

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in March, 2018

Introduction

Leader We can be like seeds in the ground that seem to die but instead grow and bear fruit. Struggles in our lives can lead to inner strength and renewed energy to do good.

Opening Prayer

All God of life and growth, we turn to you for wisdom on how to live holy lives. Jesus teaches us to “die to ourselves,” to find the grace offered daily as we minister to others. As the seed bursts to new life from the ground, may we live resurrected lives. We pray through Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Word of God John 12:23-26

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John (Pause for silent reflection)

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side*

1. When have you felt like a seed shedding its coat in order to grow and develop?
2. How do we love our lives by losing them? What is Jesus teaching us about life in him?

Response (taken from John 12:24-26)

Side 1 "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat."

Side 2 May our struggles in life lead us to strength and grace to reach out to others.

Side 1 "Whoever loves his life loses it."

Side 2 Losing our life means gaining freedom and a fresh resolve to give our life for others. Centeredness on self leads to withdrawal, narrowness of vision and anything but peace.

Side 1 "Whoever serves me must follow me... The Father will honor whoever serves me."

Side 2 Lord, bless our efforts to shed narcissism so we can follow Jesus.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Good and merciful God, we often turn in on ourselves and miss the grace that ministering to others offers us. Forgive our sinful narcissism and bring us the peace that only you can give. Continue to teach us Jesus' ways. We pray in his name. Amen



A reading from the Gospel of John

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
 it remains just a grain of wheat;
 but if it dies, it produces much fruit.
Whoever loves his life loses it,
 and whoever hates his life in this world
 will preserve it for eternal life.
Whoever serves me must follow me,
 and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me.