



## Prayer Service for Those on the Margins

Song: The Summons, v. 1-2

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, who said in His word, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27).*

First Reading: Isaiah 58:6-9

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

*But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom*

*everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.*

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

*People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.*

Gospel Reflection: At the time of Jesus, children were not valued as they are today. They were lumped in with women and slaves as inferior members of society—possessions, with no importance or respect. So it's remarkable that Jesus gave them such value and respect. That's the first thing to notice about this Gospel passage: Jesus loves children.

The second thing is the larger truth it reveals: Jesus stood with those on society's margins. This is not news. But it bears daily consideration because of what that means for us. Jesus stood for those on the margins—and he calls us to do the same. Friends, this is a life-changing charge. *Jesus stood for those on the margins and he calls us to do the same.*

Archbishop Oscar Romero wrote, "If we could see that Christ is the needy one, the torture victim, the prisoner, the murder victim, and in each human figure so shamefully thrown by our roadsides could see Christ himself cast aside, we would pick him up like a medal of gold to be kissed lovingly."

By his Spirit, may we do this. May we see his face in the faces of the broken and extend without hesitation his healing hands of grace and mercy, his heart of value and respect.

Song of Response: The Summons, v. 4

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Prayer