## A Service of the Word for Vocations Sunday

**Preparation**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Welcome and opening prayer**

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world

**We are the body of Christ.**

There are varieties of gifts,

**but the same spirit.**

There are varieties of service,

**but the same Lord.**

There are different kinds of working,

**but the same God is at work in all.**

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God’s call;

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism.**

There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all,

**to whom Christ ascended on high.**

And through his Spirit he gives us gifts:

**some are apostles, some are his prophets;**

Evangelists, pastors and teachers he gives us,

**So that we can minister together**

to build up his body,

**to be mature in the fullness of Christ.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

God has called us to follow Christ,

and has formed us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us

out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Let us confess the times when we have failed to heed this call.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:

‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.’

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful

but the labourers are few.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse *you* from *your* sins,

and restore *you* in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

**Collect**

Let us pray for the ministry of the whole people of God.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father, Lord of all the world,

through your Son you have called us into the fellowship

of your universal Church:

hear our prayer for your faithful people

that in their vocation and ministry

each may be an instrument of your love,

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading – Ephesians 2:19-22

Second Reading – John 6:1-13

**Response to the word**

A small boy offers his meagre lunch to Jesus who was able to transform it into a gut-busting feast for a huge crowd of hungry people. As followers of Jesus today, we too are called to offer what we have so that he might use it to bless his creation. Our faith informs all aspect of our lives so a question for us to consider together is:

* How is God calling me to live out my faith?

This sense of calling can emerge through prayer and in conversation with other Christians.

* How is God calling you to live out your faith?

Take a few minutes to chat and pray with the people around you.

These questions might help your conversations…

* Do you have a calling within your school, workplace or local community?
* Do you have a calling in relationship to people, family, friends & neighbours?
* Do you have a calling to serve the church community and equip it for mission?

What might you need to do next?

* How might you pray about this?
* Who might you need to speak to?

**Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith

in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he was buried;**

**he was raised to life on the third day**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**afterwards he appeared to his followers,**

**and to all the apostles:**

**this we have received,**

**and this we believe.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Lord God and Father of all,

over all and in all and through all:

we give thanks that we are called to your service;

may all your people may be attentive and obedient to your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be apostles, sent out to do your

work.

We pray for all who respond to this calling to serve in your name:

for those immersed in the world, seeking to bear witness to the gospel in word

and action,

for those whose service takes them to places where they face opposition and

difficulty,

may they be continually filled with your Spirit, and empowered to follow your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be prophets.

We pray for all whom you have called to speak out and proclaim the values of your

kingdom:

for those who challenge injustice and apathy and untruth,

for those who campaign for the well-being of your people and your world

may they be continually filled with your vision, and have courage in their prophetic

calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be evangelists.

We pray for all whom you have called to share the message of your love:

for those who communicate the good news of Christ to others from a variety of

backgrounds,

for those whose enthusiasm and love conveys your truth,

may they be filled with your love as they share the good news with others.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be pastors.

We pray for all whom you have called to care for others through prayer and

through service:

for those who take care of any who are young or old, who are sick or struggling,

for those whose work supports medical, social and community services,

may their lives be channels of your love and grace.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be teachers.

We pray for all whom you have called to encourage adults and children to learn and

grow:

for those who teach informally as parents, mentors and facilitators,

for workers in schools, colleges and universities, and for those who teach in our

churches

may they speak your truth, and help others to grow in wisdom.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all,

you have called each of us to serve you

in your world and in your Church;

strengthen and equip us by your Spirit

to recognise your call to us,

and give us grace and courage to fulfil that calling.,

through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Conclusion**

Christ, you call us.

**Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world.

We will follow your call to be our people:

our hands will do your work,

our feet will walk your way.

Christ, you call us.

**Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call each one to be your child for the world.

may our hearts search for your truth,

may our souls listen for your voice,

may our lives follow in your path.

Christ, you call each one of us.

**Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world.

**We are the body of Christ.**

**Blessing**

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,

may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,

may the gifts of the Spirit equip you

to serve and worship God;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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