

## Catholic Bible Institute-April 5, 2014-Opening Prayer

**Leader:** We give thanks to you, Lord God almighty, who are and who were. For you have assumed your great power and have established your reign. *Rev 11:17*

**All:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

**Hymn:** Hosea (see attached)

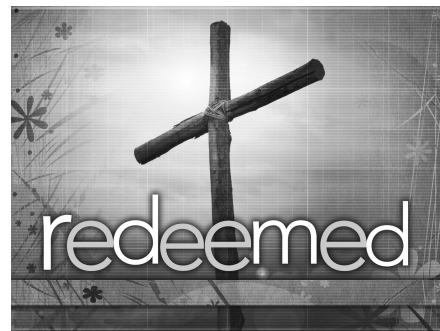
**Reading:** Rev 1:1-4; 2:1-5

A reading from the Book of Revelation

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him,  
to show his servants what must happen soon.  
He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,  
who gives witness to the word of God  
and to the testimony of Jesus Christ by reporting what he saw.  
Blessed is the one who reads aloud and blessed are those who  
listen to this prophetic message and heed what is written in it, for  
the appointed time is near.

John, to the seven churches in Asia: grace to you and peace  
from him who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits before his throne.  
I heard the Lord saying to me: "To the angel of the Church in  
Ephesus, write this:  
"The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand  
and walks in the midst of the seven gold lampstands says this:  
"I know your works, your labor, and your endurance,  
and that you cannot tolerate the wicked;  
you have tested those who call themselves Apostles but are not,  
and discovered that they are impostors.  
Moreover, you have endurance and have suffered for my name,  
and you have not grown weary.  
Yet I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first.  
Realize how far you have fallen.  
Repent, and do the works you did at first.  
Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its  
place, unless you repent."

The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.



**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps. 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,7-8

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and  
fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my voice in supplication.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and  
fullness of redemption.**

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,  
LORD, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness,  
that you may be revered.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and  
fullness of redemption.**

I trust in the LORD;  
my soul trusts in his word.  
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,  
let Israel wait for the LORD.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and  
fullness of redemption.**

For with the LORD is kindness  
and with him is plenteous redemption;  
And he will redeem Israel  
from all their iniquities.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and  
fullness of redemption.**

**Intercessions: Response: Lord, Hear Us**

LEADER: “*Unless you repent, you will all perish*” (Luke 13:3-5). God’s powerful word teaches us to turn from sin. In a spirit of sincere repentance, we ask the Lord for what we need.

1. For an awareness of God’s holiness.

Moses stood on holy ground and was afraid to look at his God. May we be aware of God’s holiness and be filled with a sense of wonder at what God has done for the people.

We pray, **Response: Lord, hear us.**

2. For a desire to please God.

May we be filled with a desire to please God in life, aware of the power of sin and fearful of how it can control us; And may we repent of those things that turn us from God’s ways.

We pray, **Response: Lord, hear us.**

3. For reconciliation with God and with one another.

In this time of Lent, may we seek reconciliation with God and with one another;

And by our prayer and fasting be renewed in our desire to live as God wants.

We pray, **Response: Lord, hear us.**

4. For a spirit of obedience to God.

May we seek to obey God’s will, acknowledging our God as Lord of the universe whose ways are not our ways. And who commands us to bear fruit in how we live and what we value.

We pray, **Response: Lord, hear us.**

LEADER: God of the universe, you are faithful to the promises. Listen to our prayers for what we need. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Closing Prayer**

Loving Father,

So many times we have turned away from you and always you welcome us back.

Thank you for the invitation to share, fast and pray so that you can form a new heart within us.

Your compassion for our weaknesses leads us to ask for mercy.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

## CBI—April 5, 2014—Closing Prayer

**Introduction to the process:** Ignatian Contemplation

**Opening Prayer:** (*standing*)

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, that we might gaze upon you on your throne in glory.

**All:** Open our eyes, Lord.

Reader: Open our ears, Lord, that we might hear a celestial choir sing your praises.

**All:** Open our ears, Lord.

Reader: Open our hands, Lord that we may help build the New Jerusalem.

**All:** Open our hands, Lord.

Reader: Open our hearts, Lord, that our names may be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**All:** Open our hearts, Lord.

**Reading: Revelation 21:1-5** (*standing*)

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold. God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God.] He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.’ Then the one who sat on the throne said ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ Then he said, ‘Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.’”

**Guided Contemplation** (*seated*, 3-5 min.)

**Silent Meditation** (*seated*, 3-5 min.) Chant: “Hosanna to the Son of David,” Benedictine Sisters of Mary

**Response:** (*seated*)

Reader: Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

**All:** Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

Reader: Lord, you allowed John to gaze upon your throne; grant that we may be witnesses to your presence, both here and now, and in the hereafter.

**All:** Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

Reader: Lord, your holy city is coming down out of heaven; grant us the grace and the will to prepare for your coming within our community.

**All:** Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

Reader: Lord, you will wipe away all tears of pain and mourning; grant that we may heal and console one another until the day of your arrival.

**All:** Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

Reader: Lord, you make all things new; renew our hearts so that they yearn to do your will.

**All:** Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

**Closing Prayer:**

**All:** Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me, my family, my friends, my coworkers.

Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is, “Accept the person I am. Listen to me.”

Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me—the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of the forgotten, the cry of the anguished.

Teach me to listen, O God my Mother, to myself. Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside—in the deepest part of me.

Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice—in busyness and in boredom, in certainty and doubt, in noise and in silence.

Teach me, Lord, to listen. Amen.