

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in October, 2021

Introduction

Leader A follower of Christ serves others. Christian service requires generosity—a willingness to make the needs of others as a priority in one’s life. Though this is often contrary to society’s norms, it is the clear example Jesus set in the Gospels.

Opening Prayer

All Generous God, we come to you as those who are seeking to serve. Guide us in our dealings with others to serve them generously and humbly in the pattern of our model, Jesus Christ. We ask this in his name. Amen.

Word of God Mark 10:35-45

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

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

1. What leader has been an example to you of servant leadership?
2. How is service with humility especially needed within our families, parishes and places of work?

Response (Mark 10:35-45)

Side 1 “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?”

Side 2 When serving others becomes demanding and exhausting, we ask for the gifts of generosity and courage.

Side 1 “Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.”

Side 2 Bless leaders with the humility that respects others and puts their needs first.

Side 1 “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Side 2 May Jesus’ words and example of service inspire us and become our own.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Word of God, we thank and praise you for guiding us in our roles of serving others, never domineering but humbly leading with generosity and goodness. We pray in your name and through your Holy Spirit who lives within us. Amen.

Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him,

“Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”

He replied, “What do you wish me to do for you?”

They answered him,

“Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.”

Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the cup that I drink

or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

They said to him “We can.”

Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink, you will drink,

And the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;

but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give

but is for those for whom it has been prepared.’

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

Jesus summoned them and said to them,

“You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles

lord it over them,

and their great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you.

Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;

whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.

For the Son of Man did not come to be served

but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”