

Prayer for Pastoral Meetings

Leader: O God, come to our assistance.

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

All: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

Psalmody *Psalm 25*

Leader: Make known to me your ways, O Lord.

I. I wait for you, O Lord;
I lift up for soul to my God.
In you I trust; do not let me be disgraced;
Do not let my enemies gloat over me.

II. No one is disgraced who waits for you,
But only those who lightly break faith.
Make known to me your ways, Lord;
Teach me your paths.

I. Guide me in your truth and teach me,
For you are God my savior.
For you I wait all the long day,
Because of your goodness, Lord.

II. Remember your compassion and love, O Lord;
For they are ages old.
Remember no more the sins of my youth;
Remember me only in light of your love.

I. Good and upright is the Lord, who shows sinners the way,
Guides the humble rightly, and teaches the humble the way.
All the paths of the Lord are faithful love
Toward those who honor the covenant demands.

II. God shows them the way to choose.
They live well and prosper,
And their descendants inherit the land.
The counsel of the Lord belongs to the faithful;
The covenant instructs them.

All: **Make known to me your ways, O Lord.**

Reading of the Word of God

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?”

Quiet Reflection

What do I hesitate to give up or to do in order to better respond to the will of God?

Meeting Agenda

Intercessions

In praise and thanksgiving, let us pray to God from whom all good things come.

For all nations, that we together strive for the justice and peace that comes only from You. We pray to the Lord ...

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the church, that those who minister in your name always do so with your love and compassion, we pray to the Lord ...

R.

For our parish councils, that they come to know your will ever more perfectly, we pray to the Lord ...

R.

For those in need, that they may know your justice, we pray to the Lord ...

R.

For the sick, that they feel your healing power, we pray to the Lord ...

R.

Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Glorious God, we thank you for continually extending your call to us even when we fail to answer. We thank you for approaching us in different ways tailored to our personalities.

We thank you for calling Jacob, who first wrestled with your messenger and yielded to the power of your love;

For Jeremiah, who tried to ignore your presence but found your persistent calling impossible to refuse;

For Isaiah, who accepted your difficult invitation to return Israel to your praise;

For John the Baptist, who was led by your Spirit to fearlessly preach the coming of the Lord;

For your Son's calling of ordinary people like Andrew and Peter, Martha and Mary, and us.

We thank you for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who rose that we might have life.

Please send your Spirit to us. May our ears, eyes, and hearts be open to your summons, to your call. All Glory and Honor is yours, Lord, for ever and ever.

George Sullivan, SJ, and John Mossi, SJ, adapted.

All: **Amen.**

Final Blessing

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: **And give God thanks.**

Leader: May the Lord Almighty bless our days and our deeds with peace.

All: **Amen.**