

# Blessing of Pilgrims



## On The March for Life

Adapted from Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Commission

## **Notes** on Using the Prayer Service

The services in this collection were designed for a variety of settings, and we encourage you to adapt them to your particular needs. The role of the leader can be shared by one or more persons. Some advance preparation such as handouts or candles may be desired. Suggested hymns are widely available.

**GATHERING HYMN** *Here I Am Lord* (Dan Schutte, S.J.)

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Response:** Amen.

**Leader:** Gracious God and Giver of Life, you bring us together in faith, united in Christ, so that we may be your people. Increase our faith in Jesus the Lord. Inspire us to revere and protect every gift of human life. Give us hope and courage. Create a new heart in each of us, so that your name may be glorified. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Response:** Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE**

**First Reading:** (*2 Tim 1:6-14*) A reading from second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed preacher and apostle and teacher. On this account I am suffering these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the holy Spirit that dwells within us.

The word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Pause** for silent reflection.

**SUNG PSALM** *Remember Your Love*, verses 1, 3, 5 (Daryl Ducote, Gary Daigle)

**Refrain:** Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.

Remember your people and have mercy on us, Lord.

**Second Reading:** (*Matt 5:13-16*) A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Reflection on Scripture and this occasion.

## INTERCESSIONS

**Leader:** In faith and hope, let us place our petitions before the Lord.

The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

That our Holy Father (name), our Bishop (name), and all church leaders may speak words of life and light to people struggling in a culture of death, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

That President (name) and all elected officials at every level may have the courage and wisdom to recognize in law the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

That all judges throughout our nation may uphold the inalienable right to life, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

That children who are unwanted, neglected, or abused may they feel God's protective love, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

That parents tempted to consider abortion may find help to choose life, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

That those who provide or cooperate in abortions may hear the truth and turn from darkness and death, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

That all who journey to Washington in defense of life may have our Blessed Mother Mary at their side, to be their constant companion and guide, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

## CLOSING PRAYER *Prayer for Life*

**Leader:** Please repeat after me the "Prayer for Life."

**Response:** O God, our Creator, / all life is in your hands / from conception until death. / Help us to cherish our children / and to reverence the awesome privilege / of our share in creation. / May all people live and die / in dignity and love. / Bless all those who defend /the rights of the unborn and vulnerable. / Enlighten and be merciful / toward those who fail to love, / and give them peace. / Let freedom be tempered / by responsibility, / integrity / and morality. / Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS [Departure information]

### BLESSING

**Leader:** All-powerful God, you always show mercy to those who love you. You are never far away from those who seek you. We love you and we seek you. Remain with your servants on this journey and guide their way in your love. Shelter them with your protection by day; give them the light of your grace by night; and, as their companion on the journey, bring them to their destination in safety. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Response:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN *Anthem* (Tom Conry)

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