

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in June, 2023

## Introduction

Leader “The harvest is great but the laborers are few.” As Jesus’ disciples we are called to lead by example within our communities and to heal through our love.

## Opening Prayer

All Compassionate God, you call us to become laborers in your harvest, to show by our lives that your kingdom is one of love, truth, justice and peace. Help us to live as committed disciples of Jesus. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Word of God Matthew 9:36-10:1, 5-8

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew *After the reading pause for silent reflection*

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

1. When or where have you recognized the opportunity to lead by example?
2. What are some aspects of the “harvest” that you labor in today?

## Response (Taken from Matthew 9:36-10:1, 5-8)

Side 1 “At the sight of the crowds, Jesus’ heart was moved with pity for them.”

Side 2 Thank you, Lord, for the mercy and peace you give us through your loving heart.

Side 1 “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”

Side 2 Each of us is called to help with the harvest of goodness, forgiveness and joy, God’s gifts to us.

Side 1 “Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give.”

Side 2 With all the gifts God has given to us, we are asked to share generously with all we meet.

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

## Closing Prayer

All Gracious God, we thank you for the grace we have received from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Grace us each day with renewed faith, hope and love as we serve you and one another. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## **A reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved  
with pity for them  
because they were troubled and abandoned  
like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,  
“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;  
so ask the master of the harvest  
to send laborers for his harvest.”

Then he summoned his twelve disciples  
and gave them authority over unclean spirits  
to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.

“Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town.  
Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
As you go, make this proclamation, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’  
Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons.  
Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.”