

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in August 2022

Introduction

Leader Jesus taught us about his profound mercy. But he also taught us clearly that those who have chosen to have it easy in this life by avoiding justice for others whom God also loves, risk being last in the eyes of God. He urged us to choose the “narrow way.”

Opening Prayer

All Loving and merciful God, teach us about justice. Help us to choose the “narrow way” of action on behalf of those who live with injustice daily. Give us generous hearts able to act with compassion and generosity. We pray this in Jesus’ name.

Word of God Luke 13:22-30

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke *(The reading is on the reverse side.
Pause for silent reflection.)*

Optional Discuss these questions in two’s or three’s.

1. What is one “narrow gate” choice someone could make?
2. How do you decide what is just for others and what is not?

Response (Taken from Luke 13:22-30)

Side 1 “Strive to enter through the narrow gate.”

Side 2 Are we willing to struggle with life’s decision to choose the just, more challenging way, when it is easier to coast along from day to day?

Side 1 “For behold, some are last who will be first.”

Side 2 Jesus reminds us that there will be justice for those deprived of it in this life.

Side 1 “Some are first who will be last.”

Side 2 If we have not chosen the narrow gate of justice for all, we may find ourselves last at the judgment. Jesus teaches us to choose the “narrow gate.”

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All God of all justice, teach us your way. With all the conflicting voices that surround us, help us to reflect on Jesus’ teachings and choose the “narrow way” in our everyday lives. Teach us the ways of justice for all. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen

Luke 13:22-30

**Jesus passed through the towns and villages,
teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.**

Someone asked Jesus

“Lord, will only a few people be saved?”

He answered them,

**“Strive to enter through the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter
but will not be strong enough**

**After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door,
then will you stand outside knocking and saying,
‘Lord, open the door for us.’**

He will say to you in reply,

‘I do not know where you are from.’

And you will say,

**‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught
in our streets.’**

Then he will say to you,

‘I do not know where you are from.

Depart from me, all you evildoers!’

**And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth
when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
and all the prophets in the kingdom of God
and you yourselves cast out.**

**And people will come from the east and the west
and from the north and the south
and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.**

**For behold, some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last.”**