



*Keeping*

OUR PROMISE

TO

*Protect*

**APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**Liturgy Guide • Guía Litúrgica**

Keeping Our Promise to Protect • Manteniendo Nuestra Promesa de Proteger  
April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month • Abril Es el Mes para Prevenir el Abuso de Menores

**SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION • UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

## April 6, 2008— Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33  
1 Peter 1:17-21  
Luke 24:13-35

### Homily Helps

- In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter proclaims the risen Jesus. Though Jesus worked many wondrous signs during his earthly ministry, his opponents delivered him up to crucifixion. But God did not abandon Jesus to the netherworld. Instead, Jesus rose from the dead to break the bonds of death for all God's children.
- In the second reading, Peter reminds his readers that they are precious in the sight of God. So precious, in fact, that, despite their sins, they were ransomed from death by the blood of Christ.
- In the Gospel, we follow two disciples on their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are troubled and confused by Jesus' death and by reports that his body is missing and that he is alive. Jesus, whom they do not recognize, joins them as they walk, helping them to understand the true mission of the Christ—to suffer so as to break the bonds of death and enter into glory. As they come to the end of their journey, they recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread.
- As the Holy Father discussed in his recent encyclical, *Spe Salvi (On Christian Hope)*, it is the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ that grounds our hope. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can hope to share eternal life with God.
- This hope can help us to endure suffering. We know that God, who ransomed us from death with the blood of his own Son, will not abandon us. He will be with us to support us and strengthen us in all circumstances.
- During Child Abuse Prevention Month, people of faith are called to be signs of hope for those who have survived child abuse. We are called to support them in their healing as living reminders that God and his people will not abandon them.

### Intercessions

That the Church, its leaders, and its people may be signs of hope and healing in a world broken by sin and division.  
We pray to the Lord.

That civil leaders will work for laws that protect the most vulnerable members of society from oppression and abuse. We pray to the Lord.

That families will grow stronger in their love for one another so that children may be raised in safe and nurturing environments. We pray to the Lord.

That young men and women will listen to God's call to service in the priesthood and consecrated life and will strive to conform their lives to Christ, who suffered that we might live.  
We pray to the Lord.

## 6 de abril de 2008— Tercer Domingo de Pascua

Hechos 2:14, 22-33  
1 Pedro 1:17-21  
Lucas 24:13-35

### Ayuda para la Homilía

- En la lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, Pedro proclama a Jesús. Aun habiendo realizado muchas señales milagrosas durante su ministerio terrenal, Jesús fue entregado por sus oponentes a morir crucificado. Pero Dios no lo abandonó en el lugar de los muertos. Al contrario Jesús resucitó del lugar de los muertos, destruyendo para los hijos e hijas de Dios, las barreras de la muerte.
- En la segunda lectura, Pedro recuerda a sus lectores que son muy queridos a los ojos de Dios. Tan queridos que, a pesar de sus pecados, fueron rescatados de la muerte por la preciosa sangre de Cristo.
- En el Evangelio, seguimos a dos discípulos de Jesús, quienes regresan de Jerusalén a Emaús. Están preocupados y confundidos por la muerte de Jesús y por que las noticias dicen que su cuerpo ha desaparecido y que Él está vivo. Jesús, a quien no reconocen, se les acerca y camina con ellos, ayudándoles a comprender la verdadera misión de Cristo: sufrir para poder destruir la barrera de la muerte y entrar en su gloria. Cuando llegan al final de su camino, reconocen a Jesús en la fracción del pan.
- El Santo Padre en su reciente encíclica *Spe Salvi (Sobre la Esperanza Cristiana)* dice que la muerte y resurrección de Jesucristo es la que da simiente a nuestra esperanza. Es decir, porque Jesús resucitó de la muerte, nosotros podemos esperar compartir la vida eterna con Dios.
- Esta esperanza nos puede ayudar a resistir el sufrimiento. Sabemos que Dios, quien nos rescató de la muerte con la sangre de su Hijo, no nos abandonará. Jesús estará con nosotros para apoyarnos y darnos fuerza en todas circunstancias.
- Durante el Mes para Prevenir el Abuso de Menores, los fieles están llamados a ser signos de esperanza para aquellos que han vivido abuso infantil. Estamos llamados a apoyarlos en su curación, recordándoles que Dios y su pueblo no los abandonarán.

### Intercesiones

Para que la Iglesia, los líderes y el pueblo puedan ser signos de esperanza y curación en un mundo destruido por el pecado y las divisiones. Roguemos al Señor.

Que los líderes civiles trabajen por leyes que protejan a los miembros más vulnerables de nuestra sociedad de la opresión y del abuso. Roguemos al Señor.

Que las familias crezcan fuertes en el amor del uno al otro, para que sus hijos e hijas puedan ser criados en ambientes seguros y protegidos. Roguemos al Señor.

Que los jóvenes escuchen el llamado de Dios para servir en el sacerdocio y la vida consagrada y que conformen sus vidas en Cristo, quien sufrió para que nosotros podamos vivir. Roguemos al Señor.

**April 13, 2008—**

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10

### **Homily Helps**

- In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter tells the people gathered that, in order to be saved, they must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Once they have received Baptism and the forgiveness of sins, they must strive to separate themselves from corruption and sinfulness.
- Patience in suffering is a theme of the reading from the First Letter of St. Peter. In our trials, we are united with Jesus Christ who suffered for us.
- The Gospel proclaims Jesus as the Good Shepherd who watches over his sheep with care, protecting them from those who would harm them.
- We must strive to overcome the sins that burden us, seeking forgiveness and reforming our lives. Only in that way may we live in righteousness and in the fullness of life promised in the Holy Spirit.
- As a Church, we must take steps to protect those in our midst who are most vulnerable. Through activities such as safe environment programs and victim assistance, we can help to protect the children and young people entrusted to our care from those who would harm them.
- At the same time, the Church continues to call each person to repentance. Those who have abused children must seek God's forgiveness for their actions and take the steps necessary to free themselves from this sinful behavior.

### **Intercessions**

That the bishops and priests of the Church will be good and faithful shepherds, guiding their people with compassion and integrity. We pray to the Lord.

That those in positions of leadership will use their power for the good of all, especially those who are weakest and most vulnerable. We pray to the Lord.

That children and young people who have been victims of abuse may find healing and hope through the ministry of Christ and his Church. We pray to the Lord.

That those who have abused children may repent of their actions and begin to live in righteousness. We pray to the Lord.

**13 de abril de 2008—**

## **Cuarto Domingo de Pascua**

Hechos 2:14a, 36-41

1 Pedro 2:20b-25

Juan 10:1-10

### **Ayuda para la Homilía**

- En la lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, Pedro dice a la gente reunida que, para ser salvados, deben arrepentirse y ser bautizados en el nombre de Jesús. Una vez que hayan recibido el bautismo y el perdón de los pecados, deben esforzarse por separarse de la corrupción y del pecado.
- La paciencia en el sufrimiento es el tema de la lectura de la Primera Carta de San Pedro. En nuestras tribulaciones, estamos unidos con Jesucristo quien sufre con nosotros.
- El Evangelio proclama a Jesús como el Buen Pastor, quien mira a sus ovejas con cuidado, protegiéndolos de aquellos que puedan lastimarlas.
- Debemos esforzarnos para superar los pecados que cargamos, buscando perdón y mejorando nuestras vidas. Solo en esa forma, podemos vivir con rectitud y en la plenitud de la vida prometida en el Espíritu Santo.
- Como Iglesia, debemos tomar medidas para proteger aquellos que, en medio de nosotros, son los más vulnerables. Por eso, las actividades de los programas con lugares seguros y asistencia a las víctimas, deben ayudar a proteger a los niños y jóvenes confiados a nuestro cuidado, para que nadie los pueda lastimar.
- En este momento, la Iglesia continúa llamando a todos y cada uno al arrepentimiento. Aquellos que han abusado de niños o niñas, deben buscar el perdón de Dios por sus actos y seguir los pasos necesarios para liberarse de su comportamiento pecaminoso.

### **Intercesiones**

Para que los obispos y sacerdotes de la Iglesia sean buenos y fieles pastores, al guiar a su pueblo con compasión e integridad. Roguemos al Señor.

Para que aquellos que están en posición de liderazgo usen su poder para el bien de todos, especialmente los más débiles y más vulnerables. Roguemos al Señor.

Que los niños, niñas y jóvenes, que han sido víctimas de abuso, puedan encontrar curación y esperanza a través del ministerio de Cristo y su Iglesia. Roguemos al Señor.

Que aquellos que han abusado de los niños y niñas se arrepientan de sus acciones y vivan con rectitud. Roguemos al Señor.

## April 20, 2008— Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7  
1 Peter 2:4-9  
John 14:1-12

### Homily Helps

- The reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells of the appointment of the first deacons, holy men called to serve the temporal needs of the Christian community. These men are selected from the community for their wisdom and devotion, and they place their gifts at the service of their brothers and sisters.
- The reading from the First Letter of St. Peter defines the mission of those whom God has called into his Church. He has chosen us to be his own people, a community that, having passed from darkness to light, praises God in all their words and actions.
- The Gospel today is taken from Jesus' discourse with his disciples at the Last Supper. Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for the time when he will leave them. He promises that he will prepare a place for them and that he will lead them to the Father.
- Jesus tells us that he is "the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6). Only by following the path of Jesus—a path of integrity, righteousness, and care for our brothers and sisters—are we able to find fullness of life.
- As people who are "chosen and precious in the sight of God" (1 Pt 2:4), we are called to live lives of holiness, obeying the Word of God and serving others.
- Those who believe in Jesus are called to do as he has done. When those in positions of trust (clergy, teachers, youth leaders, parents, etc.) harm those in their care, the violation seems greater. As people of faith, we strive to create environments where the vulnerable are protected and those who come forward with reports of abuse are treated with compassion and given the assistance that they need.

### Intercessions

That the Church may always be a holy nation announcing the praises of God and bringing light to a world darkened by sin. We pray to the Lord.

That those in positions of leadership will prove themselves worthy of trust and will act in the best interests of those they serve. We pray to the Lord.

That therapists, counselors, and advocates who work with survivors of abuse will be filled with the Spirit and with wisdom, so that they may bring help and healing. We pray to the Lord.

That those who have suffered abuse may find in Jesus the way to healing and new life. We pray to the Lord.

## 20 de abril de 2008— Quinto Domingo de Pascua

Hechos 6:1-7  
1 Pedro 2:4-9  
Juan 14:1-12

### Ayuda para la Homilía

- La lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles nos narra la elección de los primeros diáconos, hombres santos llamados a servir en las necesidades temporales de la comunidad cristiana. Estos hombres son elegidos por la comunidad por su sabiduría y devoción, y ofrecen sus talentos al servicio de sus hermanos y hermanas.
- La lectura de la Primera Carta de San Pedro define la misión de aquellos a quienes Dios ha llamado dentro de su Iglesia. Él nos ha elegido para ser su propio pueblo, una comunidad que, habiendo pasado de la oscuridad a la luz, alaba a Dios en todas sus palabras y acciones.
- El Evangelio hoy es tomado del discurso de Jesús a sus discípulos al final de la Última Cena. Jesús empieza a preparar a sus discípulos porque los va a dejar. Él les promete que les preparará un lugar y que los llevará hacia su Padre.
- Jesús nos dice que Él es "el camino, la verdad y la vida" (Juan 14:6). Solo siguiendo el camino de Jesús, un camino de integridad, rectitud y cuidado por nuestros hermanos y hermanas, estaremos más seguros de encontrar la plenitud de la vida.
- Como pueblo que es "elegido y precioso a los ojos de Dios" (1 Pedro 2:4), somos llamados a vivir santamente, obedeciendo a la Palabra de Dios y sirviendo a los demás.
- Los que creen en Jesús son llamados para hacer lo que Él ha hecho. Cuando personas en posiciones de confianza (sacerdotes, profesores, líderes de jóvenes, padres, etc.) lastiman a los que tienen a su cuidado, la falta es mucho mayor. Como pueblo de fe, nos esforzamos en crear ambientes donde los vulnerables son protegidos y aquellos que se acercan a informar un abuso, son tratados con atención y cuidado.

### Intercesiones

Para que la Iglesia pueda ser siempre una nación santa, que anuncie las alabanzas de Dios y que traiga la luz a un mundo oscurecido por el pecado. Roguemos al Señor.

Para que aquellos que se encuentran en posiciones de liderazgo prueben ser dignos de la confianza y actúen buscando siempre los mejores intereses de aquellos a quienes sirven. Roguemos al Señor.

Por los terapeutas, consejeros y abogados que trabajan con las víctimas de abuso, para que sean llenos del Espíritu de sabiduría para poder ofrecer ayuda y curación. Roguemos al Señor.

Por aquellos que han sufrido abuso, para que puedan encontrar en Jesús el camino a la curación y a una nueva vida. Roguemos al Señor.

## April 27, 2008— Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17  
1 Peter 3:15-18  
John 14:15-21

### Homily Helps

- In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Philip goes to Samaria where his ministry of preaching and healing brings great joy to the people there. After these people have received the Word of God, Peter and John come to lay hands on them and they receive the Holy Spirit.
- The First Letter of St. Peter reminds us that it is better that we suffer for doing what is right than to suffer for doing what is evil. Though choosing for the good is often difficult, we must always be prepared to stand with Christ.
- The Gospel continues Jesus' last discourse with his disciples. He tells his followers that he will send his Spirit to guide them and be with them. As a sign of their love for Jesus, they must obey his commandments.
- Peter reminds his readers that they must always be willing to give a reason for their hope. Many people criticize those who hope in Christ and who speak the truth in a world burdened by sin and darkness. However, as long as actions back up our words, we are not shamed by this criticism. Instead, we share in the sufferings of Christ and live in the Spirit.
- Over the last six years, the Catholic Church in the United States has undertaken many steps to protect children from those who would do them harm. Children and young people should be kept safe from harm in church, in school, in the family, and in the community. Those responsible for children should make themselves aware of the resources available to protect their children from predators. Children should know where to turn for help if they are being abused and should be sure that they will be met with compassion.
- Philip went to Samaria to preach the Word of God. At this time, Samaritans were considered enemies who did not follow the way of the Lord. We must follow Philip's example and continue speaking God's truth wherever possible. No one is outside God's love and mercy if he or she seeks forgiveness.

### Intercessions

That the Church will continue to preach its message of hope with gentleness and reverence. We pray to the Lord.

That those in authority will dedicate themselves to the truth, even when it may bring criticism. We pray to the Lord.

That those who care for children may strive to protect them from all harm. We pray to the Lord.

That all the faithful will rededicate themselves to obeying God's commandments and living in righteousness. We pray to the Lord.

## 27 de abril de 2008— Sexto Domingo de Pascua

Hechos 8:5-8, 14-17  
1 Pedro 3:15-18  
Juan 14:15-21

### Ayuda para la Homilía

- En la lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, Felipe va a Samaria donde su ministerio de enseñanza y curación lleva gran alegría al pueblo. Después que el pueblo recibe la Palabra de Dios, Pedro y Juan llegan a imponer las manos sobre ellos para que reciban el Espíritu Santo.
- La Primera Carta de San Pedro nos recuerda que es mejor sufrir por algo que es justo, que sufrir por algo que es malo. Sin embargo, escoger lo bueno muchas veces es difícil. Debemos estar preparados para mantenernos con Cristo.
- El Evangelio continúa el último discurso de Jesús a sus discípulos. Él dice a sus seguidores que enviará su Espíritu, para que los guíe y esté siempre con ellos. Como un signo del amor de Jesús, ellos deben obedecer sus mandamientos.
- Pedro recuerda a sus lectores que deben siempre estar disponibles a dar razones de su esperanza. Mucha gente critica aquellos que ponen su esperanza en Cristo y que hablan de la verdad en un mundo lleno de pecado y oscuridad. Sin embargo, porque nuestras acciones confirman nuestras palabras, nosotros no nos avergonzamos por este criticismo. Al contrario, compartimos los sufrimientos de Cristo y vivimos en el Espíritu.
- Durante los últimos seis años, la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos ha tomado acciones para proteger a los niños y niñas de aquellos que quieren lastimarlos. Los niños, niñas y jóvenes pueden estar seguros que no serán lastimados en la Iglesia, en la escuela, en la familia y en la comunidad. Aquellos que son responsables de los niños y niñas deben ser conscientes de todos los recursos disponibles para proteger a los niños y niñas de depredadores infantiles. Los niños y niñas deben saber adónde recurrir para informar si están siendo abusados y deben estar seguros que recibirán ayuda y atención.
- Felipe fue a Samaria para enseñar la Palabra de Dios. En ese tiempo, los samaritanos eran considerado enemigos, aquellos que no seguían el camino del Señor. Debemos seguir el ejemplo de Felipe, de hablar en cualquier lugar de la confianza en Dios. Nadie está afuera del amor de Dios y de su misericordia si él o ella buscan realmente el perdón.

### Intercesiones

Para que la Iglesia continúe enseñando el mensaje de esperanza con gentileza y reverencia. Roguemos al Señor.

Para que aquellos que tienen posiciones de autoridad se consagren a la verdad, aunque esto pueda traerles críticas. Roguemos al Señor.

Para que aquellos que cuidan niños puedan protegerlos de aquellos que quieran lastimarlos. Roguemos al Señor.

Para que todos los fieles se consagren a obedecer los mandamientos de Dios y vivir en rectitud. Roguemos al Señor.

# ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF A VICTIM OF CRIME OR OPPRESSION

## INTRODUCTION

- 430 The personal experience of a crime, political oppression, or social oppression can be traumatic and not easily forgotten. A victim often needs the assistance of others, and no less that of God, in dealing with this experience.
- 431 This blessing is intended to assist the victim and help him or her come to a state of tranquility and peace.
- 432 These orders may be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.

## A. ORDER OF BLESSING

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

- 433 When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the minister says:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

**Amen.**

- 434 A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

**May the grace and peace of Christ be with you.**

And all reply:

**And also with you.**

- 435 A lay minister greets those present in the following words:

**May the Lord grant us peace, now and for ever.**

**R. Amen.**

- 436 In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.

Throughout history God has manifested his love and care for those who have suffered from violence, hatred, and oppression. We commend N. to the healing mercy of God who binds up all our wounds and enfolds us in his gentle care.

## READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

- 437 A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

**Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Matthew:** 10:28-33

*Do not fear.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

- 438 Or:

Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18—*The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice.*

Job 3:1-26—*Lamentation of Job.*

Lamentations 3:1-24—*I am one who knows affliction.*

Lamentations 3:49-59—*When I called, you came to my aid.*

Micah 4:1-4—*Every person shall sit undisturbed.*

Matthew 5:1-10—*The beatitudes.*

Matthew 5:43-48—*Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.*

Luke 10:25-37—*The good Samaritan.*

- 439 As circumstances suggest, one of the following responsorial psalms may be sung, or some other suitable song.

**R. The Lord is my strength and my salvation.**

Psalm 140

**Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men;  
preserve me from violent men,  
From those who devise evil in their hearts,  
and stir up wars every day. R.**

**Save me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;  
preserve me from violent men  
Who plan to trip up my feet—  
the proud who have hidden a trap for me;  
They have spread cords for a net;  
by the wayside they have laid snares for me. R.**

Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;  
further not their plans.

Those who surround me lift up their heads;  
may the mischief which they threaten  
overwhelm them. R.

I know that the LORD renders  
justice to the afflicted, judgment to the poor.  
Surely the just shall give thanks to your name;  
the upright shall dwell in your presence. R.

Psalm 142:2-3, 4b-5, 6-7

R. (v. 6) You, O Lord, are my refuge.

Psalm 31:2-3a, 4-5, 15-16, 24-25

R. (v. 6) Into your hands I commend my spirit.

440 As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.

## INTERCESSIONS

441 The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says:

Let us pray to the Lord God, the defender of the weak and powerless, who delivered our ancestors from harm.

R. Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

Assisting minister:

For N., that he/she may be freed from pain and fear, we pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister:

For all who are victims of crime/oppression, we pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister:

For an end to all acts of violence and hatred, we pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister:

For those who harm others, that they may change their lives and turn to God, we pray to the Lord. R.

442 After the intercessions the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord heals our wounds and strengthens us in our weakness; let us pray as Christ has taught us:

All:

Our Father . . .

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

443 A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the person to be blessed; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

Lord God,  
your own Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked,  
yet he prayed for his persecutors  
and overcame hatred with the blood of the cross.  
Relieve the suffering of N.;  
grant him/her peace of mind  
and a renewed faith in your protection and care.

Protect us all from the violence of others,  
keep us safe from the weapons of hate,  
and restore to us tranquility and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

As circumstances suggest, the minister in silence may sprinkle the person with holy water.

## CONCLUDING RITE

444 A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by saying:

May God bless you with his mercy,  
strengthen you with his love,  
and enable you to walk in charity and peace.

R. Amen.

Then he blesses all present.

**And may almighty God bless you all,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.**

R. Amen.

445 A lay minister concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

**May God bless us with his mercy,  
strengthen us with his love,  
and enable us to walk in charity and peace.**

R. Amen.

446 It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.

## B. SHORTER RITE

447 All make the sign of the cross as the minister says:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

All reply:

**Who made heaven and earth.**

448 One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

**Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel  
according to Matthew: 10:28-33**

*Do not fear.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

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Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18—*The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice.*

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Lamentations 3:49-59—*When I called, you came to my aid.*

Matthew 5:1-10—*The beatitudes.*

Luke 10:25-37—*The good Samaritan.*

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**Lord God,  
your own Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked  
yet he prayed for his persecutors  
and overcame hatred with the blood of the cross.**

**Relieve the suffering of N.;  
grant him/her peace of mind  
and a renewed faith in your protection and care.**

**Protect us all from the violence of others,  
keep us safe from the weapons of hate,  
and restore to us tranquility and peace.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

