

A Liturgy for Volunteers

Call to Prayer

Today we are gathered to celebrate the wonderful people who have volunteered their time, talents and treasures to the (insert school name here) community. In thanksgiving and gratitude, let us take a moment to reflect on the value of the volunteers who have helped to enrich the lives our staff and students.

Opening Prayer

Let us begin by signing ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

+Amen.

Loving Father,

You taught us the importance of service through the many examples set by your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the works of the Holy Spirit and the grace poured out by you, these wonderful people have heard your call to do great and wonderful things here at (Insert school name here) . May you continue to care for our school volunteers and may you shower them with love and many blessings.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

+Amen.

Reading (James 2:14-24, 26)

A reading from the Letter of James.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

R. Blessed the person who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Blessed the person who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commands.
Their posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;
the upright generation shall be blessed.

R. Blessed the person who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house;
his generosity shall endure forever.
Light shines through the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious and merciful and just.

R. Blessed the person who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Well for the person who is gracious and lends,
who conducts their affairs with justice;
They shall never be moved;
the just person shall be in everlasting remembrance.

R. Blessed the person who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Gospel (John 13:3-20)

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Intercessions

The response is: ***Lord hear our prayer.***

For the Church and its leaders:

That through their example of service, they inspire us and those around the world to donate their time, talents and treasures to help those in need, whether in our homes, our communities or around the world.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

For leaders in governments around the world:

That they listen to the needs of the marginalized. May they work toward communities based on love, honest work and commitment to building a future filled with hope and charity.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

For our school community:

That we nurture our staff and students to willingly give of their time, talent and treasures to help those around them.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord Hear our prayer.

For our (Insert school name) volunteers:

That God will continue to bless them with their many gifts and talents, and that our school community will look to them with gratitude for the selfless work they do to enrich the lives of staff and students.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

Let us now pray with the words that Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

+Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

+Amen.