

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in August, 2019

## Introduction

**Leader** Jesus' life and manner of death tells us that if we live our Christian lives with integrity, we are sure to experience division within our culture.

## Opening Prayer

**All** God of wisdom and power, we need courage to counter cultural trends opposed to our Christian way of life. Help us to realize that compromising our values waters down our Christian life. We ask for courage and discernment in the name of Jesus and the power of his Spirit.

## Word of God Luke 12: 49-53

**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. When do we need to be "counter-cultural?"
2. Use an example to distinguish true unity as a gift, from unity as a compromise of values.

## Response

**Side 1** "I have come to set the earth on fire and how I wish it were already blazing."

**Side 2** Jesus speaks with passion. May we long to be his disciples on fire with love.

**Side 1** "There is a baptism with which I must be baptized and great is my anguish until it is accomplished."

**Side 2** Jesus speaks of his passion and death. May we turn our sorrows into zeal for others.

**Side 1** "From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three."

**Side 2** Division is a consequence of a world too far from living Jesus' Way. Lord, help us to be unifiers, but also to speak the truth in love.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions to remember here.

## Closing Prayer

**All** Jesus, wisdom of the Father, you ask us to embrace your Way with courage, integrity and joy. Help us to know when to "walk the razor's edge" of taking a stand that causes division and when to work for true unity. We ask for the gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Luke 12: 49-53**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I have come to set the earth on fire,  
and how I wish it were already blazing!

There is a baptism with which I must be baptized,  
and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!

Did you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?  
No, I tell you, but rather division.

From now on a household of five will be divided,  
three against two and two against three,  
a father will be divided against his son  
and a son against his father,  
a mother against her daughter  
and a daughter against her mother,  
a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”