

**A Guide for Liturgical Celebrations**  
**~ CISDV Catholic Schools Week ~**



**February 4 – 9, 2024**

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## **Introduction**

You are invited to join all Catholic schools in the province as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. For the first time, we have embraced a 3-year theme: **LIVING, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith. The focus for 2024 is Living our Faith.**

To celebrate as a community, consider beginning each day with a liturgy/prayer as a whole school or individual classroom.

## **Liturgical Cycle**

All Catholic schools in British Columbia begin Catholic Schools Week the first full week of February. Island Catholic Schools begin CSW celebrations on Sunday, January 29 and continue for the remainder of the week. Scriptural readings, following the Church year, are taken from:

- † **Year B** ~ Sunday Lectionary Cycle
- † **Series II** ~ Weekday Lectionary Cycle

## **CSW Sunday\***

Schools are encouraged to begin the week celebrating Sunday liturgy with the local parish. To the extent possible, staff and students should be well prepared and involved as:

- ministers of hospitality
- altar servers
- choir members
- lectors (or readers)
- person(s) who prepares the altar
- gift presenters

If possible, a reception at the school hosted by the students and staff follows this celebration.

## **Daily Prayers for Catholic Schools' Week**

Prayer services within this booklet may be used in individual classrooms, at all-school assemblies, or a combination of both. Many classrooms are using Children's Daily Prayer LTP. Feel free to use the readings of the day from that text.

Each prayer in that text is developed in the following manner:

- Opening Prayer
- Reading of the Day
- A Short Period of Reflection (Silent or verbal)
- Prayer of the Faithful (Universal Prayer)
- Communal Recitation of the Our Father
- Closing Prayer

Music for the Gospel acclamation or a psalm response, remains optional, but is a wonderful addition you might wish to include.

## **Breaking Open the Theme**

The Catholic Schools Week poster text reads: **CSW 2024: LIVING, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith**

Please see Island Catholic Schools Website.

There is much wisdom in reflecting on each of the words in this theme.!

### **Questions for Reflection**

- What are the key pillars of our Catholic faith?
- What does it mean to **live** our Catholic faith?
- How do we celebrate our faith?
- How do we proclaim our faith?
- How do our words and actions demonstrate a faith-filled life?
- How does God call us to live our lives?
- In what ways do we model our lives after Jesus?

**Liturgical Readings for Catholic Schools' Week ~ February 4-9, 2024\***

**Lectionary: Sundays and Solemnities - Year B**

**Sunday, February 4th – Saturday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time - Green**

|                    |                              |   |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| First Reading      | Job 7.1-4, 6-7               | <i>Fear of the Lord is wisdom and departing from evil is understanding</i>    |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 147                    | <i>Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God</i>             |
| Second Reading     | 1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23 | <i>Salvation is a process that requires our perseverance and purification</i> |
| Gospel             | Mark 1.29-39                 | <i>Jesus heals the sick</i>   |

**Lectionary: Weekdays - Year II**

**Monday, February 5, 2024 – Feast of St. Agatha, Virgin, Martyr - Red**

|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| First Reading      | 1 Kings 8.1-7, 9-13                    | <i>The Dedication of the Temple</i>                            |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 132.1a+2b+4a+5a+6+8, 9-10, 13-14 | <i>The Eternal Dwelling of God in Zion<br/>Song of Ascents</i> |
| Gospel             | Mark 6.53-56                           | <i>Healing the Sick in Gennesaret</i>                          |

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – Feast of St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs - Red**

|                    |                        |   |
|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| First Reading      | 1 Kings 8.22-23, 27-30 | <i>Solomon's Prayer Dedication</i>      |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 84               | <i>The Joy of Worship in the Temple</i> |
| Gospel             | Mark 7.1-13            | <i>The Tradition of the Elders</i>      |

### Wednesday February 7, 2024 - Ferial + Green

|                    |                                   |   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| First Reading      | 1 Kings 10.1-10                   | <i>Visit of the Queen of Sheba</i>  |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 37.5-6, 30-31, 39-40 (R.30) | <i>A Psalm of David</i>   |
| Gospel             | Mark 7.14-23                      | <i>Hear me all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man defile him</i> |

### Thursday February 8, 2024 - Ferial + Green

|                    |                 |   |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| First Reading      | 1 Kings 11.4-13 | <i>Solomon's Errors</i>   |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 106       | <i>Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever!</i> |
| Gospel             | Mark 7.24-30    | <i>The Syrophenician Woman's Faith</i>  |

### Friday February 9, 2024 - Ferial + Green

|                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| First Reading      | 1 Kings 11.29-32, 12.19                 | <i>Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and will give you ten tribes, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city for which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 81.9-10ab, 11-12, 13-14(R.10a+8a) | <i>God's Appeal to Stubborn Israel<br/>Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!</i>  |
| Gospel             | Mark 7.31-37                            | <i>Jesus Cures a Deaf Man</i>  |

*\*From ORDO Liturgical Calendar 2023-2024 National Calendar for Canada Confirmed by the Apostolic See; CCCB Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*

**Short Prayers for Preschool and Primary Students Throughout the Week –  
CSW/LIVING, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith**

1. I love you Jesus. I love my friends and family. Help us all to love you deeply. Amen
2. Jesus, you are my friend, and I am yours. I know you will always be there for me. Amen
3. Jesus, when I am sad and lonely, help to remember you are always with me. Amen
4. Jesus, you are the Way. Jesus, you are the Truth. Jesus, you are the Life. Jesus, you are my everything. Amen
5. Lord Jesus, you died on the Cross for me. I offer my life to you, O Lord. Amen



Short Prayers for Intermediate and High School Students Throughout the Week –  
CSW/ LIVING, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith

Prayer One: United in our Journey

**Heavenly Father,**

We open and lift our hearts up to you!  
Send your Spirit upon us for our continued  
**growth and renewal.**

Help us to understand the importance of  
**faithfulness and trust**

in living our Catholic faith.

In prayerful communion, we seek your  
guidance in becoming

**wise and holy people**

reflecting your love in the world!

Bless us on our journey, united together  
as a Catholic Diocesan community.

Amen

***“For in him we live and move and have  
our being.” Acts 17:27-28***

2023-2024

**Prayer Two: Gift of Catholic Education**

**In the name of the Father....**

God of mercy,

We thank you for the gift of Catholic education. Our foundation is built on rock as we trust in the Lord. We remember all those in Catholic education who have gone before us, those who nurtured and sustained Catholic education. Inspired by God's Love, we acknowledge that the promise of Catholic education is within us, that it is a promise that we live out in our schools and communities and a promise that we proclaim in acts of justice and compassion in word and deed. We make this prayer that we may live out the promise of Catholic education for many more years to come. Amen.

**Prayer Three: Kingdom on Earth**

**In the name of the Father....**

God, thank you for all that you for all of Creation. For your Son, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, we give praise and worship. May we live our Catholic faith with joy and passion, sharing our abundant blessings with those in need. May we share the Good News with everyone we meet. As we celebrate and proclaim your great glory, we work to build up your kingdom here on earth.

Amen

## Helping to Bring the Word Alive

### PART A: PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPING STUDENT LECTORS

This is a compilation of tips and suggestions that may be utilized when preparing student Lectors for a school or classroom celebration. Work with students to help them understand that...

- Proclaiming to a crowd through a microphone is much different than conversational speech. It takes some time - albeit only seconds - for the sound to emanate from the Lector's diaphragm, through the vocal cords, out the mouth, be relayed through the sound system, be heard and ultimately comprehended by the listener. Therefore, one must learn to make effective use of one's breathing and speaking, and to speak with a different cadence and pitch. Speak more slowly and loudly than usual.
- There are some practices that can be used with both children and adults alike to help calm any anxious nerves a Lector has. When practiced, they can also help to establish a receptive atmosphere for the spoken word on the part of the assembly, provide for an appropriate and relaxed tone by the Lector, and promote the recognition that what is being celebrated is indeed important.
- Although it is a person *reading* the words (and persons do get nervous!), Catholics believe that it is actually God who is *speaking* to those gathered, using the voice of the student. So, it is the Lector's responsibility to appear almost as invisible as possible in order that God's Word be heard.

Therefore, the lector must rehearse the reading beforehand.

- using a *photocopy* of the reading only for practice at home.
- at school/church, use the actual book that will be used during the celebration.

**Note:** It is important that the Lector become familiar with how the story will look on the page so that they know what to expect should their eyes get lost. (It is alright for them to use their fingers to keep their place in the book - that is a practice many adults use.)

Help them study the story or passage (as appropriate), to the point of memorization, and question it. Who wrote it? Why did they write it? What was being said? What happened just before or after this part of the story? Should the story sound encouraging, or woeful – happy or sad? How does reading it make *you* feel? Do you better understand the story or passage? Consider how then it might make your audience feel.

**Rehearse the procedure:**

- Have the lector(s) practice *processing* from their seat to the ambo, and then back to their seat. If the reader crosses in front of the altar, it is appropriate for the lector to stop and make a profound bow to the altar. No bow is necessary if the lector does not cross in front of the altar. Repeat as necessary.
- Remind the lector to plant his/her feet firmly on the floor behind the ambo and microphone.
- Take a slow, deep breath, and silently count to two.

**Engage the Listener:**

- Encourage eye contact with members of the assembly, have the Lector choose one or two spots on the wall just above the heads of the audience
- Teach them to confidently and calmly announce the reading ("*A reading from the book of/ the letter of \_\_\_\_\_*"), then pause for a silent count of three;
- Pause for a silent count of two after each period or semi-colon;
- Choose 2 or 3 spots on the wall to have the students look at during the Reading.

**Exaggerate the Words and Tone Reminding Them to:**

- Let their voice dance over the words, filled with changes in pitch, expression and enthusiasm!
- Pause for a silent count of three between finishing the reading, and concluding with "*The Word of the Lord*";
- Remain in place, feet still firmly planted, for another silent count of two.
- Only then slowly turn, and *Process* back to their seat.



In a word, remind your Lector to relax. The important thing about stories is they are meant to be told. He/she should simply think about telling us the story.

It is most important for those who proclaim the Word of God to remember that we always do this for the glory of God! We do our best and God is pleased. Mistakes happen and that is okay. 😊

## **PART B: BREAKING OPEN THE WORD (Lectio Divina)**

### **Oral Response:**

Divide a larger class into groups of 4 – 5 students.

### **Opening Prayer:**

*+ We praise you loving God for your Word, Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to listen to your Word with our ears, to treasure it in our hearts, and live it with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Year 4, Come and See Student Book, CCCB. P 18, 19)*

Read the Gospel As you read the Gospel slowly and deliberately, invite the groups to listen for a word or phrase that stands out to you, that speaks to you.

Reflect in Silence at least 60 seconds!

### **Individual Response:**

Invite each group member to say the word or phrase out loud individually, without offering any judgment, discussion or comment (although you, as leader, may choose to write each comment on chart paper).

### **Read the Gospel a second time:**

Read the Gospel a second time, slowly and deliberately.

### **Reflect in Silence:**

What do I hear in my heart?

Where does this passage and today's homily touch my life today?

### **Small Group Response:**

In small groups (of 4-5 persons) share your own experiences, using "I" statements:

I am ... , I feel ... , I think ....

### **Read the Gospel a third time:**

Read the Gospel a third time; slowly and deliberately.

### **Reflect In Silence:**

From what I have heard and shared, what does God want me to be or do this week? How does God invite me to change? Be concrete and specific.

(Or, alternatively, what do I take home with me this week?)

### **Small Group Response:**

In small groups (of 4-5 persons), share your own experiences of the reading using "I" statements:

I am ...,

I feel ...,

I think ....

**Sending:**

Gather the large group together again. Review group wisdom, then close with a summary prayer (such as this).

*+ Through the gift of your Spirit loving God, the early followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Good News. Give us the same joy and help us to share it with all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. +*

(Year 4, Come and See Student Book, CCCB. P 18, 19)

**Options:**

You might want to:

-read the 1st or 2nd reading

-explore spontaneous petition prayer, shared prayer or summary prayer.

## **Breaking Open the Word - Written Response**

### **Opening Prayer:**

The purpose of this prayer time is to gather and prayerfully focus. Use the following or similar words.

*+ O God, giver of all good gifts, you are the source of our life, our health our gifts. As we gather around your Word, make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.* (Year 5, May We be One Student Book, CCCB p 14, 15)

### **Read the Gospel:**

Read the Gospel slowly.

### **Reflect: What Did You Hear?**

Write three thoughts, ideas, phrases, images that “spoke to you” from today’s readings and homilies.

### **Read the Gospel a Second Time:**

Read the Gospel a second time slowly and deliberately.

### **Reflect: What Does It Mean?**

What do you think these words or phrases spoke to you today? What might they mean for your life? Can you recall a time – past or present – when you experienced something similar to the event expressed in today’s reading(s)? How did these readings and homily enlighten or challenge that feeling? Write three questions that today’s readings and homily raise for your daily life, your faith, your church. Use “I” statements (I am ..., I feel ..., I think ....)

### **What Does It Cost You to Live This Message?**

- List one concrete way you feel called to live this message this week.
- What will help you to live and achieve this?
- What might be some pertinent obstacles?

### **Sharing the Message:**

Divide the group into smaller groups of 4-5 people. Invite them to share their reflections with one another.

### **Sending:**

Gather the large group together again. Close with a summary prayer.

*+ God of justice, rock of salvation, open our minds and hearts to Jesus your Son. Let us hold fast to his words and express them in deeds, that our faith be built on a sure foundation and that our lives may be made worthy of you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.* +  
(Year 5, May We be One Student Book, CCCB p 14, 15)

### **Options:**

You might want to:

- read the 1st reading, the 2nd reading
- explore creating something new (poem, story, painting, song, etc...)

## **Breaking Open the Word - Scriptural Improv. Response**

**Purpose:** To let the creativity of the participants, flow through the engagement with a Sacred Scripture passage

**Timeframe:** 30 – 45 minutes

**Supplies:** Bibles

**Preparation:** Choose a passage (This may be chosen from the Lectionary reading, a theme, or even chosen by the group). Ideally, the group should be 3-5 persons. Each group could have a separate passage or interpret the same passage.

### **Opening Prayer:**

Begin with a group prayer, asking for God's Wisdom in words such as these:

*+ We praise you loving God for your Word, Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to listen to your Word with our ears, to treasure it in our hearts, and live it with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Yr 4, Come and See Student Book, CCCB. P 18, 19)*

### **Read:**

Read (or have someone else read) the passage only once, with gusto and enthusiasm! Talk about what stands out from hearing this passage this first time, just once.

Ask "What do you think God was trying to say to those gathered at the time it was first told (or written, or recorded)?"

### **Re-Read:**

Read the passage a second time, again with gusto and enthusiasm.

Ask "What do you think God is trying to say to us, today, in this text?"

### **Plan:**

Plan an improvisational skit to attempt to communicate to those gathered what God is speaking about in this text. As a group, discuss the point(s) you want to get across, the characters needed in the sketch, and most importantly, how you will end the sketch.

### **Action!**

Let it go – you, the teacher need not script a thing!

If presented to a larger group, read the passage again. Very briefly, set the stage and provide the context for your improv.

A discussion may follow the improv, allowing the following questions to be raised:

What stood out in the sketch?

- Did you feel the discomfort of certain characters?
- Where do you find yourself in this sketch?
- How might you feel had you been/if you find yourself in that situation (again)?

### **Sending:**

Lastly, bring things to a close with a brief summation, and close with an impromptu prayer led by yourself or a student.



## **Opening Prayer Service Option One**

**Prayer table set up with candle lit.**

**Music Suggestions:**

**[Here I Am To Worship | Maranatha! Music \(Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#)**

**[It Is Well With My Soul - Audrey Assad \(youtube.com\)](#)**

**In the name of the Father...**

Loving Jesus, thank you for all that you give us. Thank you for Catholic Education. In Thanksgiving let us remember in our prayer today, those who planted the seeds of Catholic education in British Columbia: the bishops and priests, the religious sisters and brothers, all the lay teachers, support staff and parents. They were great-hearted and great-minded people, spurred on by the profound vision of life shaped by the message of Jesus Christ and by the tradition of the Church. They paid a price for Catholic education that was not only financial, but also deeply personal and they did it willingly, even joyfully. Help us to discover our roots in the long tradition of the Church and celebrate it with gratitude. May we learn that at the heart of Catholic Education is to do your will. In your will is peace, happiness and love. +Amen.

**A Reading from the Letter to John**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God***

## **Breaking Open the Word**

### **Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)**

Response: **Lord of all Education, Hear our Prayer.**

1. For our hurting and broken world, that we may be instruments of Your Healing Love in making it more whole... We pray to the Lord.
2. That all our leaders, who have been given the responsibility to care for our planet, will serve tirelessly and wisely... We pray to the Lord.
3. For our school, that we may become better disciples of Jesus by the caring ways we speak and act to one another ... We pray to the Lord.
4. For children that do not have the opportunity to go to school and learn because of war and poverty ... We pray to the Lord
5. That those who are lonely, sick and dying may find peace and courage in their suffering and know they are not abandoned by God... We pray to the Lord
6. For our own private intentions.....(pause)... We pray to the Lord

**We pray in the word Jesus taught us, Our Father...**

**We offer one another a sign of peace.**

### **Closing Prayer**

**Thank you for the gift of Catholic education. Help us to grow in the gifts you have given us and use them for your good. Help us to live as one family with one hope in You. Amen.**

## **Opening Prayer Service Option Two**

**Prayer table set up with candle lit.**

### **Music Suggestions:**

[In Christ Alone \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty, Alison Krauss](#)

[\(youtube.com\)Lauren Daigle - You Say \(Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

### **In the name of the Father...**

Almighty God, hope of all your people, we open our hearts to your love and to your hopes for us. Thank you for the gift of Catholic Education. You have hopes for your people; that we can live in peace and share your love with others. Help us to keep you as the source of hope. Help us also to appreciate the gift of Catholic education and use our talents and efforts for your glory. Amen

### **A reading from the first letter of Peter**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Breaking open the word**

***Ask the following questions, allowing time for silent reflection in between***

**Who in our world needs hope?**

**When I have times of trouble or sadness how can I remember to hope in Jesus?**

**How do I share the hope of Jesus with my family and friends?**

### **Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)**

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray your Church will be a sign of hope for the world. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray that we will work toward a more peaceful and loving world. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray that the hope of the Gospel will touch the hearts of others. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray that we will celebrate the diversity in one another and continue to grow as one family in you. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray for those in need of healing, help us to share your hope with them. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve them. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

**We pray in the words Jesus taught us, Our Father...**

**We offer one another a Sign of Peace**

### **Closing Prayer**

Loving Creator,

Unite us as your children.

You created us unique and equal in your eyes.

Thank you for loving us so much.

Strengthen our hope in You.

There are times when we have forgotten that we belong to one another.

Teach us to reach out to all Your people.

Help us to listen, to love, to care and to share.

Lead us as we journey together

In light and in darkness, but always walking side by side.

For there is only healing and only one hope in You.

Amen.

### **Closing Song Suggestions:**

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\) - Matt Redman \(Best Worship Song Ever\) \(with Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Kids Version - Lord I Need You \(Official Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[The Blessing Song](#) – Compilation of all recordings around the world

### **Staff Prayer Service**

Let us form a circle as a sign of our unity as one family in Christ.

### **Opening Song Suggestions:**

[HERE I AM, LORD - Collin Raye \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MercyMe - Lord I lift your name on high - YouTube](#)

In the name of the Father, of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen  
God of Unity, you call us to work together as a family in Christ to bring healing to the hurting.

Touch our hands, that we may use them for blessing, not harming.

Touch our hearts, that we use them for joining, not parting.

Touch our minds, that we use them for harmony, not discord.

Amen.

### **Scripture Reading:** Romans 12: 4- 10

A reading from a letter from St. Paul to the Romans

For just as in one body we have many parts, and the parts do not all have the same function, so we, though many, make up one body in Christ, and individually we are all parts of one another. We all have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If it is a gift of prophecy, we should exercise it in proportion to our faith. If it is a gift of ministry, we should engage in serving others. If it is a gift of teaching, we should teach. If it is a gift of exhortation, we should encourage. Whoever gives alms should do so generously; whoever leads should do so conscientiously; whoever performs acts of mercy should do so cheerfully. Let your love be sincere. Loathe what is evil and hold fast to what is good. Love one another with genuine affection. Esteem others more highly than yourself.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

## Reflection

Loving God, You created us uniquely gifted.

Within us is the call to love, the call to live out your love, the call to bring your love into service. May each of us continue to discover our own gifts and use them to help build your Kingdom. Help us to serve our communities with kindness and compassion. Guide us as we minister to our school communities. May we respect each other's gifts and help each other to grow in our giftedness. Bless us with listening hearts and compassionate actions.

Place a word on my heart that you would like me to focus on during Catholic Schools' Week. *(After a moment of silent reflection share the word out loud that God has placed on your heart.)*

## The Gift of Community

As each person is offered, picture someone in your school community who reflects this gift.

For the wise,

All: We give thanks.

For the patient,

All: We give thanks.

For the gracious,

All: We give thanks.

For the creative,

All: We give thanks.

For the visionaries,

All: We give thanks.

For the humble,

All: We give thanks.

For the diligent,

All: We give thanks.

For the careful,

All: We give thanks.

For the listeners,

All: We give thanks.

For the articulate,

All: We give thanks.

For the truth tellers,

All: We give thanks.

For the reflective,

All: We give thanks.

For the joyful,

All: We give thanks.

For the dreamers,

All: We give thanks.

For the practical,

All: We give thanks.

For the kind,

All: We give thanks.

For the organized,

All: We give thanks.

For the hopeful,

All: We give thanks.

For the reverent,

All: We give thanks.

For us all,

All: We give thanks.

Together we pray in the Words that Jesus taught us. Our Father....Amen

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

**Closing Prayer:**

Loving Creator, unite us in Christ.  
You created us unique, yet equal in your eyes.  
Thank you for loving us so much.  
Strengthen our hope in You.  
There are times when we have forgotten  
that we belong to one another.  
Teach us to reach out to all Your people.  
Help us to listen, to love, to care and to share.  
Lead us as we journey together on this road of life;  
In light and in darkness, but always walking side by side.  
For there is only one true hope in You.  
Amen.

**Closing Song suggestions:**

[Though The Mountains May Fall - Dan Schutte \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Matt Maher - Because He Lives \(Amen\) \(\[Official Lyric Video\]\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

## Spice it up Prayers!

**Alphabet Prayer-** Challenge students to pray a prayer of thanks for things that each begin with a letter of the Alphabet.

**Doodle Prayer-** Direct the students to doodle on a piece of paper and then pray about what they see in the doodle.

**Title Prayer-** Ask the students to choose a title for God or for Jesus and then write a prayer related to that title.

**Favourite Superhero-** Ask student to think of their favourite super hero and then share a little prayer on how it might symbolize God

**Movement Prayers-** Do some stretching and balancing in the classroom or lineups giving thanks to God for each movement or part of the body being used.

**Popcorn Thankfulness-** In a spirit of gratefulness students simply give thanks for one thing in a rapid firing short time limit. i.e. 30 seconds.

**Musical Musings-** Pray and listen to praise songs to help active youngsters still their minds and bodies and focus on Jesus. There are countless possibilities on Godtube and Youtube. Some favorites are: Awesome God, Lord I Lift Your Name on High, Like a Deer Pants for Water, Holy is His Name. Artists like Michael W Smith, Chris Tomlin, Amy Grant, John Michael Talbot are all some who can be powerful.

**Prayers by Flashlight-** In a dark classroom, pray together and/or read the bible by flashlight

**Silent Smiles and Good Wishes-** Students remain silent with smiles on their faces looking at classmates and wishing in their minds good things for them.

**Sharing the moment-** “Share the moment” prayers help kids remember that Jesus is with them every minute of the day. Just before you experience something special and wonderful, take a moment to invite Jesus to share the experience with you. For example, at the top of the play slide or structure, you might pray, Be with us, Lord, and share this cool ride right along with us. We’re so grateful that You created this for us to enjoy! Say a little prayer before a game or quiz.

**Sharing Interests-** Reassure your child that Jesus wants to hear about anything that’s on their mind. Simply invite them to pray by saying, God loves to hear about the things that you love. Would you like to talk to Him about trucks today? To get their ideas flowing, you might first wish to read a book about your child’s favourite subject, then tell Jesus some of the things you learned.



**Egg Timer Prayers-** This is a prayer with a challenge! Set an egg timer for a minute or two, then pray for one particular person. See how many different blessings you can pray over that person before the egg timer beeps.

**Newspaper Prayer-** More suitable for older children, the newspaper prayer will help your students remember to pray for people in other regions of the world. Give selected students a section of the newspaper and a few minutes to go through it, identifying any items that could become matters of prayer. Then gather together and pray for the things each person has selected that need prayer

**Social Media Favourites-** This is similar to the newspaper prayer. Have your older students check recent Social Media posts from friends and contacts. Pray together over the prayer requests you discover.

**Prayer Deck-** Prepare a small stack of cards with each card displaying the photo or picture of something a student has brought in to pray for. Take turns praying for the people or things featured on the cards you receive.

**Silent Prayer-** To introduce the concept of a “silent prayer,” deliberately interrupt your child several times during a conversation. Then explain that sometimes we can talk too much during prayer and interrupt Jesus when He is trying to tell us something. Add a time of waiting and listening at the end of a prayer of praise, or after praying through Scripture.

**Awe Walks or Prayer Walks-** Take your class on a prayer walk. Encourage the students to be aware of God on the way. Invite them to be sensitive to what they see and hear and to consider what God is saying to them through it. (E.g. Bus stop – prayer for safe travels, playground – for friendships, staff room – for teachers, forested area -for animals, etc.)

*“ O Lord, Save us from Sour-faced Saints! ” St. Teresa of Avila*

### **Acknowledgements**

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