Virtue of Courage
Liturgical of the Word
“Do not be afraid” Luke 1:30

Preparation: Create a prayerful atmosphere. Prepare a table at the front of your space. Tablecloth should be green for Ordinary Time. Include a cross, fresh flowers or green plant, pillar candle, Bible or Book of the Gospels.

Opening Prayer:
+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of courage,
May we always seek to do what is right, no matter what others say or think.
May we face our fears knowing that you are by our side.
May we honestly try to be the best we can be, each and every day.
We know that we may not always be brave, but with your gift of courage,
May we be always willing to try new things as we follow Jesus, your Son,
Our model of courage.
Amen.*

Holy Scripture:

Paraphrased Story of David and Goliath (adapted from 1 Samuel 17:1-54)

David was a shepherd boy who lived in Israel. He took care of sheep. God chose David to take care of the Jewish people.
David played the harp. When the king of Israel was tired of fighting in the war, he asked David to play for him. David’s music made him feel better.
One day a terrible giant named Goliath started bragging to his soldier friends that none of the Jews would dare to fight him. And he was right. The Jewish soldiers were all afraid of big Goliath. What would happen to the Jewish people?
Then little David said: “I’ll fight Goliath. God will help me.” And he went and got some stones for his slingshot.
The giant just laughed at him. David put a stone in his sling and flung it. The stone hit big Goliath on the head. Then David killed him with his sword. All of Goliath’s friends ran away. The little shepherd boy had saved the Jewish people! **

http://shortstoriesshort.com/story/david-and-goliath/

Litany: God Gives Us Courage

The response is: God gives us courage

In the classroom, when we work and play with those who might not be our friends,

All: God gives us courage
When we are doing what we know is right, even though others are not,

All: God gives us courage

In the school yard, when we need to keep the peace,

All: God gives us courage

When we make mistakes and we are sorry,

All: God gives us courage

When we’re trying something new,

All: God gives us courage

When we are scared,

All: God gives us courage

Always.....

All: God gives us courage

May we always remember that God gives us courage.

+Amen.*

Ritual Action:
Symbols of Courage can be made by classes and brought up and placed in front of the prayer table

Our Father: Invite the school community to pray together the words that Jesus taught us

Sign of Peace: As witnesses of our faith and gratitude turn to one another and offer the sign of peace to those around you.

Closing Prayer:

God our strength,
With you by our side, we can do anything.
With you at our side, we can go anywhere.
Thank you, God, for giving us the gift of courage.

Amen

*Adapted from Words for the Journey for Kids
Lisa Freemantle & Les Miller.