

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in July, 2020

Introduction

Leader Dealing with evil when we face it requires God's grace. Wisdom to end injustice is the fruit of trusting God, whose help we need to accomplish anything.

Opening Prayer

All God of goodness and strength, support our efforts to sow seeds of goodness within our families, parishes and communities. When facing evil, may we trust in your grace for the wisdom and courage needed to prevail. We ask this in the name of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Word of God Matthew 13:24-30

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

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

1. How do you respond to evil?
2. How is the virtue of hope a part of dealing with evil?

Response (Taken from Matthew 13:24-30)

Side 1 "The Kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed."

Side 2 May we also sow seeds of goodness, especially in our families.

Side 1 "While everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat...."

Side 2 When we face evil, Lord, help us to deal with it with the grace and wisdom you give to all who ask.

Side 1 "Collect the weeds first...but gather the wheat into my barn."

Side 2 By living as your disciples, at our death may we be as wheat gathered into your eternal kingdom.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Lord God of Hope, may the "Spirit come to the aid of our weakness, for we do not know how to pray." (Romans 8:26) Grace us with the strength to plant seeds of goodness and the wisdom to know how best to deal with evil when we face it. We rely on you for all our choices. We pray in Jesus who taught us the Way. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying:

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man
who sowed good seed in his field.

While everyone was asleep his enemy came
and sowed weeds all through the wheat
and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

The slaves of the householder came to him and said,

‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?

Where have the weeds come from?’

He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’

His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds
you might uproot the wheat along with them.

Let them grow together until harvest;

then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,

‘First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning;
but gather the wheat into my barn..’ ”