

Christ the Redeemer - Eve of Election

Community Prayer Hour at Home

Monday, November 7th

7:00 – 8:00PM



PREPARE

- Find candle and matches
- Gather those you love in a comfortable place
- Choose a “Leader” (we recommend the youngest reader among you)
- Choose a “Reader” for the Gospel
- Choose a “Candle Lighter”
- Begin prayer

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray...(pause for a moment of collective silence)

God of Love, we gather to hear your Word and to pray for your guidance as we approach the time to elect those who will next serve our nation in public office. Enlighten our minds with understanding and perception that we may continue to discover your truth. Endow our wills with the strength to strive for justice. Fill our hearts with love for the peace you alone give, that we may be at peace with one another. May our individual lives serve the good of all the people of our land and beyond its shores. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Candle Lighter: Light candle and say these words, “Jesus is the light of the world.”

All: “A light no darkness can overcome.”

Reader:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 25: Verses 31-40)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

SHARING

As a family of faith, share on the following questions:

- What part of this scripture lingers with me? Why?
- By what criteria are the sheep and goats separated in this scripture?

- How am I (or 'we' as a family) living up to these criteria? Feeding the hungry? The thirsty? Welcoming the stranger?
- For what or whom am I most grateful for when I think about living in the U.S.?
- What part of being an American inspires me, or draws me nearer to God?
- What part of being an American is troublesome, or makes me feel farther from God?
- In his letter to the Church, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis says, "Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of God's love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades." Has this been my experience? If yes, how?
- "The common good is the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment" (Vatican II) How is our family supporting this common good? How might we live our civic life more fully?

You may wish to observe 5 – 10 minutes of silent, individual prayer and reflection at this time.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: That love for justice may prevail in our elections, we pray to you Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: For wisdom and courage in our elected officials, we pray to you Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: For peace and justice, at home and abroad, we pray to you Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: For any other intentions you would like to add....(everyone is invited to speak anything they would like to pray for). We pray to you Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: For these prayers and those that we hold silent in our hearts, we pray to you Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray....

God of Mercy, help us to remember all that unites us rather than what divides us.

May we remember our shared belief in you, our faithful and forgiving God for whom we are hard-wired in our hearts.

A God who wants nothing but the best for us, our family and loved ones, and for all of creation.

A God who through his son, Jesus Christ, has given us two of the greatest gifts ever: free will and eternal life.

And a God who is ready to help guide us in all we say, think or do. All we need to do is ask.

These are beliefs that we hold in common as we prepare to make our Election Day decisions.

Be with us where we might differ as well, in what we choose to think, to say and to do.

As we make these decisions, both tomorrow and beyond, please guide us in voting our conscience,

in knowing and following your spirit living in us. Help us to resist the urge to think we are any closer to knowing or doing your will than others in our faith community may be.

And please help us to respect others who may think and act differently than us.

Thank you for the gift of our Christ the Redeemer faith community and this chance to pray together.

In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen

(Don't forget to extinguish the candle and to vote tomorrow, Tuesday, Nov. 8th!)

Prayer Service compiled by our Christ the Redeemer Peace & Justice Ministry. Anyone is welcome to attend the CTR Peace and Justice Ministry meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM in the library.