

# INTRODUCTION

The Church's liturgical prayer traditions have been shaped over centuries. These ancient structures of prayer connect us across boundaries of time and place to the universal body of Christ. Praying in these ways also connects us to the source and summit of our faith: the Sunday Eucharist.

This kind of prayer is different from what we could call “devotional” prayer. Examples of individual devotional prayer would be things like saying the Rosary, holy hours, or our own personal bedtime prayers. All too often, we use these kinds of prayers with large groups with the intent of creating a communal experience. However, we believe that *liturgical* prayer is better suited for a communal experience of Scripture and ritual. There is space for individual reflection in liturgical prayer, but that reflection happens within a communal context.

## *How to use this book*

This booklet functions in two ways: First, this booklet is a worship aid meant to help you participate in these prayers. Liturgy is best experienced when those who are gathered are engaged in full, active, and conscious participation. Thus, this booklet is not meant to assist you in “following along.” Rather, it is meant to give you the ability to enter fully into the experience of this prayer.

Second, think of this booklet as your personal prayer journal. This journal can serve a variety of purposes: it can help you evaluate your personal faith development, it will aid you in keeping track of your questions and concerns, and it will deepen your engagement in prayer and faith.

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# "Follow Me"

*prayer for the start of the faith formation year*

## **PRAYER OVERVIEW**

*Central themes:* Commissioning, discipleship, belonging, faith and spirituality, beginnings

The end of the ninth chapter of Luke ushers us into a particularly important portion of Jesus' ministerial life: Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Many scholars refer to this central section of Luke's Gospel as the "travel narrative." As Jesus is at the beginning of a significant journey, so too are the students who are beginning their journey toward the sacrament of confirmation.

In addition to framing us at the beginning of a journey alongside Jesus, the Scripture passage also sets before us a challenging teaching of what real discipleship is. First, Jesus presents the call of discipleship as immediate and imperative. This is exemplified in his response to the would-be disciples who asked to first bury their father who died, and the one who asked to say farewell to their family (Luke 9:59–62). Second, when we speak of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, we are talking about his journey to the cross. So as we spend the coming year preparing for confirmation, it is important that we allow for time and space to grapple with and pray about what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

*Before you enter this prayer...*

What are you most excited about at the start of this year?

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What are you most anxious about at the start of this year?

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What questions do you have about your faith?

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# Gathering

Gathering Song: \_\_\_\_\_

## OPENING PRAYER

**ALL** Amen.

## Psalmody

Psalm 40: \_\_\_\_\_

*If the psalm is not being sung, the following response is used.*

**R/** Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

## PSALM PRAYER

**ALL** Amen.

Psalm 122: \_\_\_\_\_

*If the psalm is not being sung, the following response is used.*

**R/** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

## PSALM PRAYER

**ALL** Amen.

## The Word

*After all are seated, a period of silence should be observed so that all can ready themselves to hear the word of God. After this period of silence, the lector should move into place in order to proclaim the reading from Scripture.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** [ Luke 9:51–62 ]

**LECTOR** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When the days for Jesus' being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, and he sent messengers ahead of him. On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his

journey was Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.

As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." To him Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

The word of the Lord.

**ALL** Thanks be to God.

*Silent reflection.*

#### **REFLECTION**

Canticle:

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*As the canticle begins, all make the Sign of the Cross.*

*If the canticle is recited, then turn to pages 31-32.*

#### **INTERCESSIONS**

**R/** Lord, hear our prayer.

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## Dismissal

BLESSING

SIGN OF PEACE



*After you have prayed...*

In what ways is God calling you at the beginning of this year?

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In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is seen resolutely setting on a path to Jerusalem. Where are you headed? What are your goals? What are the obstacles?

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Are you closer to answers for your questions about your faith? Have the questions changed?

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# Evening Prayer I

*general evening prayer for any time of year*

## PRAYER OVERVIEW

*Central themes:* Thanksgiving, belonging, peace

This is a prayer that can be used at any time during the year as we prepare to receive the sacrament of confirmation. Anchored by the reading from First Corinthians, we are invited to focus on the work of the Spirit in our lives and the gifts we have been given. The sacrament of confirmation calls us to ask how we might put forth our gifts in service of God and

each other. Prayer is a necessary step in discerning what gifts are at work in us and how we might use them.

*Before you enter this prayer...*

What strengths/talents do you bring to your relationships?  
to the teams/clubs you belong to? to your work?

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What strengths/talents do you rely on others to bring?

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What questions do you have about your faith?

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**Gathering**

Gathering Song: \_\_\_\_\_

**OPENING PRAYER**

**ALL** Amen.

**Psalmody**

Psalm 104: \_\_\_\_\_

*If the psalm is not being sung, the following response is used.*

**R/** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**PSALM PRAYER**

**ALL** Amen.

Psalm 139: \_\_\_\_\_

*If the psalm is not being sung, the following response is used.*

**R/** I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

**PSALM PRAYER**

**ALL** Amen.

**The Word**

*After all are seated, a period of silence should be observed so that all can ready themselves to hear the word of God. After this period of silence, the lector should move into place in order to proclaim the reading from Scripture.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** [ 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 ]

**LECTOR** A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

The word of the Lord.

**ALL** Thanks be to God.

*Silent reflection.*

**REFLECTION**

Canticle: \_\_\_\_\_

*As the canticle begins, all make the Sign of the Cross.*

*If the canticle is recited, then turn to page 32.*

**INTERCESSIONS**

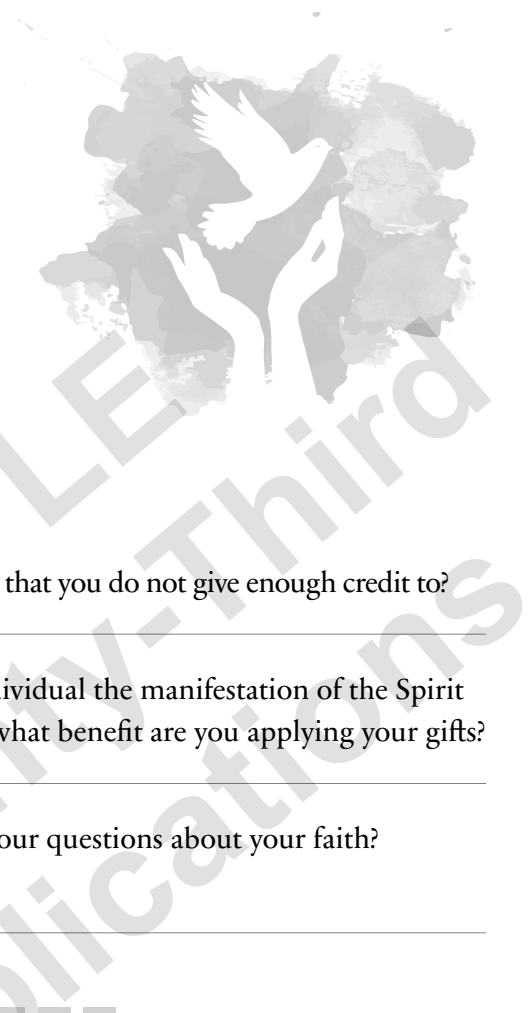
**R/** Lord, hear our prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Dismissal**

**BLESSING**

**SIGN OF PEACE**



*After you have prayed...*

Are there other strengths/talents that you do not give enough credit to?

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The reading states “To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” For what benefit are you applying your gifts?

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Are you closer to answers for your questions about your faith?  
Have the questions changed?

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**Evening Prayer II**

*general evening prayer for any time of year*

**PRAYER OVERVIEW**

*Central themes:* Thanksgiving, safety, rest, comfort

Traditionally, evening prayer often centers on the themes listed above.