . .

All: Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, embolden me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Never permit me to be parted from you.

From the evil Enemy defend me.

At the hour of my death call me

and bid me come to you,

that with your Saints I may praise you

for age upon age.

Amen.

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