

CALL TO PRAYER: Prayer in Time of Change

My beloved Jesus, anoint us with your will.
May the joy of your dwelling in us draw others to you.
Expand our vision to recognize your plan;
warm our hearts by the flame of your love;
open our lips so that we can speak your Word;
extend our arms that we embrace your people;
speak to us so we can discern the role you have for us.
Filled with your Holy Spirit, empower us to become
vital expressions of growth in your changing Church.
Your Kingdom is now! Help us discover your will.



SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 2:1-10

Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, insincerity, envy, and all slander; like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, for you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in scripture: "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame." Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall." They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were "no people" but now you are God's people; you "had not received mercy" but now you have received mercy.

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- A. In modern times, individualism is seen as a virtue. How can individualism and self-centeredness prevent the advancement of the mission of Jesus?
- B. How would someone recognize you as a member of the "royal priesthood"?
- C. What does "salvation" mean to you? Is it possible to have salvation now?

D. What is the Kingdom of God? What role do you play in making the Kingdom a reality?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God our Father, you ask us to be a holy priesthood, a task that is daunting and challenging. Send your Holy Spirit to be our guide as we become the living stones of the Church linked together by love. Help us to be worthy ministers in the mission of Jesus Christ. We ask this in his name. Amen.