

Prayer Service for Pope Francis

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome, everyone. Today, we gather to remember and celebrate the life and ministry of Pope Francis. He has shown us the importance of humility, mercy, and caring for others. Let us reflect on his teachings and pray for his soul.

Opening Hymn: 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace'

(All sing the hymn 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace'. This song embodies the themes of peace, love, and service that Pope Francis has championed throughout his papacy.)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46 (The Judgment of the Nations)

(A designated person reads Matthew 25:31-46)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Reflection

This passage reminds us of Pope Francis's deep commitment to the poor and marginalized. He has consistently called our attention to issues like openness, acceptance, and the need to care for creation. His life reflects the call to serve those in need, echoing Christ's words in this scripture.

Sharing Our Thoughts

(Facilitator invites young people to share their thoughts, memories, or experiences related to Pope Francis and his impact on their lives or the world. Allow a few minutes for open sharing.)

Prayers of Intercession

(Leader) Let us offer our prayers for Pope Francis, for the Church, and for the world, focusing on the values he championed.

(Reader 1) For Pope Francis, that he may find eternal rest and peace in God's loving embrace:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(Reader 2) For the Church, that it may continue to be a beacon of mercy, justice, and love, as Pope Francis exemplified:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(Reader 3) For the world, that we may strive for peace, care for the environment, and welcome all, especially the marginalized:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(Reader 4) For those who are suffering, that they may find comfort and hope in God's love:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Words of Pope Francis

- "The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone feels welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."
- "We must always remember that we are not the masters of creation, but its stewards. We have a responsibility to care for the earth and to protect it for future generations."

Pope Francis has been known for his emphasis on humility and a more pastoral approach to the papacy.

Concluding Prayer

(Leader)

Loving God, we thank you for the life and ministry of Pope Francis. We ask that you grant him eternal rest and that his example of love, mercy, and service continues to inspire us. Guide us to live out the values he championed, working for a world where all are welcomed, cared for, and loved. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.