



LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM

Prayer Sessions

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The Lighthouse Program

PRAYER SERVICES

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SESSION 1: SETTING THE PACE

PRAYER SERVICE

Facilitator: We bless ourselves and light our Lighthouse candle. We are here today to give thanks to God the Father for sending Jesus to walk among us.

We give thanks for the unconditional love that accompanies us through life.

God, we thank you for the gift of our faith, for the hope given to us by the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus, and for our community of love that binds us together.

Amen.

Together, a Lighthouse leader and a Confirmation candidate light the candle.

Facilitator: Today we will discuss what it means to belong to a Christian family. We remember that we began our journey as members of this family when we were baptized. Like a great tree, we have blossomed and grown, with deep roots that will ground and steady us throughout our lives. We are secure in the knowledge that we are part of the Christian family, with others who share our thoughts and prayers as we prepare for our Confirmation. Jesus began his mission to spread the Good News when he was baptized. Before we begin, let's listen to the story of when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.

Lighthouse Leader 1: When John the Baptist was growing up, he loved to hear the story of how God was going to send someone very special to lead the people and show them how to live their lives. John decided to help the people get ready for the One sent by God.

"[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,



"I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Lk 3:3-6, 15-17, 21-22).

All: Thanks be to God.

Confirmation Candidate 1:

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

(Mt 5:14-16)

Confirmation Candidate 2: Our Lighthouse candle symbolizes our faith, our hope, and our love.

Lighthouse Leader 2: We lit this candle to remind us of the light of faith, which began to shine brightly in our lives on the day of our baptism.

Confirmation Candidate 3: We were too young to make promises at our baptism, so our families made them for us. Today, we choose that our own voices be heard together and as individuals. We choose now to proclaim that without God, we can't live our lives to the fullest.

Facilitator: We say together:

As the early Christians chose to be a light for our world, we also choose to be a light in our world.

Confirmation Candidate 4: We choose to be a light in our world today ...

Confirmation Candidate 5: Where we can't ignore things that happen far away ...

Confirmation Candidate 4: Where the harvest belongs to everyone ...



Confirmation Candidate 5: Where we can stand up against injustice ...

Confirmation Candidate 4: Where everyone has the right to live freely; where I am not free if one person remains enslaved.

Facilitator: We respond individually:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Facilitator: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Facilitator: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Facilitator: Then together let us say:

All: This is our faith.

This is the faith of the Church.

In our own right and as members of our faith community,
we are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The facilitator pours water from the large pitcher into a bowl and blesses each co-facilitator in turn by making the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads. Each co-facilitator then pours water from the pitcher into their own bowls and invites the Lighthouse leaders to come forward to bless them in the same manner. When this is done, each Lighthouse leader takes a bowl of holy water and then invites the Confirmation students to come forward to be blessed in the same manner.

Facilitator: Loving God, this holy water is a reminder of the water that we were blessed with at baptism. As we are blessed with this water, may we remember to always walk as children of the light.

All: Amen.

Closing song of choice