

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in July, 2021

## Introduction

Leader      Like a caring shepherd, Jesus reminds us of our need to “come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

## Opening Prayer

All      Unconditionally loving God, you know our needs. Care for all who turn to you for a break in our busy lives. Give rest to those suffering from war, disaster or disease throughout our world. We trust in your love through Jesus in the power of his Spirit. Amen.

## Word of God    Mark 6:30-34

Reader      A reading from the Gospel of Mark      (*The reading is on the reverse side.  
Pause for silent reflection.*)

**Optional**      Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. When you take time to “come away” for a while, what experiences are memorable?
2. From your experience, how would you encourage another person to take time for a day or a weekend of reflection?

**Response**      (Taken from Mark 6:30-34)

Side 1      “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

Side 2      Lord, help us to recognize our deep need to rest a while with you.

Side 1      “They went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.”

Side 2      Keep teaching us how to pray as we look for those quiet spaces in each day.

Side 1      “His heart was moved with pity for them.”

Side 2      As we hear of Jesus’ compassion, may we turn to him for our daily needs.

**Petitions**      Individuals add intentions to remember here.

## Closing Prayer    Psalm 23: 1-3, 3-4

All      The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
He refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

## A reading from the Gospel of Mark

The apostles gathered together with Jesus  
and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them,

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place  
and rest a while.”

People were coming and going in great numbers,  
and they had no opportunity even to eat.  
So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.  
They hastened there on foot from all the towns  
and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd,  
his heart was moved with pity for them,  
for they were like sheep without a shepherd;  
and he began to teach them many things.