

INTRODUCTION AND PRAYER

*“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened,
and I will give you rest.”*

That is the invitation and the promise made by Jesus in today’s Gospel. We have accepted his invitation to come to worship Him today; here we hope to find rest in his presence.

Let us Pray:

To the childlike, O God, you reveal yourself,
and on those who are meek and humble of heart
you promise the inheritance of your kingdom.

Refresh our weary spirits
with the teaching of Christ,
that with him we may shoulder the gentle yoke of the cross,
and proclaim to everyone
the joy that comes from you alone.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

In your presence, Lord Jesus, the overburdened find rest.

Lord, have mercy.

You are gentle and humble of heart.

Christ, have mercy.

Your yoke is easy and your burden light.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of heaven and earth,

by whose gracious will

the mysteries of the kingdom are revealed to the childlike,

help us learn humility of heart from your Son,

that in obeying God's call in our daily lives

we may find refreshment and rest.

Help us to remember that by taking up His yoke, our burdens of sin and suffering are carried by one greater than we. We are forgiven and we are loved. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Because we believe in a God who is abounding in love, we bring before him the needs of the Church , the world, and all God's people;

1. For all **Christians:** *(pause)* that through our witness the world will come to know our God who is *kind and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in love.* Lord in your mercy:
2. For the **leaders of nations:** *(pause)* that they will give their people a reason to hope by *proclaiming peace* and abandoning the instruments of war. Lord in your mercy:
3. For the **poor**, the humble, the childlike; *(pause)* for those who are *neither wise nor learned in the eyes of the world.* *(pause)* May they all receive the full revelation of God's love. Lord in your mercy:
4. For those who are **tempted to despair** under the crushing weight of their problems. *(pause)* May they find consolation by placing them in the heart of Jesus. Lord in your mercy:
5. For the **sick** and the **suffering** *(pause)* may they find rest in the care of those you have given to them. Lord in your mercy:

Father, you have *revealed your truth to mere children and hidden it from the learned.* Keep us humble in heart that we may always hear you when you call. This we ask in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus our Lord. **AMEN.**

LORD'S PRAYER:

No one knows your name, O God,
except your Son Jesus,
and those to whom he chooses to reveal it.
He has revealed it to us and so we dare to call you **Father:**

Our Father...

BENEDICTION

May the Father of heaven and earth reveal himself to you
and help you to live as his children. *AMEN.*

May you come to Jesus and find rest in his gentle, humble heart. *AMEN.*

May the Spirit of God dwell always within you. *AMEN.*

And may God bless you,

+ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *AMEN.*