

# Prayer Service in Honor of St. Paul

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Let us begin our prayer in praise of the Blessed Trinity...  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Lord, you have raised up men and women who faithfully proclaimed by their words and actions the marvelous mysteries and truths of your Gospel. As we gather today to honor St. Paul, faithful disciple, ardent missionary and zealous proclaimer of the truth, may we be inspired to listen to your word and to proclaim it in our lives.

**All:** Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are open to your inspiration, and we rely on your grace to make us bold and daring in our faith.

**Leader:** Let us prepare our hearts and minds to listen to the words of the great St. Paul, words that inspired and touched the lives of so many early Christians whom he visited and addressed in his letters.

## Readings of St. Paul and Acts of the Apostles

**Reader 1:** *“I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up and go into the city where you will be told what to do.” Acts 9:5-6*

**So many times I fail in my unkindness to others, my disobedience at home or at school, my negligence in prayer, my stubbornness in wanting my own way—so much so that I hardly think of what I am doing. But in acting this way, I am really harming the Body of Christ, the Jesus who is present in others.**

**All:** Lord, help me to see you in every person I meet. Help me to live your Gospel in every moment of each day. May I rise up and follow you in faith and love.

**Reader 2:** *“It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.” Gal 2:20*

**Just think! Jesus lives in you and in me! So, whenever I speak, I am reflecting Jesus. My facial expressions, my body language, and even the tone of my voice—need to tell others that I belong to Jesus.**

**All:** Lord, you know that sometimes I forget that it is your grace living and working through me. Let your light guide me and shine through me so that I may be open to the power of your presence in my life.

**Reader 3:** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Col 3:16*

**I am given many opportunities to enrich my own life in Christ—Sacred Scripture, the sacraments and prayer. These gifts allow me to be open to the power of Jesus, to respond to his will, and to deepen my faith in following him ever more closely.**

**All:** Lord, help me to reverence your word in the Scriptures; help me to be grateful for the power of grace in the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist; and let me be more attentive when I speak to you in prayer.

**Reader 4:** *“I was determined that while I was with you I would speak of nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified.” 1Cor 2:2*

**The cross is for me a sign of who I am as a Christian. It identifies me with Jesus who suffered and died, and through death brought me to salvation. Imagine someone dying that I may live! And this is what Jesus did.**

**All:** Lord, let me be mindful of your suffering when I am disappointed, when others misunderstand or mistreat me, or when I am judged wrongly. Let me be mindful that these hurts identify me with you, and if I bear them as your follower they will transform me into a stronger Christian.

**Reader 5:** *“Is not the cup of blessing we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread we break a sharing in the body of Christ?” 1Cor 10:16*

**The Eucharist is the source of unity among us. As the Body of Christ, we encourage one another; we affirm one another; and we love one another. Through our different gifts we build the Body of Christ because we are nourished at the table of the Lord.**

**All:** Lord, I reverence you in the Holy Eucharist--your body and blood given to me as food and drink. You give me life. You enliven my faith. You strengthen me in doubt and you lift me up when I need encouragement. Thank you, Jesus!

## **Intercessions**

**Reader:** We have heard and reflected upon passages from the letters of St. Paul. Let us pray to him that through his intercession we may be steadfast in our desire to live the Gospel as he so well lived and proclaimed it.

*St. Paul, you experienced such a great conversion and change in your life that prompted you to lead others to Jesus, who is the “the way, the truth, and the life.”*

**All:** St. Paul, inspire us to lead others to Jesus by our words and deeds.

**Reader:** *St. Paul, you were always mindful of the presence of Jesus working through you as you encouraged others to be followers of Jesus.*

**All:** St. Paul, pray for us that we may radiate the life of Jesus in all we say and do.

**Reader:** *St. Paul, you had a deep reverence for the word of God as you proclaimed it on each of your missionary travels.*

**All:** St. Paul, may the word of God prompt us to change our hearts and be glad in the Lord!

**Reader:** *St. Paul, you were ever mindful of the sufferings of Jesus as you yourself experienced hardship, shipwrecks, imprisonment and even martyrdom for the sake of Jesus.*

**All:** St. Paul, by your example, let us remember that the suffering we may experience, will lead us closer to Jesus.

**Reader:** *St. Paul, thank you for showing us that the Holy Eucharist is the source of our being and the energy within us.*

**All:** St. Paul, help us to focus our eyes on Jesus, the Bread of Heaven, who calls us to be his true and authentic witnesses.

**Reader:** **God, our Father, thank you for the example, missionary spirit, and zealous discipleship of St. Paul. May his example be for us a constant sign as we answer our own call to holiness.**

## Concluding Rite

**Leader:** **May the love of God that compelled St. Paul to live in holiness,  
inspire us in our daily lives;  
May the sufferings of Jesus that encouraged St. Paul in his faith,  
strengthen us in our own struggles;  
May the missionary zeal that motivated St. Paul to preach the  
Good News,  
challenge us to live in faith, hope and love as we build the  
kingdom of God on earth!**

**All:** **Amen.**