

Reader Eight: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

All Lord, bless us with simplicity that filled the heart of your Blessed Mother on the first Christmas morning, so that we may recognize in all creation the handiwork of God. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader Nine: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

All Lord, help us to know that we might become peacemakers in our homes, schools and places of employment. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader Ten: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

All: Lord, we live in a world that has little concern for the weak. Grant us your capacity for caring so that the weak, the unborn and the persecuted will have a voice in this world. Lord hear our prayer.



Symbolic Action and Prayer Offering

Leader *(holding the candle from the prayer table): See this light, a symbol of Christ. May the light of Christ fill your minds and hearts as you serve others with gratitude, humility and compassion Christ's' name.*

All We welcome the Light of Christ

Leader *(holding up the bible): See this holy book that contains the Word of God. May you share its wisdom and revelation with those you serve.*

All We welcome the word of God.

Leader *(holding up the basket with the Beatitude slips): Behold these Beatitudes which contains the highest Christian ideals of mercy, spirituality and compassion. May you guide those you teach to the greater knowledge of these and love of God.*

All We welcome the message of faith.

(Now have each prayer participant select a beatitude slip from the container being passed around. Invite each person to take time individually to respond by written reflection as to how they may live by example Jesus' teaching of mercy, spirituality and compassion).

Leader *I now invite you to spend time, in silent reflection, as how you may share through lived action, Jesus' teaching of mercy, spirituality and compassion.*

Allow three-five minutes for this activity.

Leader *Now as a community of believers I invite you to share any intentions you may have to present in prayer. Intention is presented given followed by... we pray to the Lord.*

All Lord Hear our Prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader *God our loving parent and guide. You strengthen us, and above all calm our fears as we go forth to proclaim the good news of your love for all. Watch over and bless us always. Be with us as we continue to open our hearts to your outrageous love. We make our commitment now, to hold firm entrusting ourselves to you. This we ask in your name.*

All **Amen.**

OCTOBER 2011

Opening our Hearts... Blessed are they



"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:"

Matthew 5: 1-2

Introduction:

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord". Today we gather, in this season of autumn to continue reflecting on the following key message that presenter David Wells left with us, during our Division Faith Day:

Opening our hearts draws us into an outrageous love of God.

In last month's prayer reflection we gave thanks and praise for **gifts given** to us in our call to educate our youth and serve others in the context of community. We reminded ourselves that it is with God's own power that we are called forth as teachers and catechists. As we open our hearts to *God's outrageous love for us* we start to see the great gifts given to us. This month we give thanks and show gratitude for all that has been received through Christ's teachings to us.

In the New Testament Jesus provides us with a beautiful set of teachings named the Beatitudes that focus is one of love and humility rather than force and exaction. The Beatitudes echo the highest ideals of Jesus' teachings on mercy, spirituality and compassion.

David Wells challenged us to think deeply upon the following:

For what do I have to be grateful for? How can I enact upon my God-given gifts? How do Jesus' teachings on the Beatitudes help me reflect this in heart, mind and action?

Preparation:

In your prayer space place a lightened candle, a bible open to Matthew 5: 1-11. Beforehand, write or type onto the slips of paper the eight Beatitudes (prepare number of sets of the Beatitudes according to the size of your group). Place the Beatitude slips on tray or container on the prayer table.



Opening Prayer

Leader

Lord helps us to listen attentively to the words you so gave us through the gospel of Matthew. Open our minds and hearts to your words so that what we may live out your message in a world that will foster love, faith and hope for all.

Scripture Reading

Reader One: A reading from the gospel of Matthew

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cure them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

Reader Two: The Sermon on the Mount

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them saying:

Scripture Reflection & Prayer:

Reader Three: The Beatitudes "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

All Lord, fill us with your Spirit so that we may recognize the poor among us. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader Four: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

All Lord, fill us with compassion for those who grieve so that they may be comforted with the knowledge of your presence. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader Five: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

All Lord, help us to know that we are made in your image and likeness, so that we may recognize your face in others. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader Six: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

All Lord, may we never stop yearning for justice for all; may your Spirit come alive within us to make your name known. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader Seven: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

All Lord, grant us the gift of compassion so that we may be good listeners for the people whose lives we touch each day. Lord hear our prayer.

