

### LITANY OF SERVICE

**Reader:** May we serve with joy that ...  
**All:** ... opens our hearts to offer welcome to all.

**Reader:** May we serve with joy that ...  
**All:** ... opens our senses to bear witness to the wondrous love and glory of God.

**Reader:** May we serve with joy that ...  
**All:** ... opens our souls to the ongoing promise and hope of new life, in union with God our Creator, the Resurrected Lord Jesus and the peace of the Holy Spirit.



### CLOSING PRAYER

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O God, our Loving Creator,  
O Jesus, our Saviour and Master Teacher,  
O Holy Spirit of Wisdom,  
Of all the gifts You give us, the greatest is love.  
Open our eyes to see, our ears to listen, our minds to learn.  
Open our hearts to be accepting of others, and our hands to be more giving toward those in need: the lost, the lonely, the lowly and the least.

Each day, help us to serve you prayerfully with *faithfulness*,  
And lead us to a deeper awareness of your loving presence in our lives.  
Help us to serve with *humility* on this earthly journey to eternal life.  
Teach us to serve with *compassion* that we may see the face of Christ in everyone we meet.  
Strengthen us to serve You with *justice*, that we might build a world where all are treated with dignity.  
Help us to follow Your example, by serving one another with *joy* in the promise and hope of eternal life.

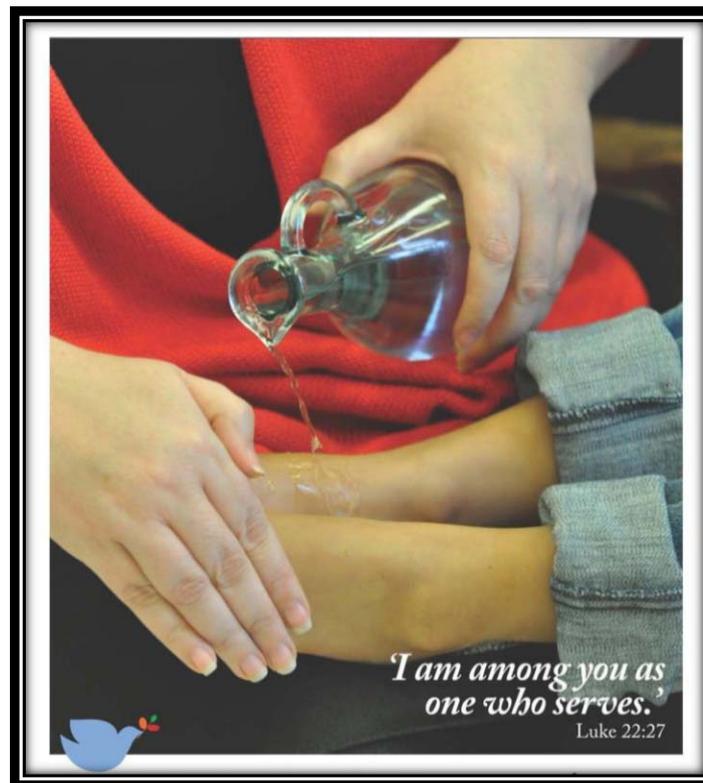
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord, who came among us as one who serves.  
**Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us go forth to *serve with joy* in the Love of Christ.

**All:** † And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Catholic Education Week May 4 - May 9, 2014

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST



## DAY FIVE: Prayer Service ... Serving with JOY

“Rejoice in the Lord always ...  
Let your gentleness be known to everyone.”  
~ *Philippians 4:4-5*

**Opening Song Suggestions:**

<i>Serving in the Love of Christ</i>	<b>2014 Catholic Education Week Theme Song</b>	
<i>The Spirit is Alive</i>	#23, In the Spirit, We Belong	(Grade 3 CD)
<i>Go Out Together</i>	#17, May We Be One	(Grade 5 CD)
<i>Shout for Joy</i>	# 7, Believe in Me	(Grade 7 CD)

**Opening Hymn Suggestions:**

<i>Sing a New Song</i>	#544, Gather (red); #563, CBW III
<i>Blest Are They</i>	#636, Gather (red); #522, CBW III
<i>All People that on Earth Do Dwell</i>	#746, Gather (red); #578, CBW III
<i>A Place at the Table</i>	#705, Gather (red)



**CALL TO PRAYER**

**Leader:** Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27e)  
 As we celebrate the final day of Catholic Education Week, let us look forward to the future, recognizing that we have more reason to hope than to fear.  
 In this place, gathered in God's name, we become quiet and still in the presence of the sacred to reflect on the meaning of *Serving with Joy*, as we pray:



✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Reader:** Our God is a God of joy.  
 His Spirit of love is in our midst to make us one and to help us pray as we gather in Jesus' name.  
 Today, we will contemplate the words of Jesus, telling us that He is among us as one who serves.  
 We bring to God everything we are and everything we have:  
 - our joys, our worries, our doubts, our faith, our strengths and our difficulties.  
 We will ask God to open our hearts, our minds and our whole being to His loving presence in our lives.



**OPENING PRAYER**

**All:** Loving God, help us to deepen our understanding of what it means to serve with joy.  
 Guide our feet to walk in the ways of Jesus.  
 As joyful witnesses to the Risen Lord, let us continue our mission of sharing the Good News with all people.  
 We ask this in the name of Your Son, who is here among us to remind us how to serve in the love of Christ as we gather in His name. *Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me and the God of peace will be with you.



The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION**

- Which word or verse from the reading stood out most for me? Why?
- How can I serve God and others more joyfully with all my heart?

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Leader:** Ever-living and ever-loving God,  
 joining together in prayer, we entrust to You ourselves,  
 our neighbours, the Church and the world, imploring  
 Your mercy and Your blessings.



The Response to the petitions is: **R. Be with us, Loving God, in all our needs.**

For Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, our earthly model of faithfulness and servant leadership: that they may all continue to spread the Good News of the Gospel, not only by words, but also in actions, *we pray ... R.*

For our communities, our First Nations peoples, our province, our country, all people of the world: that all may humbly work together with respect and understanding, not with pride in power, as we work for the common good, *we pray ... R.*

For our Catholic schools (especially N.): that the Holy Spirit may guide us to serve with compassion and kindness in all areas of the curriculum, hearing the words of Jesus and finding the face of Jesus in these sacred places of learning, *we pray ... R.*

For our students and staff: that we may stand in solidarity to act with justice in bringing about healing, reconciliation, fairness and peacemaking in our schools and throughout the world, *we pray ... R.*

For our families and our communities: that we may serve with joy in our hearts so that we may give thanks and praise for the many gifts with which You bless us, *we pray ... R.*