**INTRODUCTION**

Good morning. Welcome to our prayer to begin our day. The theme for our prayer is, *leading with reverence for the gift of one another*.

**OPTIONAL: OPENING SONG**

Let us begin with God’s praises singing,

*(Sugg. Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet or other song of praise)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us begin with the sign of our Faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And let us pray...

Lord, at the start of this new day, we turn to you in gratitude for the gifts that you have poured into our hearts as members of your Son’s body. We ask you to send your Spirit upon us so that by hearing your word, we may grow in reverence for one another, as servant leaders in our Catholic school system. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And now, let us listen to God’s word.

**READING**

A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 13, 3-5, 12-17)

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**REFLECTION**

Jesus spent three years preparing His apostles to lead the early Church with the words of His Gospel and the testimony of their lives. And now, in His Passover Eucharist, Jesus disrobes from all vestiges of privilege to model the essence of leadership for which He had been preparing them.

He had come into the world to save those made in the divine image and likeness. He saw this image in each person He encountered. Wealth, fame or social status held no preferential sway over His mission to serve. He ate with sinners, because “it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.” (Mt 9, 12). He embraced and blessed children when others sought to hush and send them away, saying, “Let the children come to me, ...for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.” (Mt 9, 14). He drew close to ritually unclean lepers and...
healed them; He taught and fed the crowds with compassion, because “they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.” (Mt 9, 36).

After pouring out His life as the price for our restoration, he rose, ascended to heaven and sent us the fire of His Spirit to transform our lives, that we might lead by serving one another just as He had done.

God has given us new hearts and put a new spirit within us (Ez 36, 26): not a Spirit of timidity, but one of power, love and self-control. (2 Tim 1, 7) Let us trust that Christ has chosen us to be where we are at this time, that the power of His Spirit is at work in our efforts to lead and serve those who bear the divine image and likeness, according to His call.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Let us pray for the Church. That all who follow Jesus will place service to one’s neighbour at the center of their lives.  *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the world. That all peoples will renounce the greed and self-centeredness that divide us and uphold one another’s dignity as God’s image and likeness, especially among the unborn, the poor, migrant peoples, the sick and dying.  
*We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for those whose needs are greatest in our Catholic educational community.  
*We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves, that we might have the courage to reach out to those we are called to serve, the wisdom to know our limits, the humility to ask for help, and the maturity to care for ourselves.  
*We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our needs as servants and leaders here today.  
*We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

And now, let us gather our prayers and concerns – spoken and in the silence of our hearts – bringing them before the Father in the words Jesus taught us:  
*Our Father...*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

We thank you, O God, for the marvelous life to which you have called us as bearers of Your image and likeness.  
We thank you for having called us to lead and serve as members of Christ’s body, for having furnished us with the gifts and power of your Spirit to reach out to one another after Christ’s example. With joyful trust, we place ourselves in your hands, knowing that you will give us what we need to serve one another with reverence and love.  
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.
And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**OPTIONAL: CLOSING SONG**

(Sugg.  *Open my Eyes, Lord* by Jesse Manibusan;  *Prayer of St. Francis; Lord, Make us Servants of Your Peace*, 630 CBWIII)