

## **“This Is How You Are to Pray”**

This prayer service is best used at the conclusion of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Jesus Christ: God’s Revelation to the World*.

### **Petitions of Blessing**

*Form a circle. This prayer is made up of Beatitude petitions of blessing. As each is offered, hold out your arms, hands open, palms up, in a gesture of acceptance. Then, when responding to each petition, impose the blessing on one another by placing your right hand on the left shoulder of the person to your right and your left hand on the shoulder of the person to your left.*

**Leader:** With the Beatitudes, blest and doubly blest are we. They are our benedictions and burdens to brandish and bear. With outstretched arms, accept them. With open hands, impose them. With shoulders squared, carry them. Blest are these gifts of the Blessed One, our greatest blessing and joy. With the blessings of the poor in spirit, that we might always remember that we are called to be a Eucharistic people who live thankful lives in recognition that all we have comes from a generous God . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** With the blessings of those who mourn, that we might seek to offer them solace and that we ourselves might find comfort in the consolation of God . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** With the blessings of the meek, that we may follow God’s plan for us . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** With the blessings of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, that we might live as hopeful people, trusting always that God will act on our behalf . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** With the blessings of the merciful, that we may learn to call “mercy” by its second name, “love” . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** With the blessings of the clean of heart, that we may come to see more than meets the eye and to recognize that it is God who is our heart's desire . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** With the blessings of the peacemakers, that we may learn to walk together in peace as God's own children . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** With the blessings of those persecuted for the sake of righteousness, that we may be ready and willing to pay the price for calling ourselves Christians . . .

**All:** Bless us, O God.

**Leader:** The God of blessings has blessed us not with impossible ideals but with ideal possibilities. No wonder we rejoice at God's wonders. No wonder we turn as thankful children in prayer to our wonderful God.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*All pray together the Lord's Prayer. Choose either the Scriptural version, the one from the New Zealand Prayer Book, the young people's version, or one of the versions composed in Chapter 7 (see Chapter 7, Handout 4, "The Lord's Prayer X 4").*

### **Scriptural Version**

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

### **New Zealand Prayer Book Version**

Eternal Spirit Earth-maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be. Loving God, in whom is Heaven;  
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your Heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With

bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

### **Young People's Version**

God, you are our Daddy. We are your children. We are family. This is our family prayer. Heaven is your home, Daddy, and so Heaven is our home, too. Daddy, we pray that everyone will see that you are present with us, and that no one will use your name as a magic word to make themselves feel safe or as a weapon to make others feel threatened. Daddy, our hearts are on your Kingdom before all else. Then, no matter what else we pray for, it will pave the way for your Kingdom's coming. Daddy, give us what we need to keep us going—bread for the body and bread for the soul. Help us remember and return your great favor of forgiveness. Push us away from sin, but don't push us into the time of crisis until we've learned from you how to face it and survive.

**Our Class Version**—See *Chapter 7, Handout 4, "The Lord's Prayer X 4"* (Teacher's Wraparound Edition)

### **Concluding Hymn**

*Conclude the prayer by singing an appropriate hymn such as, "Blest Are They" by David Haas or "We Are the Light of the World" by Jean A. Greif*