

PRAYER SERVICE

Chapter 9—Discipleship through Prayer

Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation

THEME

Reader One:

It has been said that prayer is “a conversation with God.” Lord, we want to converse with you, know you, and love you. Teach us the many ways of prayer by which we can reach out to you.

You said, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” Help us learn the art of listening so that we can come to know your voice in our hearts and minds and souls. Grant us the grace to respond to your call.

FIRST READING: Exodus 33:7, 11a, 12, 14

Reader Two:

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses used to pitch a tent outside the camp at some distance. It was called the tent of meeting. Anyone who wished to consult the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.

The LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a person speaks to a friend.

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you are telling me: lead this people. But you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said: You are my intimate friend;* You have found favor with me.

The LORD answered: I myself will go along, to give you rest.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 86: 1–2a, 6, 11,12

Reader Four:

Response: Incline your ear, LORD, and answer me.

Incline your ear, LORD, and answer me,

for I am poor and oppressed.

Preserve my life, for I am devoted;

LORD, hear my prayer;

listen to my cry for help.

Response: Incline your ear, LORD, and answer me.

Teach me, LORD, your way

that I may walk in your truth,

single-hearted and revering your name.

I will praise you with all my heart,

(and) glorify your name forever, Lord my God.

Response: Incline your ear, LORD, and answer me.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12–17

Reader Four:

A reading from the Letter from St. Paul to the Colossians.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6: 7–15

Reader Five:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

This is how you are to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors;

and do not subject us to the final test,

but deliver us from the evil one.

If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.

MEDITATION: Isaiah 50:4-5

Reader Six:

I will read a passage from the Book of Prophet Isaiah on discipleship. When I finish the reading, I will ask you to meditate and respond (either in thought or in writing) to a series of questions.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me

a well trained tongue,

That I might know how to answer the weary

a word that will waken them.

Morning after morning

he wakes my ear to hear as disciples do;

The Lord God opened my ear;

I did not refuse,

did not turn away.

- What word, thought or phrase stand out to you and why?
- What grace do you need to live out this passage? Quietly ask God for that Grace.
- What other words, thoughts, phrases come to your mind? Consider these thoughts for a while.

After allowing enough time for personal reflection either in thought or in writing, conclude with the following:

What is God asking you to do as a result of reading this passage? Take a few seconds to consider this and resolve to take action.

Pause for a few seconds then say:

Thank you, Lord, for hearing us. You always hear us. Grant us the grace to put into action what we have heard.

PETITIONS

Reader Seven:

Response: Hear us, O Lord

That we may be aware of the Presence of God in all things and all things in God,
we pray to the Lord.

Response: Hear us, O Lord

That we may have listening hearts and a willingness to do what you ask us to do,
we pray to the Lord.

For those who are far from you and have no desire to know you, may they have
the grace to be open to you and be responsive to your promptings, for this we
pray to the Lord.

Response: Hear us, O Lord

Through You all things have come into being. May every moment of our lives be a
response to your call. We ask this of our loving and creative Father, in the name
of power of his saving Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives and
reigns with you forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

CONCLUSION

Reader Eight:

Heavenly Father, we have heard your Son's call to discipleship. Give us the grace
to be his follower on the Way home to you. We ask this in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.