



SERVICE WITH HUMILITY

SETTING: Table with a glass bowl 1/4th full of water and small towel

LEADER: Read with a brief pause between quotes

Do you want to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the sky? Lay first the foundation of humility. (Saint Augustine)

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. (CS Lewis)

Those who cannot feel the littleness of great things in themselves are apt to overlook the greatness of little things in others. (Kakuzo Okakura)

SONG: Were I the Perfect Child of God – YouTube

Were I the perfect child of God
Whose faith was deep and love was broad,
I'd gladly follow Jesus.
But I'm the child of what I've been
Estranged by much I've done and seen,
Afraid to show the love I mean,
Unfit to follow Jesus.

Yet God, who knows me first and last,
Who's seen my best, my worst, my past,
Has shown his love intense and vast
By meeting me in Jesus.

For Christ, though killed at Calvary
By sins like mine and folk like me
Has risen, forgiven and set me free,
Made fit to follow Jesus.

Then sprinkle water on my brow
As, in this place, I make a vow
To own and love my savior now
And give myself to Jesus.
God grant me what I still require
That I, in others, might inspire
The hidden hope, the deep desire
To love and follow Jesus

LEADER: Let us begin by blessing ourselves with water (or an alternate approach would be to bless each other) with the sign of the cross saying: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be present with us Lord as we gather in your name, Amen"

PRAY TOGETHER: Adapted from a prayer by William Barclay

Loving God, give us the humility.....

- to realize we don't have everything,
 - to admit our mistakes,
 - to recognize our needs,
 - to welcome advice,
 - to accept correction when we've done wrong,
 - to show sympathy instead of discouraging others,
 - to build others up instead of tearing them down,
 - and to see the best in everyone, rather than their worst.
- This we ask in Jesus' name.

READER 1 - Let us listen to the Lord's word to us.

Reading: Luke 12:22-31

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens; they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn and yet, God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And can any of you by worrying, add a single hour to your span of life? If then, you cannot manage a little thing like this, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith. And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.

PAUSE TO REFLECT:

Where do I need to become more humble in the way I treat people around me?

How can I remember to ask God for help in everything I do?

READER 2:

"In all humility we will do what we can, and in all humility we will entrust the rest to the Lord. It is God who governs the world, not we. We offer him our service only to the extent that we can, and for as long as he grants us the strength. To do all we can with what strength we have, however, is the task which keeps the good

servant of Jesus Christ always at work: 'The love of Christ urges us on' (2 Cor 5: 14)." #35 Deus Caritas Est.

"Humility makes us aware every day that it is not we who build the kingdom of God, but rather it is always the grace of the Lord that acts in us; humility that urges us to give ourselves not in service to ourselves or our ideas, but the service of Christ and the church...." Pope Francis Homily, July 31, 2013

PAUSE TO REFLECT:

How do I serve Jesus in one another in my home, in my church, in my community?

SHARE THOUGHTS WITH ONE ANOTHER:

PITITIONS: (Adapted from Guerrillas of Grace)

RESPONSE: May your Spirit touch me deeply

Lord, make me simple enough not to be confused by disappointments. RESPONSE

Lord, make me clear enough not to mistake business for freedom. RESPONSE

Lord, make me honest enough not to expect truth to be painless. RESPONSE

Lord, make me brave enough not to sing all my songs in private. RESPONSE

Lord, make me compassionate enough to get in trouble. RESPONSE

Lord, make me humble enough to admit trouble and seek help. RESPONSE

Lord, make me joyful enough to celebrate all of it, myself and others and you through Jesus Christ. RESPONSE

CLOSING PRAYER: ALL

Loving God,

Teach us the wisdom of humility that we might learn to rely on your help in everything. Teach us to see with your eyes, to act in your ways, to love and to serve as followers of Jesus. We make this prayer to you in his name. Amen.

SONG: Here I Am Lord – YouTube

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them?
Who shall I send?

CHORUS:

Here I am Lord, It is I Lord,
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone,
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS:

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hands will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them,
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS:

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!