**Give us This Day/Call to Generosity**

**February 2020**

**Welcome: Polly**

Good evening and welcome to our prayer.

We pray the “Our Father” so often and we hear the words:

*Give us this day our daily bread*

And so, we gather this night to reflect on and to pray for *what we need* ***this*** *day*…

We are living in a time when a sense of respect, compassion, and civility

has been lost.

We come together to remember,

that as followers of Christ,

we are **each** called to an openness of heart and spirit of generosity

that will give witness to the life of Christ.

We recognize that there is need for God’s blessings for:

~Our world

~Our country

~Our parish

~Our families

~And ourselves

We come together to pray for open and generous hearts that will bring healing and unity to our broken world.

We come to this sacred space

to recall both the blessings and burdens of life…gaining strength through one another and the guidance of Christ.

Please join in singing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Breaking Bread songbook…

**Scripture: Cecelia**

**A Reading from 2nd Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

As you continue in your service of the Lord, consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us, produces thanksgiving to God, for the offering of this service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.

Through the evidence of this service, you are glorifying God for your witness to the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all others, while in prayer on your behalf they long for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Word of the Lord

**Song: Trish**

**Please join in singing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Reading: Cecelia**

**The following is taken from the writings of Pope Francis**

Generosity belongs to everyday life; it’s something we should think: ‘How can I be more generous, with the poor, the needy… How can I help more? Consider the little things. For example, look through your room or your wardrobe. How many pairs of shoes do I have? One, two, three, four, fifteen, twenty… Each of us knows. Maybe too many… But if you have many pairs of shoes, give away half. How many clothes do I not use or use only once a year? This is one way to be generous, to give what we have, and to share.

We can do miracles through generosity. Generosity in little things. Maybe we don’t do it because we just don’t think about it. The Gospel message makes us reflect: How can I be more generous?

Nowadays there is a disease, which works against generosity: The disease of consumerism. I’m not saying all of us do it. But consumerism – excessive spending to buy more than we need – is a lack of austerity in life. This is the enemy of generosity. And material generosity – thinking about the poor: I can give this so that they can eat or have clothes – has an ulterior result: **It enlarges the heart and helps us be magnanimous.**

Let us ask God to free us from that dangerous disease of consumerism, which makes us slaves and creates dependence on spending money. Let us ask the Lord for the grace of being generous, so that our hearts may be opened and we may become kinder.

**PAUSE for about 20 seconds before you begin reading the part in red below.**

**We will now enter into a time of reflection.**

**PAUSE**

**Take time to reflect on the readings and the questions on your prayer sheet.**

**PAUSE**

**How are you being called to generosity within our world today?**

**All are welcome to come forward and light a candle for a special intention.**

**PAUSE**

**Intercessions: Polly**

**Sung response:**

**[Trish will sing it once and then have congregation sing it twice. Soft music will continue to play as intercessions are read.]**

We entrust to Christ, the one from whom all generosity flows, these prayers for the many places and people in need of God’s care:

**We remember:**

~The people in China and those in other countries, who have died from the Coronavirus. We pray also for those working on trying to stop the spread of the virus.

~Those suffering and in harm’s way from the floods in Mississippi.

~ The poor, the homeless, those who do not have access to education and healthcare, and those who unjustly imprisoned.

**Sung response 2x**

**We pray for:**

**~**An end to the violence and unrest in Haiti, Afghanistan, Iran, Palestine, Venezuela, and Syria.

~Assistance for refugees, immigrants, and those striving for a better life throughout the world and in particular, those suffering at our Southern Border in the camps in Matamoros, Mexico

~Those caught in the cycle of addiction and so many young people struggling with depression, the effects of bullying and thought of suicide.

**Sung response 2x**

**We entrust to God’s guidance:**

~Our president and congress

~ All world leaders

~All candidates running for office

~The care of our earth and all its resources

~Those who serve in the military, especially those who have been killed,

those who are injured, and we pray for their families as well.

~Those who have suffered from abuse of any kind.

~Those who are sick, lonely, or burdened by life

~Those who are caregivers

~Those who have died

~Those prayers we hold within the silence of our hearts

**Sung response 2x**

**Please stand**

**Let us pray together:**

[SLOWLY]

**Our Father….**

**Let us offer to one another a sign of Christ’s peace.**

**Our closing song will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Give us This Day**

**Welcome: Polly**

**Song: (Trish)**

**Scripture: Cecelia**

**Song: (Trish)**

**Reading: Cecelia**

**Time for Meditation: (Trish)**

**Intercessions: Polly**

**Closing: Polly**

**Song: (Trish)**

# ***Give Us This Day***

February 2020

**A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

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**Time of Meditation**

*We come together to pray for the courage to help our wounded world through a spirit of generosity and goodness.*

*How are you being called to generosity in your corner of the world?*

*Who are the people in your life who model generosity?*

*Think of a person in your life who needs Christ’s generous love to heal them.*

*Ask Christ to surround them with compassion.*

**Sung Response to the Intercessions**

O God, Hear Us; Hear Our Prayer.