

A Collection of Scout Prayers/ Prayer Services / Blessings / Reflections

Scout Prayers/Blessings that can be used/adapted for giving out awards

Let us pray. God our loving Father in recognizing this scout here today who has earned his/her religious award we also honor you, for you are the source of his gifts as the author of all that is best and beautiful in creation and in life. As this scout gains a deeper appreciation of the world in which h/she lives and the people he/she is called upon to serve through scouting, may his/her reverence and respect for you also grow stronger, so that he/she may always be prepared to follow you faithfully.

Dear Lord, this award expresses a commitment to faith, to scouting, and to excellence in this scout who has earned it. We pray that this award be a motivation to him and an inspiration to others to continue this pursuit in everything. May your blessing + come upon this medal as well as upon those to whom they are given, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we thank you for all that is wonderful in the world. We thank you for this day and for helping to inspire this scout who has been faithful to his pack, his family, his church and especially to you by seeking to do his best in successfully completing his scouting religious award. As he has been faithful in this, may he be entrusted with even greater opportunities to be his best and live your life in the days and years ahead. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

These can be recited at some point during a Mass or Service

GIRL SCOUT PROMISE: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

SCOUT (BSA) OATH: On my honor I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country And to obey the Scout Law. To help other people at all times, To keep myself physically strong, Mentally awake and morally straight.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS OATH: I promise to love God, cherish my family, honor my country, and serve in my community.

Scout BSA Law:

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Scout BSA Motto:

Be Prepared.

Scout BSA Slogan:

Do A Good Turn Daily.

Scout BSA Outdoor Code:

As an American, I will do my best toBe clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire, Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation-minded.

A Catholic Interpretation of the Scout Oath and Law

The Scout Oath A Responsive Reading

Scouts: On my honor, I will do my best...

Leader: Our Honor is a quality we possess because of our dignity as human beings and children of God. Our 'best' means to give all we have. It means to keep striving to do what we know is right, and in the Oath it means we will try to be good Scouts by fulfilling our Scout duties as expressed in the Scout Law.

Scouts: To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law...

Leader: Our duty to God and country means chiefly two things: obedience and loyalty. The duties we owe to the church, to our country, to parents, to one another, and to ourselves come from the Word of God. The Scout Law sums up all the qualities a Scout should have and without which he can not be a good Scout.

Scouts: To help other people at all times...

Leader: Jesus told us the first and most important law is to love the Lord with all your heart; the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. Early Christians were known by the love they had for one another. Real Christian charity or love prompts us to want to help others at all times. Our Scout training will give us skills and knowledge that will put us in a better position to do this.

Scouts: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Leader: Through our regular Scouting activities we have many opportunities to grow physically. To be alert and ready means that we have to give special care to the two gifts of soul and will that make us more like God. 'Morally Straight' means we must try to know what is right and true, and to love what is good and choose it.

The Scout Law: A Responsive Reading

The Scout Law is really the definition of a Scout. Wearing the uniform doesn't make us a Scout. In fact, the one who keeps the Scout Law, even if he has no uniform, is the real Scout far more than the one who wears the uniform, but doesn't keep the Law. This is the Scout Law you promise to obey in the Scout Oath.

Scouts: A Scout is Trustworthy.

Leader: Character is what a person is. Reputation is what people think about us. A youth of character is worthy of trust. To be worthy of Trust, we have to recognize our own goodness and the goodness of all people as children of God. A Scout tells the truth and keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

Scouts: A Scout is Loyal.

Leader: Because our first loyalty is to God, a Scout is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due – family, friends, Church and country.

Scouts: A Scout is Helpful.

Leader: Christ has told us that the good turn we do for others He will consider as done to Him. A reason why we are helpful, is that we see Christ in everybody. If our Lord was willing to die for all of us, a Scout certainly should be ready to offer help when needed. The whole Scout program gives us an opportunity to be helpful, especially the doing of our daily good turn.

Scouts: A Scout is Friendly.

Leader: A Scout should be a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout. The basis and motive of this point of the Law is Christian charity. We are all children of the same God, and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, so a Scout tries to understand others, and respects those with ideas and customs different than his own.

Scouts: A Scout is Courteous.

Leader: A Scout should respect the image of God in everyone. Courtesy comes from the heart and goes hand in hand with friendship. He knows good manners and makes it easy for people to get along with him. The meaning of love as a Scout should be taken from the words of Christ himself — "I have come not to be served, but to serve."

Scouts: A Scout is Kind.

Leader: A Scout is gentle and compassionate in how he treats other people. The kind person is strong and able to restrain from brute force. This applies also to our treatment of animals. They have been given to us by God as a trust; as such we must use them well, never abusing or mistreating them.

Scouts: A Scout is Obedient.

Leader: Jesus Christ gave us an example of perfect obedience throughout his life. This will be a difficult point of the Law for a Scout to keep because it will mean discipline and giving up things that he wants at times. It means following the rules of family, school, and troop. He should obey, not because the command pleases him, but because the one giving it has the right to be respected, is someone in authority, and is right in doing so. Disobedience brought death and sin into the world; obedience brought our salvation. Real victory comes from obedience — first to God, then to all he has placed in authority as long as they deserve our obedience.

Scouts: a Scout is Cheerful.

Leader: Joy should be one of the marks of a child of God. A Scout will have joy in his heart and show it by his cheerful manner. A Scout looks on the bright side of things, and cheerfully does jobs that come his way. He tries to make other people happy.

Scouts: A Scout is Thrifty.

Leader: A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unseen needs, and carefully uses time and property. As Scouts, we should be deeply concerned with preserving our natural resources and keeping our environment clean. Thrift teaches self-respect, making us unwilling to be a burden to others. Far from being a burden, we are able by thrift to help others.

Scouts: A Scout is Brave.

Leader: He can face danger even if he is afraid. He has courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others scorn or make fun of him.

Scouts: A Scout is Clean.

Leader: He keeps clean in body and thought; stands for clean speech, clean sport, clean habits; and goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

Scouts: A Scout Is Reverent.

Leader: He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions and beliefs of others in manners of custom and religion.

An Examination of Conscience for a Scout using the Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy...A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

A Scout is Loyal...A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school and nation.

A Scout is Helpful...A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

A Scout is Friendly...A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

A Scout is Courteous...A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners makes it easier for people to get along together.

A Scout is Kind...A Scout understands that there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

A Scout is Obedient...A Scout follows the rules of his family, school and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country.

A Scout is Cheerful...A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does jobs that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

A Scout is Thrifty...A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

A Scout is Brave...A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

A Scout is Clean...A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

A Scout is Reverent...A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

SCOUTS (BSA)

"Scouts BSA maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God." Article IX Section 1, Charter and Bylaws of Scouts BSA.

Scouts BSA does not define what constitutes belief in God or practice of religion. Religious instruction is a responsibility of parents or the religious institution to which a member may belong.

Scouts BSA expects a member to accept the religious principles stated in the Charter and Bylaws, the Scout Oath and Law, the Explorer Code, and on the membership application.

These commitments are involved:

1. Belief in God.
2. Reverence toward God.
3. Fulfillment of religious duties.
4. Respect for beliefs of others.

Scouts BSA maintains a close working relationship with authorities of all religious bodies on a national level. Although Scouting is nondenominational, it strongly encourages religious loyalty on the part of its members. Scouts BSA looks to each religious body to provide for the spiritual training of its members.

Recognition of the spiritual is of great importance as a youth participates in Scouting. This is done through opportunities to worship at summer camps, camporees, jamborees, and other Scouting activities.

Scouting members are encouraged to observe religious practices in Scouting activities which they were taught at home.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

The purpose of the religious emblems program is to give members guidance in achieving the spiritual ideals of the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Explorer Code. It gives them an opportunity to become more aware of what his/her denomination is doing on a local, national, or world level. It is a chance to serve and grow as a participating communicant. Just as a Scout keeps himself physically strong by camping, hiking, and other outdoor healthful activities, so also he develops spiritually and morally by practicing his religion. There are many different religious emblems available so that every Cub Scout, Scout BSA, or Explorer, regardless of religious belief, has a program to relate to.

To ensure proper religious observance in the unit, the rabbi, priest, pastor, or imam should serve as chaplain.

Scouts BSA

The chaplain gives guidance to the youth members and leaders in all religious matters. Each year in February, during Scouting Anniversary Week, Scouts BSA encourages the celebration of Scout Sabbath or Scout Sunday. This event is highlighted by the presentation of religious emblems.

One of the purposes of Scouting is to bring its members closer to the ideals of their faith and country.

---BSA RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

A PRAYER FOR SCOUTS

(GATHER SCOUTS IN A CIRCLE. TURN OUT LIGHTS, PROVIDING A FLASHLIGHT OR SOME OTHER LIGHT FOR YOURSELF.)

FOR OUR SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE TONIGHT, I'D LIKE TO PRAY THIS PRAYER. NOW PLEASE, EVERY EYE CLOSED AND EVERY HEAD BOWED. (AFTER A PAUSE FOR COMPLETE QUIET, READ SLOWLY.)

OUR FATHER, MAKE US TRUSTWORTHY. FOR THERE ARE THOSE WHO TRUST US. MAKE US LOYAL, FOR THROUGH LOYALTY WE REACH OUR HIGHEST IDEALS. TEACH US TO BE HELPFUL, FOR THROUGH HELPFULNESS DO WE FORGET OUR SELFNESS.

MAKE US FRIENDLY. FOR THERE ARE SO MANY WHO NEED A FRIEND.

TRAIN US IN COURTESY. FOR COURTESY IS THE CARPET ON LIFE'S FLOOR.

IT DEADENS THE SOUND OF SHUFFLING FEET AND ADDS WARMTH TO SILENCE. MAKE US KIND, FOR KINDNESS IS THE OIL IN THE COGS OF LIFE'S MACHINERY. INSIST UPON OUR OBEDIENCE, FOR VICTORY COMES ONLY TO HIM WHO OBEYS. MAKE US CHEERFUL. FOR CHEERFULNESS IS THE GREEN GRASS AMONG THE ROCKS IN THE PATH OF LIFE.

TRAIN US IN THRIFT, FOR THRIFTY HABITS BRIGHTEN OUR FUTURE. MAKE US BRAVE, BRAVE IN THE DARK AND BRAVE IN THE LIGHT, BUT SAVE US FROM BECOMING FAKERS IN BRAVERY. HELP US TO BE CLEAN, CLEAN IN THOUGHTS, IN SPEECH, AND IN DEED. AND MAY WE

REMEMBER THAT OUR BODIES ARE YOUR HOLY TEMPLES, AND THAT ANY ABUSE THEREOF IS TO TAMPER WITH YOUR GREAT PLANS. ABOVE ALL, O GOD, HELP US TO BE REVERENT TOWARD ALL THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE MADE FOR OUR ENJOYMENT WHEN WE ARE IN YOUR GREAT OUT-OF-DOORS, AMONG THE TREES, ALONG THE STREAMS, AND ON THE HILLSIDES.

MAY WE KNOW THAT IT WAS YOU WHO MADE THE WATERS TO FLOW, THE TREES TO REACH HEAVENWARD, THE MOUNTAINS TO ENDURE TO ALL AGES. IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ASK THAT YOU WILL HELP US. AND MAY WE NEVER FORGET THE OATH TO WHICH WE ALL HAVE PLEDGED OURSELVES, SO THAT THROUGH YOUR HELP WE

MAY LIVE THESE POINTS OF OUR SCOUT LAW.

AMEN.

PRAYER FOR BLESSING A SCOUT RELIGIOUS EMBLEM

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord Have Mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord, our God, you did not despise the youthfulness of your servant, David, but commanded the prophet, Samuel, to anoint him as king over your holy people, Israel.

Through the words of the holy apostle, Paul, you spoke to your servant, the holy Bishop, Timothy, saying, "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity."

Now send down your blessings upon these, your youthful servants, and grant that they may be worthy leaders in faith, not hesitating on account of their youthfulness, but witnessing to your holy gospel in the whole of their lives.

Bless, also, these medals which they will wear as a sign of their faith and commitment to the proclamation of the gospel and grant that they continue to grow in the divine likeness that they may come to full union with you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

ALL: AMEN.

PRIEST: These medals are blessed and sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit through the sprinkling of this holy water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (He sprinkles the medal(s) with holy water).

ALL: AMEN.

A POSSIBLE PARISH PRESENTATION OF SCOUTING RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

After the Homily (or after Communion) the lector calls up Scout recipients by name. Scouts are accompanied by their parents. They stand in the sanctuary.

The priest addresses the congregation in these or similar words. "If we want to be happy, we must come to know, to love, and to serve God and others. Scouts recognize that they have a duty to God for a Scout is reverent. These Scouts have made a serious effort in growing in their knowledge and service of God. In recognition of their efforts, they are being presented with the (Parvuli Dei/Ad Altare Dei) emblem."

Priest blesses emblems: "Almighty God and Father, look on us in love and mercy as we gather in your name. Bless + these _____ _____ emblems.

Help those who wear them to wear them proudly as a sign of your goodness and of their love and devotion to you. Keep these Scouts always in your care as they continue growing in wisdom, age and grace. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. AMEN"

Priest then hands medal to parent to pin on their child (or priest himself pins it on). He hands the pocket card or certificate to Scout and congratulates the Scout.

(If there is a mother's miniature pin, the priest adds: "Recognizing the role the parents play in their child's religious formation, we are happy to recognize them with this miniature pin.") Scout pins mother (or father in her absence).

APPLAUSE All return to their places.

(You may also want to consult the Counselor's Guide for AAD and Pius XII No. 3077, and Scout Ceremonies #6542).

AN OPTION FOR A PARVULI DEI PARISH PRESENTATION PRAYER SERVICE SELECTIONS FOR CUB SCOUT AWARD DAY

1. St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13. (EXCELLENCE OF THE GIFT OF LOVE)
2. St. Matthew. (THE BEATITUDES.)
3. Sirach 6: 7-14. (WISE WORDS ON MAKING FRIENDS.)
4. Romans 12: 9-21. (WORDS ON FRIENDSHIP WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY)
5. Luke 15: 11-32. (PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)

RESPONSES ~

Hymns: (Suggested)

A. They will know we are Christians by our love. B. America

(A). O Lord bless + these medals we bless in your name. May those who wear them keep faith with you and live lives of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

(B). Enrich the lives of your servants O Lord by the wearing of these medals. May the holy family protect them during their years of growth. We ask all this through the giving of your Spirit to each youth who wears these medals. AMEN.

WHAT IS A SCOUT?

He comes in many sizes, hopes and colors.

His first purpose in life seems to be to outgrow his uniform.

His deathless creed is, "Never let the Scoutmaster get away with anything."

He likes dirt, rock, snakes, sticks, trees, noise, campfires, ghost stories, men, swimming, hiking, cooking outdoors, camping, and more camping.

He doesn't care much for rainy weather, lectures, homework, washing, fires that won't burn, and Girl Scouts. He's many different things to different people.

To Mother: he's a uniform that must be washed and ironed each week, badges to be sewn on, lunches to be packed, mess kits that need to be scrubbed, and a lump in her throat when he marches by in a parade.

To Dad: he's a source of pride, a pack of trouble, a constant stream of information--a chip off the old block.

To the troop committee he's the child who has trouble with his code, can't seem to tie a clove hitch, constantly needs transportation, money and time.

To the Scoutmaster, a Scout is a headache and a heartache, a problem and a prize, a conscience and a stern taskmaster, a bundle of questions always predictable yet a constant surprise.

To the community a Scout is an idea, the picture of a youngster helping- an old lady across the street, saving lives, helping in emergencies, finding a lost child, and administering first aid.

He's hope with a hand-carved neckerchief slide.

Joy with a pack on his back.

Determination with a wet match.

Courage with a flashlight.

Our hope for tomorrow, this Scout of today.

Today we honor this young Scout who has progressed well in his training. A youngster who took the time to say I want to know more about life and God. Today we pin him with a medal that says "Well Done." Go on now to greater knowledge as the mysteries of life unfold before you. Hold on to what is good and keep a Christian Spirit with you always. We congratulate each of you sincerely and hope your days in Scouting will be happy days of growth. May you always be a credit to your church, your family, and your community, and may those who have helped these young children receive their reward in admiration and God's blessing.

Scout Interfaith Vesper Service:

Opening Song: America the Beautiful

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain.

For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!

America! America! God shed His grace on Thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

2. Life high the Cross, unfurl the flag; may they forever stand.

United in our hearts and hopes, God and our native land!

America! America! May God they love increase, Till wars are past, and earth at last may follow Christ in peace.

LEADER: Open your eyes, your hearts, your whole selves, and sense the good things we have from the Lord, our God.

ALL: BLESS THE LORD FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE!

OPENING PRAYER: (An Indian Prayer)

O' GREAT SPIRIT, Whose voice I hear in the winds, And whose breath gives life to all the world, Hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.

LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY, and make my eyes ever behold

the red and purple sunset. MAKE MY HANDS respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. MAKE ME WISE so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. LET ME LEARN the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock I SEEK STRENGTH, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy—

MAKE ME ALWAYS READY to come to you with clean hands

and straight eyes. SO WHEN LIFE FADES, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

All Respond: AMEN

RESPONSE TO READING: CANTICLE TO ALL CREATION..... by St. Francis of Assisi

Be praised, my Lord, with all your created things.

Be praised for brother sun, who brings the day and gives us light. He is fair and radiant with a shining face and he draws his meaning from on high.

Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars. In the heavens you have made them clear and precious and lovely.

Be praised, my Lord, for our brother wind, and for the air and clouds and palm days and every kind of weather by which you give your creatures nourishment.

Be praised, my Lord, for our sister water, which is very helpful and humble, precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for our brother fire, by which you light up the darkness: he is fair and mighty and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, for our mother earth, for she sustains and keeps us, and brings forth all kinds of fruits together with the grasses and bright flowers.

Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, bodily death, from which no living man can flee.

Be praised, my Lord, for all creatures. We give thanks.

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 8:7-14,20

LITANY OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Leader: Blest are you, Lord, the God of creation!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Blest are you, Lord of all nations!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Northern lights and sunny days, bless the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Twinkling stars and darkest night, bless the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Sky and clouds and heaven above, bless the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Dew and fog and glistening frost, bless the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: All you winds, bless the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: All you seasons, bless the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Tundra and deserts, fields and plains, bless the Lord!

All: Praiseworthy and Exalted Above All Forever.

Leader: Rocky mountains, all mountains and hills, bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Great lakes, Orchard lake, all lakes and ponds, bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: The Mississippi, all rivers and streams, bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Hot springs, geysers and fountains, bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Coal mines, gold and silver mines, bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: All you animals, wild and tame bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: All you birds of the air, bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: All you fish in the shallows and deep, bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: All you natural resources and wealth of this land, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: All you commerce and industry, business and trade, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Lincoln, Washington, Mount Rushmore and all monuments, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Liberty bell, church bells, school bells, and all bells, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Cities and towns, suburbs and farms, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Automobiles and trains, airplanes and ships, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Bicycles, scooters and wagons, all moving things, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Train whistles, steamboat, factory and all whistles, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Skyscrapers and hotels, houses and teepees, bungalows and apartments, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Lean-to's and tents, A-frames and houses, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Citizens of this land, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Leader: Campers in this camp, Bless the Lord!

All: Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

GOSPEL READING:

HOMILY

PRAYER OF PETITIONS; (Response: We thank you Lord)

Lord's Prayer:

Greeting of Peace:

Final Prayer:

BENEDICTION: CHAPLAINS:

May the Lord bless you and keep you

May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be

gracious to you May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

ALL: Amen.

FINAL HYMN: SING TO THE MOUNTAINS (Based on Ps. 118) Bob Dufford, S.J.

Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea Raise your voices, lift your hearts . This is the day the Lord has made. Let all the earth rejoice.

1. I will give thanks to You, my Lord. You have answered my plea. You have saved my soul from death. You are my strength and my song.

2. Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

3. This is the day that the Lord has made Let us be glad and rejoice. He has turned all death to life. Sing of the glory of God.

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Catholic Meaning of the Scout Badge



The Scout trefoil badge can be interpreted as a mark of your Spiritual brotherhood in grace under your One Heavenly Father.

- 1) The three points represent the Trinity; three Divine Persons in one God, the Giver of all graces.
- 2) The two stars represent the two natures of Christ; the divine and human. Christ true God and true man, the Mediator of all graces, guides us to heaven as the stars guide the Scout by night.
- 3) The eagle symbolizes freedom in the national emblem. In the Scout Badge it symbolizes the freedom and grace won through Christ's Redemption. Through the grace-giving Sacraments we can soar higher toward the Truth.
- 4) The shield represents our Faith. Faith protects sanctifying grace in our souls against the attacks of the world, the flesh, the devil.
- 5) The scroll shows that you should be prepared daily to gain grace by supernaturalizing your daily good turn. This means reaching through Christ to God (signified by the turned-up ends of the scroll).
- 6) The knot signifies that in gaining grace by the daily good turn you are bound closer – knotted to Christ.

(From "A Catholic Manual for Scouts", p. 97)

The badge is shaped like the north point on an old compass. The design resembles an arrowhead or a trefoil - a flower with three leaves. It is also known by the French name fleur-de-lis, which means lily or iris flower. It is the basic shape of the badges used by Scout organizations in other countries too.

- 1) The three points of the trefoil stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath.
- 2) The eagle and shield stand for freedom and a Scout's readiness to defend that freedom.
- 3) The two stars on the badge. They symbolize truth and knowledge.
- 4) The shape of the Scout badge means that a Scout can point the right way in life as truly does a compass in the field.
- 5) The scroll bearing the Scout motto (Be Prepared) is turned up at the ends as a reminder that a Scout smiles as he does his duty.
- 6) The knot at the bottom of the scroll represents the Scout slogan.

A Catholic Scouting Recognition Ceremony

Entrance Procession & Entrance Song

Recitation of Promises/Oath:

GIRL SCOUT PROMISE: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

SCOUT (BSA) OATH: On my honor I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country And to obey the Scout Law. To help other people at all times, To keep myself physically strong, Mentally awake and morally straight.

AMEICAN HERITAGE GIRLS OATH: I promise to love God, cherish my family, honor my country, and serve in my community.

Opening Welcome/Call to Worship

Opening Prayer (Bishop):

Let us pray. God our loving Father as we recognize these scouts here today who have earned their religious awards during the past year we also honor you, for you are the source of their gifts as the author of all that is best and beautiful in creation and in life. As these boys and girls gain a deeper appreciation of the world in which they live and the people they are called upon to serve through scouting, may their reverence and respect for you also grow stronger, so that they may always be prepared to follow you faithfully. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1st Reading (Deuteronomy 8:7-18)

Psalm Song

2nd Reading (Colossians 3:12-17)

Gospel

Remarks by Bishop

Blessing of Scout Awards/Certificates (by the Bishop)

Dear Lord, these awards and certificates express a commitment to faith, to scouting, and to excellence in the scouts who have earned them. We pray that these awards and certificates be an inspiration and motivation to them and a witness to others of their commitment to continue this pursuit in all that they do. May your blessing + come upon these awards and certificates as well as upon those to whom they are given, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Presentation of Youth Recognition Certificates:

Song: "Awesome God"

Presentation of Adult Awards:

Lord's Prayer

Remarks by Catholic Scouting Director/Chaplain

Closing Prayer (Bishop)

Let us pray. God our Father, we thank you for all that is wonderful in the world. We thank you for this day and for helping to inspire all these scouts who have been faithful to their troops, their packs, their families, their church and especially to you by seeking to do their best in successfully completing their scouting religious awards. As they have been faithful in these matters, may they be entrusted with even greater opportunities to be their best and live your life in the days and years ahead. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song: "Lord I Lift Your Name On High"

Pictures & Reception Downstairs in Church Hall

Eagle Scout Challenge

"The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of all character. He knows that 'A Scout is trustworthy' is the very first point of the Scout Law for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to him but because of the vital significance of the example he sets for other Scouts. Living honorably reflects credit on his home, his church, his troop, and his community. May the white of the Eagle badge remind you to always live with honor."

"The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation. His loyalty to his troop and brother Scouts makes him pitch in and carry his share of the load. All of these help to build the loyalty which means devotion to community, to country, to one's own ideals, and to God. Let the blue of the Eagle badge always inspire your loyalty."

"The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage has always been a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To a Scout, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for the right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellowman, he looks forward to each day, seeking his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of the Eagle badge remind you always of courage."

"The fourth obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout award, which has its ends turned up in a smile."

"The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped him in his climb to the Eagle. The performance of the daily Good Turn takes on a new meaning when he enters a more adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle stands as protector of the weak and helpless. He aids and comforts the unfortunate and the oppressed. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. He will always 'Be Prepared' to put forth his best.

"You are deserving of much credit in having achieved Scouting's highest award. But wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward."

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Draft Letters to Congratulate Scouts who have earned Eagle or Gold Award

Dear

Way to go! On behalf of our Bishop and the Catholic Scouting Committee of the Diocese of Manchester, it is my privilege to be able to recognize and congratulate all of you for both the time, talent, and effort as well as the blood, sweat, and tears you put in to entering this new phase of your scouting life. Becoming an Eagle Scout truly demonstrates not only what you are capable of, but also what you are made of. I hope you realize that anyone who can become an Eagle Scout has the capability to do anything that he puts his mind and heart to. Hopefully this achievement will be something that you do not rest on, but build on, as it continues to give you the confidence to pursue many other awesome things throughout your life. In becoming an Eagle Scout you also become a role model for others who will look up to you as someone who has reached the goal of what he set out to accomplish and will inspire them to do the same. As a result of doing your best in scouting, and making the most out of what scouting has to offer, you should be better prepared to make the most of all the encounters and challenges you experience in life. May you always have the confidence to make the most of what God continues to bless you with each and every day.

All the Best & God Bless,
Yours in Scouting,

Congratulations! On behalf of the Catholic Scouting Committee of the Diocese of Manchester, I am happy to be able to recognize you for the time, talent, and effort you put in to attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Becoming an Eagle Scout truly demonstrates not only what you are capable of, but also what you are made of. I hope you realize that anyone who can become an Eagle Scout has the capability to do anything that he puts his mind and heart to. Hopefully this achievement will be something that you do not rest on, but build on, as it continues to give you the confidence to pursue many other awesome things throughout your life. What you have done as an Eagle Scout I'm sure will also help to inspire others to follow, as they look up to you as someone who has reached what he set out to accomplish. As a result of doing your best in scouting, and making the most out of what scouting has to offer, may you always be prepared for whatever challenges you may experience in life. May you always have the confidence to make the most of what God blesses you with.

All the Best & God Bless,
Yours in Scouting,

Eagle Scout Resources: <http://www.eaglescout.org/finale/coh/script05.html>

Eagle Invocation

Let us pray. God our Father in recognizing this scout here today we also honor you, for you are the source of his gifts as the author of all that is best and beautiful in creation and in life.

As the eagle extends its wings to trust the power and strength of the wind to empower it on its journey, may we also open our mind, heart and lives to the power and strength of the breath of the divine spirit to move us and guide us in all we do.

We ask your blessings on Aaron, his family, and the Scouts, Leaders, friends and all who are assembled here. We pray that you would bless this celebration as we rejoice with him. May this ceremony inspire vision and to encourage others to follow the Eagle path. Amen.

Eagle Benediction

Eternal Father, touch our new Eagle Scout with your spirit on this special day and direct the course of his/her life.

May your breath fill those wings and carry him/her to his destiny.

May we all remember that becoming an Eagle Scout is not so much a destination, but a way of life.

And may you lead by humility, strength, and example.

Grant that on his honor he may always be able to do his/her best.

Let your will be a compass to direct him/her.

And may the good Lord raise you up on Eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun and,
Hold you in the palm of his hand.

May we follow the trail that leads to him.

May the Great Master Of all good Scouts Be with us Until we meet again

May we run the race at the Scout pace up the trail that leads to Him.

And now may the blessings of our heavenly Scout Master, Rest upon each of us,
and all other Scouts. Amen.

Eagle Blessing:

Eternal Father, touch our new Eagle Scouts with your spirit on this special day and direct the course of their life by a well-informed conscience.

Grant that on their honor they may do their best to do their duty to you and our great country.

Let your will be a compass to direct them and give them the grace to fulfill every duty so that they may one day share in your eternal happiness in heaven.

Bless the parents of these young men, for they were there to help you build these Eagles.

We thank you for all the blessings granted us in the past and ask for continuing help in days to come.

For health bestowed, for opportunities given, and for all the happiness we enjoy.

God, our Father, bless us and all Scouts everywhere.

We ask these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scout Benediction

May we always strive to do our best -- to do our duty -- to God -- and to our Country.
to give us the strength and courage --
each of us -- to live up to the Scout Oath -- the Scout Law --
and the high ideals of Scouting.

And he will raise you up on Eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun and,
Hold you in the palm of his hand."

And now may the blessings of our heavenly Scout Master,

Rest upon each of us, and all other Scouts.
May we follow the trail that leads to him.

May the Great Master of all good Scouts be with us until we meet again

May we run the race at the Scout pace up the trail that leads to Him.

ON PRAYING

To pray is to seek union with God. As members of the Church we are urged by God's Spirit to pray each day.

One good source of prayer is the Bible. Scripture is God's Word given to us by the Holy Spirit. It is a good habit to read part of the Bible each day, perhaps a chapter. Some of the morning and evening prayers suggested in this booklet are examples of using the Bible in our prayer.

We can pray in words, but sometimes God's Spirit asks us simply to be still and enjoy His company. We might think about this while camping out under the stars, or watching a sunset or sunrise, or while climbing or hiking. We might find God in prayer of this kind at home or in a church.

Sometimes God's Spirit gives us words to speak, sometimes He gives us joy or sorrow and our prayer flows from the deepness within us. As He urges, so should we pray.

When He wants us to use words He sometimes inspires our own words and we pray spontaneously. At other times He provides the text from our memories (as with the Our Father) or from written words. The prayers in the next two chapters are prayers provided for you. Some you can, and should, memorize; others you can read or pray whenever you like.

We should pray to God not only when we are by ourselves, but when we gather with others. Without this prayer in community our praying can be somewhat selfish and eventually it may stop. It's not enough to commune with God in nature or to listen to Him in our rooms or to kneel down in prayer at bedtime. We must join these moments of prayer with other people, the community, our family, our troop, our parish. Prayer in common gives life to our personal, private prayer.

Chief among all prayers is the Eucharist commonly called the Mass. It is the central prayer of our Christian life, and it is a prayer of community. It brings us closely into the mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. At Mass, in a special way, Jesus comes to us, and we meet Him. This makes the Eucharist the chief focal point of all that God does to make us holy in Christ, and it is the chief focal point of all that we do in worship of the Father through Christ our Lord. All other prayer, all other Christian works, flow from the Eucharist and find their fullness in it.

God's Spirit has inspired the Church to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday. Sunday is like Easter every week, for on Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

You shouldn't miss Mass on Sundays except for serious reasons, and you shouldn't allow an interfaith prayer service on Sunday to replace your going to celebrate the Eucharist.

To be a server at Mass is to exercise a special role of leadership in the Church. As a Scout you are at an age when you can give this service and you are at an age when this identification with the Church can help you understand yourself better. It is good Christianity, and good Scouting, to offer to serve at the Eucharist.

Whether your prayer is with words, or without, matters little. What does matter is that you pray, because when we pray we are united with God. It is very important that all people take time to be with God each day.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS FOR SCOUTS

A Scout's Prayer

Lord Jesus, bless all those you have called to serve the Church. Lord Jesus, how are you calling me to serve you and the Church? pause What is my vocation? Lord Jesus, help me, your servant, to know how I am called to serve. St. George, patron of Scouts, pray for us.

For a Scout.

Lord Jesus, at Nazareth You were a model of love, respect, and obedience. Grant me the grace to study Your example and to imitate You, so that I may grow in grace and in love for You. Amen.

For a Tenderfoot Scout.

O Jesus, You love all young people. As You grew You advanced in wisdom, age and grace. At the age of twelve You amazed the teachers in the Temple with Your questioning and answers. Grant that I may advance in Scouting and grow, as You did, in wisdom, age, and grace before God and all people. Amen.

For a Second Class Scout.

O Jesus, who welcomed the children and blessed them, grant that I may welcome others, bless them by my daily Good Turn and so be a source of goodness for others. Amen.

For a First Class Scout.

Lord, Jesus Christ, You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life; grant me the grace to learn the virtues of Your youth and apply the Scout Oath and Law to every action of the day. Amen.

For a Star Scout.

Dear Mary, under your guidance I want to continue my life as a Scout, I want to continue so that I can spread God's glory and devotion to you, my Mother. Amen.

For a Life Scout.

Most holy and adorable Trinity, thank You for all the favors You have given to me in Scouting. I ask additional grace so that I can continue along the trail You have marked out for me, to give You honor and glory, serve my country well, and be a source of blessing to my friends and companions. Amen.

For an Eagle Scout.

Eternal Father, direct the course of my life by a well-informed conscience. Grant that on my honor I may do my best to do my duty to You. Let Your will be a compass to direct me and give me the grace to fulfill every duty so that I may one day share in Your eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

For a Patrol Leader.

Lord, I have the responsibility of being the leader of my patrol. I ask You for help in getting to know my patrol and in being sensitive to their needs. I realize that my attitudes and my good example are more important than my skills. Help me to be fair, kind and generous to all. Grant my patrol a happy spirit; bless all our projects and help us to make constructive progress, so that our training will prepare us for service now and in the future. Amen.

Prayer for a Patrol Leader's Council.

Almighty God, we raise our minds and hearts to You at the beginning of our meeting. We ask Your blessing on all we shall do and say. May the resolutions passed be for the honor and glory of God and the good progress of Scouting. May this meeting help us toward the better fulfillment of the Scout Oath and Law, so that we and the Scouts entrusted to our care may grow in fidelity to our country and in the knowledge and love of your Son, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

For the Troop's Chaplain.

God, bless our troop chaplain whose teachings show the trail we Scouts must blaze to see God's love and mercy each day. Fill his heart with good counsel and fill our hearts with cooperation and obedience to our chaplain, for he teaches Your way to us. Amen.

Prayer for my Leaders.

Dear Lord, bless my leaders who spend a lot of time and energy to help me to grow up well. Guide them in their work; give them patience and wisdom, and reward them in this life and in the next. Amen.

Prayer at meetings.

May the Holy Spirit be always with us, especially as we meet together today. Inspire us in our deliberations, so that our resolutions may be wise and practical and that action will follow on our resolutions. Amen.

At the start of a journey.

O God, Creator of heaven and earth, protector of all who trust in You, be with us on this journey; be our guardian and guide along the way. May no harm come to us, no difficulty be too great to overcome. Bless us with good weather; may all go well with us and may we reach our destination safely. Amen.

At the opening of camp.

We thank you Lord our God for walking in our camp and making it holy. Almighty God, who for forty years desired no other dwelling place than the holy tent of the people of Israel; make Your home in the midst of Your Scouts and keep from this camp all that is harmful to soul and body. Amen.

For good weather.

Almighty God, Creator of all things, we admire the work of Your hands, and Your power in the world. We cheerfully accept whatever weather may be in store for us; we ask You to provide us with good weather for our camp, so that we may better enjoy our time and work together. Amen.

At the closing of a campfire.

As the light of this campfire fades, we thank You for the joys and blessings of this day. As the embers cool and the smoke dies down we lift up our minds and hearts to You in

gratitude for our life, our youth, our happiness, and our Scouting. Beneath the stars we shall sleep and take our rest. Lord, protect our camp this night; may we rise refreshed and ready to serve You with generosity tomorrow. Amen.

At the end of camp.

We thank You, Father, for all the graces we have received during this camp. We have lived together, sharing the joys and sorrows, the work and the play. Thank You, for the progress made, the lessons learned, the friendships that have been formed and deepened, and the kindnesses that have been shown. Striking camp and going home reminds us that we have no permanent resting place here on earth and that all our life we are on the move toward eternity. May we be prepared when one day You will call us to our eternal resting place in heaven. Amen.

In thanks for God's world.

God our Father and Creator, we thank You for the beauty of earth, sea, and sky; for the dawn and the sunset, for the months and seasons of the year. Thank You for the gift of life, for our powers of mind and body, for our youth. All these things should help us to know You and love You better. May we never abuse the gifts of creation, but rather use them all for Your honor and glory and for our salvation. Amen.

For Scouts everywhere.

God, our Father, bless us and all Scouts everywhere. We thank You for all the blessings granted to us in the past and ask for Your continuing help in days to come. We thank You for health bestowed, for opportunities given, for help received and for all the happiness we enjoy. Forgive all that has been displeasing in Your sight; deepen our sorrow for all that has gone wrong; strengthen our good intentions. May Your Holy Spirit shield and direct us in all our ways. Amen.

Scout Benediction.

May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us till we meet again.

A Scout's personal prayer.

Dear Jesus, teach me to be generous, teach me to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that I do Your will.

Jesus, I give You my heart entirely; fill it with Your grace and teach me to be like You. I will do my best to follow Your example and, with the help of Mary to grow in goodness. Jesus, You loved Your home at Nazareth, be with us in our home. Teach me to be obedient, kind, and unselfish to all who share our home. As I advance along the trail, greater things are expected of me. Help me, Jesus, always to give a good example, especially to those who are younger than myself. Whether I lead or whether I follow, help me to draw other people nearer to You, the source of all goodness and happiness.

Dear Jesus, perfect model of obedience, truthfulness, honesty, and all that a Scout should be, make me obedient, truthful, and honest. Be with me always, at home, at school, and at play. Keep me always true to You. Let me count on You as my dearest friend.

Lord Jesus, give me a thankful heart; keep me from grumbling and bad temper, especially at home. Keep me cheerful when my plans get upset. Help me to grow in love and understanding of other people. Jesus, You know how hard it is for me to do

right; help me to fight against all that is wrong. Help me always to tell the truth, even when it will get me into trouble. Amen.

Youth Prayer (by Pope John Paul II)

If I am - a young man or woman - 'I am' because of You; I am because of You, my God, my creator. 'I am' because of You, Christ, my Redeemer. And I ask of you, Blessed Mother, to be with me, that I never forget these great works of God which He has accomplished in the world and, above all, in our human family, in human history: creation, redemption, sanctification through the Holy Spirit.

And I also pray by declaring my willingness to be attentive, to 'be watchful'. In declaring this, I pray that you, Mary, may watch with me and over me, so that I will not lose my identity as a young person, my human and Christian identity. Amen.

Offering of self

Lord Jesus, I give You my hands to do Your work; I give You my feet to go Your way; I give You my eyes to see as You do; I give You my mind that You may think in me; I give You my heart that You may love in me; I give You myself that You may grow in me, so that it is You, Lord Jesus, who work and live and pray in me. Amen.

For progress.

Lord, You are interested in everything that concerns me; You are pleased when I develop my mind and body. As a child You advanced in wisdom and age before God and Your family; help me to advance in the knowledge and practice of my faith; assist me in my training and help me to make progress in my understanding of the Scout Oath and Law, so that I may please You in all things and grow in love. Amen.

For a day when nothing went well.

Lord, You know how hard it is for me to be cheerful in the face of difficulties. Everything seemed to go wrong today. You know how hard I tried, how much I failed; I offer You these failures; I unite them all to Your own trials and disappointments. With Your help I shall do better tomorrow. Amen.

For people I don't get along with.

Father, I know the fault is mine, but I find it hard to get along with some people. What they do and say often irritates me. Remind me of my own shortcomings and help me to see the good points of others. Give me the grace to see Christ, Your Son, in them, and to make a special effort to be kind to them. Amen.

For purity.

Lord, I thank You for all the powers of my body; help me to reverence and discipline them so that I may not dishonor the Spirit that dwells within me. Grant me courage and perseverance in my struggle against all that is evil. Assist me in my daily battle to have respect for myself and for others. Mary, pure Mother of God, help me when temptation comes. Amen.

For girlfriends.

Lord, thank You for our girlfriends. Help us to understand each other's problems, to show forgiveness, to show respect, and to grow in friendship. With Your help we shall grow into mature people together, unselfishly, patiently, and purely. Mary, Mother of true love, pray for us. Amen.

For the Pope.

Lord Jesus, shield with the protection of Your divine heart, our Holy Father, the Pope. Be his light, his strength, and his consolation. Amen.

For our Bishop.

Heavenly Father, Shepherd and Ruler of all the faithful, look down favorably upon our Bishop. Grant that he may serve by word and example those over whom he is sent, and so come to eternal life with the flock committed to his care. Amen.

For Priests.

O Jesus, who humbled Yourself in the Eucharist in order to be the source of life and love in the Catholic Church, and the strength of souls, we offer You our prayers, our acts, our sufferings, for Your clergy, that each day the reign of Your love may spread. Amen.

For Parents.

Heavenly Father, I pray to You for my parents. They gave me life through Your power and have fed, clothed, and protected me in spite of occasional worries and difficulties. Bless them for all the love they have shown me; grant them peace, strength and health of body and soul; unite all our family one day in Your home in heaven. Amen.

For Teachers.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, who beg that children come to You, increase in our teachers Your spirit of knowledge, understanding, and love. Not content with having given us Your example, You have given us teachers to help us learn the way to heaven. Bless them in truth. Increase in them, Faith, Hope, and Love. Grant that they may teach in such a way as to receive that reward promised to those who teach the truth. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations.

God our Father, in baptism You called me by name, and made me a member of Your people, the Church. I praise You for Your goodness. I thank You for Your gifts. Father, bless Your Church with love. Raise up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and from our friends who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, and deacons. Send Your Spirit to guide and strengthen me that I may serve Your people following the example of Your son, Jesus Christ, in whose name I offer this prayer. Amen.

Prayer for Generosity

Dear Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to work and not to seek rest; to labor and not to seek reward, except that of knowing that I do Your will, O God. Amen.

Prayer for Serenity

Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Prayer for those who have been abused.

Lord God, protector of the weak, look upon those who suffer from abuse from those we have been taught to trust. We ask where You are when these evils rage about us, for we do not understand why people must suffer this way. We have been taught to trust You, but we find our faith shaken. We ask for signs of Your care and concern for us in the name of Jesus Your Son. Amen.

Prayer of Pentecost.

May the Holy Church of God reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit in the teaching of her shepherds and the charity of her members. Grant that Scout communities everywhere may become, by their observance of the Scout Oath and Law, temples of the living God. Amen.

For the sick.

Lord, thank You for our good health. We pray for all those who are ill, and we ask You to help them bear their sickness with patience and courage. Make them well again, so that they may take up a full and active life once more in the community. We ask You, Father, to ease the pain and burden of all who are sick -of all those who are incurable - of all those who are neglected and uncared for. We ask You especially to help those who do not believe in You and who can see no meaning in their suffering. Amen.

Prayer for Families.

Lord, God, You have blessed all families through the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; grant that Your love may warm our families and keep us together in peace, joy and harmony so that strife and hatred may yield to faithfulness, unity, and charity. Amen.

Prayer for Harmony (Prayer of St. Francis).

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

For the dead.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer to St. George.

St. George, soldier, Patron of Scouting, you fought the good fight and won the victory of your salvation. Help us in our struggle against sin and in our fight for virtue. Under your protection may we make progress in Scouting, live and die as soldiers of Christ and attain for ourselves a crown of glory in heaven. Amen.

Byzantine Hymn to St. George. (Tropat) You fought the good fight with faith, O Martyr of Christ, George. You exposed the perversion of the persecutors and offered an acceptable sacrifice to God. Therefore, you also received a crown of victory and through your prayers, O holy one, obtained the forgiveness of sins for all.

Byzantine Hymn to St. George. (Kontak)

Reared by God, you were a noble sower of piety, harvesting sheaves of virtue. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy; and having honorably fought and given your blood, you were received by Christ. Through your prayers, O holy one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for all.

Prayer to St. Isaac Jogues.

St. Isaac Jogues, your martyrdom serves as an example to all Americans of heroic virtue to further our faith. Help us to imitate your determination not to waver from upholding God's kingdom on earth. Amen.

Prayer to St. Elizabeth Anne Seton

St. Elizabeth Anne Seton, God blessed you with many gifts. You were a faithful wife, a wise mother, a good teacher. You spent your life in service to others. By your example help us to learn how to express our love for God by loving each other. Amen.

Prayer to St. John Neumann, Bishop Of Philadelphia.

St. John, you labored hard for the gospel in the United States. Your ministry strengthened others in the Christian faith. Help us to be strong in faith and loyal to God. Amen.

Prayer to St. Kateri Tekawitha, Lily of the Mohawks.

This maiden Mohawk, was an orphan and raised by her pagan uncle, the chief of the village. She was made fun of for wanting to be Christian and died on April 17, 1680, at the age of 24. She was beatified in 1980. Her feast day is July 14th.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, you were strong in faith and loyal to God and the Church, despite many difficulties. Pray for us to God that we may be strong and loyal to the true and good, especially when our friends and acquaintances make fun of us or laugh at us. Help us not to let others lead us away from God. Amen.

Prayer to our Patron Saint.

O heavenly Patron, in whose name I glory, pray ever to God for me in virtue, guard me in the conflict, that I may vanquish the evil one and attain everlasting life. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

Morning Offering

O Jesus, I offer You today my prayers, works, joys, sorrows, and suffering for the praise of Your Holy Name, in reparation for sin, for the conversion of sinners, and the final union of all Christians with You in heaven. Amen.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, My Father, thank You for bringing me to the beginning of a new day; thank You for the peace and rest of the night that is past. Each day gives me many opportunities of expressing my love for You. All my senses, all my talents come from You; by Your power and presence help me to use them well today, doing everything for Your honor. Preserve me from all that is evil, so that all I think and do and say may be pleasing to You. Mary, my Mother, protect me and ask your Son for His constant help and grace.

(L = Leader; A = All else; R = Reader here and elsewhere.)

L. Let us rise to greet the Lord Jesus.

A. And proclaim the goodness of the Lord.

L. The Lord is clothed in beauty.

A. The Lord is clothed in beauty.

L. The Lord is king, robed in majesty, The Lord is robed in power, He wears it like a belt.

A. The Lord is clothed in power.

L. You have made the world firm, unshakable; Your throne has stood since then, You existed from the first, O Lord.

A. The Lord is clothed in beauty.

L. Lord, the rivers raise, the rivers raise their voices, the rivers raise their thunders.

A. The Lord is clothed in beauty. L. Greater than the voice of the ocean, transcending the waves of the sea, the Lord reigns transcendent in the heights.

A. The Lord is clothed in beauty.

L. Your decrees will never alter; holiness will distinguish Your house, Lord, for ever.

A. The Lord is clothed in beauty.

L. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

A. The Lord is clothed in beauty.

R. The Lord says this: with heaven my throne and earth my footstool, what place could you make for my rest? All of this was made by my hand and all of this is mine - it is the Lord who speaks. But my eyes are drawn to the one of humbled and contrite spirit, who trembles at my word.

L. Let us pray, pause Almighty God You live for ever; evening, morning, and midday we pray to You. Let not our thoughts be about darkness, but bring us to Jesus Christ, for He is the true light who lives and reigns with You forever.

A. Amen.

A. The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord look upon us with kindness; the Lord smile upon us and give us peace. Amen.

L. Let us rise to greet the Lord and celebrate His resurrection.

A. And proclaim the goodness of the Lord.

L. Praise the Lord, alleluia!

A. Praise the Lord, alleluia!

L. All creation, praise the Lord; praise Him forever. Angels of the Lord, praise Him; Sun, moon, stars, praise the Lord; praise Him all the powers of heaven;

A. Praise the Lord; alleluia!

L. Thunderstorms and dew, praise the Lord; fire and heat, cold and ice, praise the Lord; light and darkness, night and day, praise the Lord.

A. Praise the Lord, alleluia!

L. Let the earth praise the Lord. Mountains and hills, animals and plants, praise the Lord. Springs, rivers, and seas, birds of heaven and fishes of the sea, praise the Lord.

A. Praise the Lord, alleluia!

L. Let God's chosen people praise the Lord; priests and ministers, saints of the Lord, praise the Lord; let us on earth praise the Lord.

A. Praise the Lord, alleluia!

L. Let us praise the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; Praised be the Lord throughout His wonderful creation.

A. Praise the Lord, alleluia!

R. Let us remember to praise and thank the Lord for all He has done for us.

L. Let us pray, praise Lord, whose resurrection we rise this morning to celebrate; guide us with Your light throughout the day, let your brightness rest upon us, for You live and reign for ever and ever.

A. Amen.

L. May the Lord give us His blessing and keep us from evil; may He lead us to His everlasting Life.

A. Amen.

MEAL PRAYERS

Morning Graces

- Gracious Giver of all that is good, we thank You for rest and food. Grant that all we do or say, may in Your service be this day.

- Our Father, we thank You for this new day and for Your loving care. Help us to be mindful of You in these happy sunlit hours.
- Heavenly Father, we thank You for your care through the night and for this new day. Guide us by Your Spirit, and at the close of this day, may we not be ashamed to stand before You.

Noon Graces

- Father, for this noonday meal, we would speak the praise we feel. Health and strength we have from Thee; help us, Lord to faithful be.
- Heavenly Father, help us to see the beautiful things in earth and sky which are tokens of Your love. Walk with us in the days we spend together here. May the food we eat and all Your blessings help us to better serve you and our brothers and sisters.
- Our Father in Heaven, as the day leads on, let us not forget our obligation to honor and serve You. We thank You for these gifts of Your bounty. Bless them to our use and our lives to Your service.

Evening Graces

- Tireless Guardian on our way, You have kept us well this day. While we thank You we request care, continued pardon, and rest.
- Heavenly Father, we thank You for this day and for Your presence in it. Forgive us if we have not made it a better day and help us to be tomorrow what we have failed to be today.
- Our Father, God, we thank You for this evening meal. As You have been mindful of us, so help us to be mindful of You, that we may know and do Your will.

Graces suitable for any meal

- For health and strength and daily food, we give You thanks, O Lord.
- For this and all Your mercies Lord, make us ever grateful.
- We thank You, Heavenly Father, for this food. Bless us as we partake of it that it may strengthen us for Your service.
- Be present at our table Lord. Be here and everywhere adored, these mercies bless and grant that we may ever love and serve but Thee.

Philmont Grace

For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank Thee, O Lord. Amen.

EVENING PRAYERS

In the evening's quiet, before going to bed for the night, I come before you, Father, to offer You the day that is past. Not everything has been right and I want to say that I am sorry for the misuse of my time and opportunities to please You. I ask Your

forgiveness for all that I have neglected to do or did badly out of laziness or malice. Give Your blessing to all those who are dear to me. Father, watch over me during this night, that I may sleep peacefully and wake ready to serve You better tomorrow. Mother of God, pray for me.

A suggested service for evening prayer

(L = Leader; A = All else; R = Reader here and elsewhere.)

L. Let us remind ourselves of God's presence at the end of this day. pause Let us offer thanks to God for His protection and goodness and for all the beauties of His world, pause Now, let us recall our behavior today and remember the faults which may have put at risk our relationship with God, our Father...

pause for a moment of silence and personal prayer

Let us ask Mary, our Mother, to pray for us...

A. Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail our life, our sweetness and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet, Virgin Mary.

L. Pray for us, most holy Mother of God.

A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L. All powerful, eternal God, by the

cooperation of the Holy Spirit, You made ready the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother, Mary, to be a fit dwelling place for Your Son. As we celebrate her memory with joy, grant that through her motherly intercession we may be preserved from evil in this world and from eternal death. Through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen

L. May the Lord bless us and keep us; may the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; may the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, this night and always.

A. Amen

A SHORT ORDER OF WORSHIP—I

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made All:

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN (Select a hymn)

PRAYER (in unison) God, our Father, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat and for the comforts we enjoy. Help us to love others more, to be concerned with the problems of our day, and to understand Your will in our actions. Grant us the strength to live wisely and well, to be worthy users of Your creation and ready and willing workers for the causes of goodness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 10:22-25 (Today's English Version [TEV])

"So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience and with bodies washed with clean water. Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep His promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer."

MEDITATION/REFLECTION

You may read the meditation for this day from pages 15-20 or take a few moments for personal silent reflection. Some may choose to share their reflections with the crew.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Spontaneous prayer from participants)

HYMN (Select a hymn)

BLESSING Let us go forth with God's blessing to serve Him in joy and gladness.

AN ORDER OF WORSHIP—II

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

KYRIE

Leader: Lord, have mercy. All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ, have mercy. All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy. All: Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest And peace to His people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,

We worship You, we give You thanks,

We praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world.

Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father.

Receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

God our Father, help us to remember that Christ our Savior lives with You in glory and that He promised to remain with us until the end of time. We ask You to hear our

prayers and grant our needs through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

The Walk to Emmaus

On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus Himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw Him, but somehow did not recognize Him. Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?" They stood still, with sad faces. One of them, named Cleopas, asked Him, "Are You the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?" "What things?" He asked. "The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything He said and did. Our chief priests and rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and He was crucified. And we had hoped that He would be the one who was going to set Israel free! Besides all that, this is now the third day since it happened. Some of the women of our group surprised us; they went at dawn to the tomb, but could not find His body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that He is alive. Some of our group went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they did not see Him."

Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter His glory?" And Jesus explained to them what was said about Himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets. As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther; but they held Him back, saying, "Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark." So He went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, but He disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others and said, "The Lord is risen indeed!" (Luke 24: 13-34, TEV)

RESPONSORY (Psalm 100, Revised Standard Version [RSV])

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

Group One: Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into His presence with singing!

Group Two: Know that the Lord is God!

It is He that made us, and we are His; We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Group One: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His name!

Group Two: For the Lord is good;

His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, and will be forever. Amen.

MEDITATION

You may choose to read the meditation for this day or another of your choice. Or you may choose to take a few moments for personal, silent reflection. Some may choose to share their reflections with the crew.

HYMN

Select a hymn

A TRAIL LITANY

Leader: For silver on the sage, for starlit skies above, For aspen covered hills, for the country that I love,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: For wind in whispering pines, for eagles soaring high,
For purple mountains rising against an azure sky,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: For friends who walk with me along the awesome trail,
For those who share their care for me, especially when I fail,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: O Jesus, Who walked the trail with the Emmaus two,
Join us on our mountain trek the whole day through.

All: O Lord, abide with us.

Leader: As the sun rises over the tall lonesome pine, May your care and love for us in
all our actions shine.

All: O Lord, walk with us along the trail. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

PHILMONT DAILY MEDITATIONS

DAY ONE

SETTING DIRECTIONS

"Lord, make me know Your ways. Lord, teach me Your paths." (Psalm 25:4, The Psalms: A New Translation]

To hike successfully at Philmont requires much preparation. Physical readiness, adequate planning in terms of equipment, food, clothing, etc., and a planning of itinerary are all ways to set a direction for your crew. Mental and spiritual preparation are no less important. The Philmont wilderness is a place where God can speak to you in new and exciting ways. Just as you prepare for a trek by tapping the resources of advisers, rangers, and those who have gone before you, so too, do you prepare for experiences of God on this trek by tapping the resources of God's Word. We do daily prayer and reflection which bring us into deeper contact with the Word of God: Jesus. He is your Guide, your Friend, your Strength, your Counselor on this journey. Jesus shows us the way and helps us conquer all fears!

For reflection: How are you preparing yourself to make this trek a journey with the Lord? What can you do to keep yourself aware of Jesus' continuing presence on the trail?

Lead me in Your truth, O Lord and teach me! You are the God of my salvation.

DAY TWO

STARLIT SKIES ABOVE

"When I look at the sky, which You have made, at the moon and the stars which You set in their places— What is man, that You think of him, Mere man, that You care for him?" (Psalm 8:3-4, TEV)

How beautiful are the Philmont nights! The stars are so plentiful; they seem so close that you feel you can almost touch them. The silence and beauty of the night help us to realize the quiet power and majesty of God. Yet, this God loves each of us personally and intimately, and the greatest and most beautiful part of His creation lies not in the heavens, but right here on earth. You are the crowning glory of His creative hands—you are the reason for all creation.

For reflection: How do you see yourself as made in the image and likeness of God? What can you do to deepen respect for the beauty and glory of God alive in you?

Lord, thank you for life and beauty and the bounty of your creation.

DAY THREE

WINDS IN WHISPERING PINES

"He (the Lord) traveled on the wings of the wind." (II Samuel 22:11 and Psalm 18:10, TEV)

These words are a line from a song that King David sang to his Lord. We can often hear the wind moving through the pines and playing a soft melody. It is almost as if the trees were whispering to one another or to us below. Or as if God were playing a lullaby for us on His wind instrument.

The Lord touches all of His creation. He caresses the pines with His wind. He touches us with His love and forgiveness.

The "whispering pines" can become the sound in nature that reminds us of St. Paul's gentle words, "Be kind and tenderhearted to one another and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ." (Ephesians 4:32, TEV) He who lives by forgiving and being forgiven lives in peace.

For reflection: Is there one whom you want to ask for forgiveness? Is there one whom you feel the need to forgive? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

Dear Father, where I have sinned, forgive me, and where I am afraid, quiet my fears. Amen.

DAY FOUR

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

"If God is for us, who can be against us? Who then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger? For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His love . . . there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 8:31, 35, 38-39, TEV)

The Philmont trek involves climbing mountains and hills; crossing rivers and streams; and dealing with weather, fatigue, and unexpected circumstances and challenges. At times, it may seem that the difficulties are insurmountable, the hardships unbearable. However, it often happens that the greatest hardships in life become our greatest opportunities for growth. We have to realize that we are not alone—we have each other and the abiding presence and help of our God Who will guide us and give us strength. Nothing can separate us from His love that comes to us through Jesus. He invites us to trust in him and to realize that we walk with him.

For reflection: Is there some way that you can help another realize the presence of Jesus on this trek? Can Jesus bring us strength through each other?

Lord, help me to be cheerful in the face of difficulties. With your help I will conquer all obstacles!

DAY FIVE

EAGLES SOARING HIGH

"Even those who are young grow weak; young men can fall exhausted. But those who trust in the Lord will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak."

(Isaiah 40:31, TEV)

Have you seen an eagle on the trail yet? We can learn from eagles and from so much in nature.

One day a fisherman watched as a mother eagle dropped a young eaglet into the canyon below. The eaglet plummeted and fluttered. It appeared that it was about to be dashed to its death on the rocks below, when out of the sky plunged the father eagle and caught his offspring on his broad back. Then he flew up high and dropped the young one again. This time the mother caught the little one on her back. The routine was repeated until the little eagle learned to fly.

God gives us opportunities to try our wings so that we might learn to fly on our own. Certainly the Philmont experience is one of these learning and growing opportunities. Yet God always watches over us and spreads His wings of protection beneath us.

God said to the Israelites on their wilderness trek, "I bore you on eagles' wings." Christ Who gave His life for us on the cross has promised, "I will be with you always." So lift up your head and rejoice!

For reflection: What on the trail has caused you a fearful moment? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or crew member).

O Lord, when I grow weary, lift me up on your wings. Give me the courage and strength I need for tomorrow. Amen.

DAY SIX

FOR FOOD, FOR RAIMENT

"Having food and raiment, let us therewith be content." (I Timothy 6:8, King James Version [KJV])

Another translation of Scripture translates this verse: "If we have food and clothes, that should be enough for us." (TEV)

Most of us at Philmont have become accustomed to having much more than food and clothes. There is nothing wrong with wealth. Some of the Biblical heroes like Abraham and David were very wealthy. Our heavenly Father in His mercy not only forgives us all our sins through Jesus' death at Calvary, He also provides us with all that we need to support our bodily life.

We who have been so richly blessed may choose in thanksgiving to share our wealth with others.

Dr. William Foege, who helped eradicate smallpox from the world, recently challenged us to work together to eradicate hunger as well.

If we include the hungry in the "us" when we pray, "give us this day our daily bread," then we are also asking God to involve us in feeding the hungry. What a great commission this becomes: to join God in feeding the hungry and clothing the naked! Jesus promises us "Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for Me."

(Matthew 25:40, TEV)

For reflection: In what way could you see yourself become a part of the challenge to feed the hungry? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or crew member).

For food, for raiment ... we thank Thee, O Lord.

DAY SEVEN

FOR LIFE, FOR OPPORTUNITY

"I have come in order that you might have life in all its fullness." (John 10:10b, TEV)
How precious is the gift of life! At Philmont we can come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of its importance. How necessary to respect it in all its forms. We can take so much for granted—the air we breathe, the water we drink, the health we enjoy, the beauty of the earth. God gives us life to enjoy and he gives us opportunity to grow, to achieve, to find joy and to find happiness. Through Jesus, God gives us the ultimate opportunity—the path to eternal life—life with God and each other forever.

For reflection: How can I show greater respect for life—my own, others, nature?
For life, for opportunity, we thank Thee, O Lord.

DAY EIGHT

FOR FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

"The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are My friends if you do what I command you ... I call you friends . . . You did not choose Me; I chose you." (John 15: 13-16, TEV)

One day a kindergarten teacher asked her class, "What is a friend? " One little boy answered, "A friend is someone who knows you and still likes you." If he is right, then "what a friend we have in Jesus!"

Jesus knows our most secret sins and still He loves us. When He prayed on the cross, "Father, forgive them . . . ," He was praying also for you and me. "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." Jesus promised us life with Him forever. He is a real friend.

Christ also gives us friends on the trail. They are God's gifts to us and through them God seeks to care for us and love us. They are not perfect, but like us, through Christ's death and resurrection, they live forgiven. We thank God for good friends.

For reflection: Who are some of the people who have been friends to you on the trail? Thank God for them by name and thank those who have shown you acts of friendship. (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or crew member.)

For friendship and fellowship, we thank Thee, O Lord. Amen.

DAY NINE

COUNTRY THAT I LOVE

"And you will live a long time in the rich and fertile land that the Lord promised to give your ancestors and their descendants . . . The land that you are about to enter is a land of mountains and valleys, a land watered by rain. The Lord, your God takes care of this land and watches over it throughout the year."

(Deuteronomy 11:9, 11-12, TEV)

Philmont does something to people—it is not something that can be put into words easily. Something "gets into your blood." A love for the land, the atmosphere, the people—all these work together in you to make Philmont an experience that you can never forget. The base of that experience is the presence of God—an awareness that all we have and all we offer to others comes from God. The brotherhood that we share as God's children and as Scouts brings us to a sense of peace, a feeling that in some strange way, everything is all right. In that sense, we can call Philmont a "Scouting Paradise," a glimpse of that "Paradise" all of us are called to and will one day experience. It can be likened to the Mountaintop experience that the Apostles felt when Jesus was transfigured before them; when He gave them a glimpse of the beauty of God's presence. The scriptures say "His face was shining like the sun and His clothes were dazzling white."

(Matthew 17:2, TEV)

For reflection: How can your own mountain top experience help you to live in the valleys of your life?

Lord, it is good for us to be here.

DAY TEN

TRAIL'S END

"I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith."

(II Timothy 4:7, TEV)

St. Paul at the end of his ministry wrote these words to his young friend Timothy. You have come to the end of your trek at Philmont. Do you feel good about having completed your trek? What do you think was one of your biggest accomplishments these past 10 days? (You may share your thoughts with a friend or crew member.)

Not all of your accomplishments have been physical. You have interacted with God's nature and God's people. There has been frustration and fun. Intermingled with this has been your reflection on God's love and care for you in Christ Jesus, especially in His death and resurrection in your behalf. Through it all, you have grown spiritually. You have run the race and kept the Faith.

You have come to a better understanding of yourself and of your fellow crew members. You have grown in your appreciation of God's gifts to you in nature, in friends, and in your Savior.

Now it is time to look homeward to friends and family. You have matured. You are now an even greater and finer gift to your family and friends. God be praised for it all!

For reflection: What would you like to give or do for your family and friends when you get home? (You may share your thoughts with a friend or crew member.)

Lord, thank You for every gift that You gave me these past days. As I go home, make me a special gift to my family and friends. Amen.

ALL-FAITHS SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eternal God, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your glory.

OPENING SONG

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.
O beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 8:3-9

(New Jerusalem Bible)

Read responsively.

L = Leader C = Crew

L: O God, our God, when I look at your heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars which you created—who are we that you should be mindful of us, that you should care for us?

C: You have made us little less than the gods and crowned us with glory and honor. You have given us rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under our feet; all sheep and oxen, yes, and the beasts of the field; the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea, and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

All: God, our God, how glorious is your name over all the earth!

MEDITATION AND SHARING

Take a few moments now for personal silent reflection about how God works in creation and in your personal life. You may wish to share these reflections with your crew.

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the big, round world in His hands, He's got the wide world in His hands; He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the sun and the moon in His hands, He's got the wind and the rain in His hands; He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the little bitty baby in His hands, He's got the little bitty baby in His hands, He's got the little bitty baby in His hands; He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands, He's got you and me, sister, in His hands, He's got you and me, brother, in His hands; He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands, He's got everybody here in His hands, He's got everybody here in His hands; He's got the whole world in His hands.

(Repeat verse one)

1. PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Leader: Let us pray together.

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask Your blessing upon our country, on the leaders of our nation, and on all who exercise rightful authority in our community.

Unite the inhabitants of our country, whatever their origin and creed, into a bond of true friendship, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard our ideals and institutions of freedom.

May this land under Your Providence be an instrument for peace throughout the world.

AMEN

OR

2. PRAYER OF THANKS

Leader: Let us pray together.

We thank You, O God, for this day, for morning sun and evening star; for flowering of trees and flowing of streams, for life-giving rains and cooling breeze; for the earth's patient turning, the changing of the seasons, the cycle of growth and decay, of life and death. When our eyes behold the beauty and grandeur of your world, we see the wisdom, power and goodness of its Creator. We awake and, behold! It's a great day!

AMEN

OR

3. PHILMONT PRAYER

(Tune: U.S. Navy Hymn)

Almighty God of hill and plain, O'er which we hike in sun and rain, On mountain top and valley low, Protect us Lord where'er we go. And from our grateful hearts we'll raise Glad hymns of thankfulness and praise.

CLOSING SONG

1. MORNING HAS BROKEN

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning! Born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day.

OR

2. DAY IS DONE

Day is done, Gone the sun, From the lake,

From the hills, From the sky,

All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.

Thanks and praise, For our days
'Neath the sun, 'Neath the stars, 'Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

BENEDICTION

1. THE FOUR WINDS BLESSING

O Great Spirit, Bless us from the north with the cool winds that calm our passions. Bless us from the east with the winds that bring and renew life. Bless us from the south with the warm wet winds that invite growth. Bless us from the west with the winds that lead us through this life to the next. Fill the sky so that we might sense your presence. And bless us from mother earth from which we've come and to whom we shall return.

OR

May God bless us and protect us;
May God show us favor and be gracious to us;
May God show us kindness and grant us peace.
AMEN

HYMNS

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a soul like me.

I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun.

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

O God, our help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, Our Shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal Home.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone; Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
That thought the wrong seems oft so strong.
God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world,
The battle is not done,
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,

And earth and heav'n be one. Amen.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise
arise!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land by
everyone.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord, and truth eternal is thy
word;

Thy name shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall
rise and set no more.

DO LORD

1. I've got a home in glory land that outshines the sun. (repeat 2 times) Way beyond
the blue.

2. I took Jesus as my Savior, you can take Him too (repeat 2 times) Way beyond the
blue.

3. I've got a home in a great new land that outshines the sun (repeat 2 times) Way
beyond the blue.

Chorus:

Do Lord, Oh do Lord, O do remember me. (repeat 2 times) Way beyond the blue.

SHALOM

Shalom, my friends, Shalom, my friends, Shalom, Shalom.

Shalom, Shalom.

His peace be with you, His peace be with you;

Shalom, Shalom.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

1. On Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have
made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe
displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander And hear the birds sing sweetly
in the trees, When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook and
feel the gentle breeze.

3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it
in; That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall
fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim, my God how
great Thou art!

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.

Chorus

Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

2. I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps;

They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;

I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps; His day is marching on.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, land that I love

Stand beside her, and guide her

Through the night with the light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies, To the oceans, white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home, God bless America, my home sweet home.

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

WHAT A FRIEND

What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

KUM BA YAH

Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

Someone's singing, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's singing, Lord, Kum ba yah!

Someone's singing, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

KUM BA YAH Scout Law Version

A Scout is trustworthy, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is loyal, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is helpful, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

A Scout is friendly, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is courteous, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is kind, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

A Scout is obedient, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is cheerful, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is thrifty, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

A Scout is brave, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is clean, Lord, Kum ba yah! A Scout is reverent, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah.

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hill and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, thru out the heavens There shone a holy light;

(Chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth;

(Chorus)

Down in a lowly manger Our humble Christ was born, And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn;

(Chorus)

COME, COME YE SAINTS

Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear,

But with joy wend your way;

Tho' hard to you this journey may appear,

Grace shall be as your day.

Tis better far for us to strive,

Our useless cares from us to drive;

Do this, and joy your hearts will swell—

All is well! All is well!

Why should we mourn, or think our lot is hard?

Tis not so; All is right!

Why should we think to earn a great reward,

If we now shun the fight?

Gird up your loins, fresh courage take,

Our God will never us forsake

And soon we'll have this truth to tell—

All is well! All is well!

HOW GREAT THE WISDOM AND THE LOVE

How great the wisdom and the love That filled the courts on high And sent the Savior from above To suffer, bleed, and die!

He marked the path and led the way, And every point defines To light and life and endless day Where God's full presence shines.

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is His new creation by water and the word:

From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth, Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth; One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is
won:

O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with
thee. Amen.



CHAPLAIN RESOURCES

For Various Scouting Related Religious Events





A Way to Christian Leadership

Catch the Scouting Spirit



Fall 1988

Dear Chaplains,

In our era, there is much talk about "quality time". This term is usually employed by working parents to describe the attempt to make the most of their limited time with their children.

The time spent with Scouts by the Chaplain, ordained or unordained, also should be "quality time". As you, the Chaplain attempt to foster the spirit of reverence, you must capitalize on the opportunities presented.

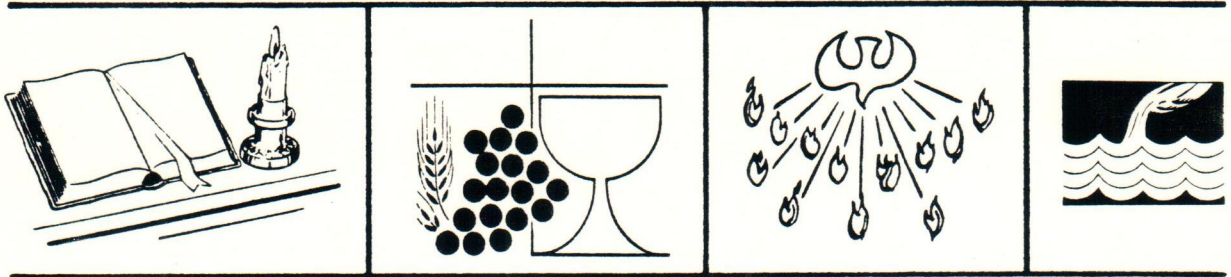
The following collection of resources has been undertaken as a project of the Chaplains' Committee of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to assist the Chaplain in the youth ministry of Scouting. These ideas and suggestions are in no way intended to stifle anyone's creativity, but rather to serve as a springboard for the Chaplain's serving as a catalyst to good religious experiences through the Scouting program. These are merely suggestions which could make the Chaplain's job easier and more rewarding. They may be adapted, modified, even improved.

In Scouting,

Rev. Leo LeBlanc
Chairman of the Chaplain's Committee

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THE ENVIRONMENT FOR WORSHIP

Communal prayer needs strong visual images if it is to accomplish its task of faith-formation. Along with the language of ritual, images belong to worship.

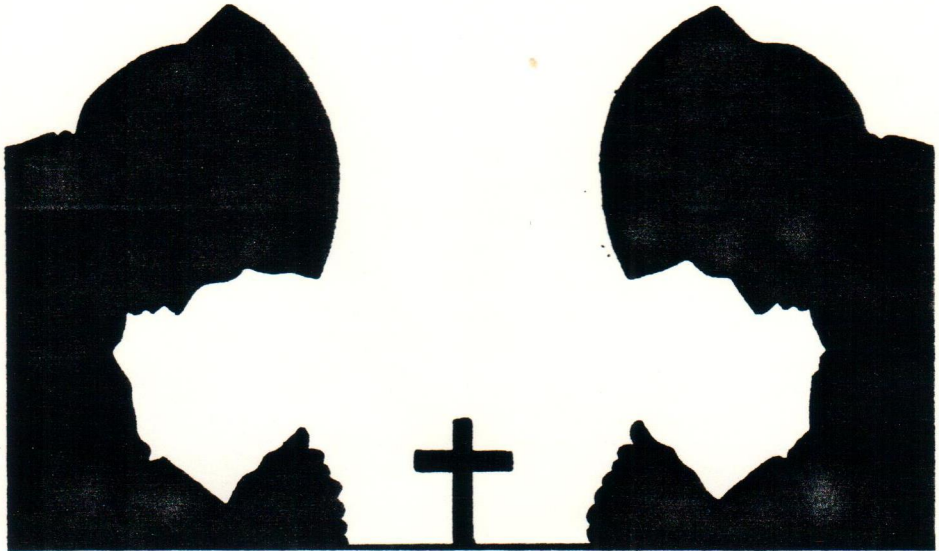
Whenever we gather for prayer, we must be concerned with setting a mood and creating an atmosphere by using signs, symbols, and visuals. This is true whether the service is indoors or out of doors. The most common elements of creation, water, oil, fire, darkness, light, together with the Word of God, can aid and enhance worship, engaging and moving the community to prayer.

Candles, a cross, vesture for the celebrant, an altar covering, the Scout emblem, a book stand, banners, etc. can do much in setting a tone. So too music, be it accompanied or a capella. Booklets, printed programs, and song books also can be useful aids to worship. Above all, involve the participants as much as possible.

Each service will have its own unique character, spirit, and mood. If it is done well, then it cannot fail to touch upon the faith life of all who assemble for prayer.



(Barbara Comer)



MORNING PRAYER SERVICE



MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: A SCOUT IS LOYAL

CALL TO WORSHIP (LEADER)

Leader: We come together at the beginning of this day to pray for God's guidance and direction for His care and protection.

ALL: A) FOR SUNSHINE AND DAYTIME, WE THANK YOU, GOD OF ALL TIME.

OR:

B) IN SUNSHINE AND DAYTIME LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE, O LORD.

Leader: And the Word became Flesh and came to live among us.
And we saw His glory.

ALL: RESPONSE A OR B.

Leader: And from the glory of the Word of God, the Son of the Father, we have all received.

ALL: RESPONSE A OR B.

Leader: Our God has visited us and has saved us; He gives us the light to guide us in His Way.

ALL: RESPONSE A OR B.

Leader: From the rising of the sun and from this time on, let us thank the Lord, for He is Good.

ALL: RESPONSE A OR B.

Leader: Let us listen to the Word of the Lord.

READING: (BY ONE OF THE SCOUTS/SCOUTERS) MATTHEW 6:24-33

SCOUT/SCOUTER: A reading from the gospel according to Matthew

.....

ALL: PRAISE BE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

SILENT REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: O Lord, keep us loyal to you today.

ALL: WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, OUR GOD.

Leader: O Lord, keep us loyal to our Scout leaders, to our parents, and to those who are responsible for us.

ALL: WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, OUR GOD.

Leader: O Lord, keep us loyal to our Scout Oath this day.

ALL: WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, OUR GOD.

Leader: O Lord, keep us loyal to the truth, and to the right and the good.

ALL: WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, OUR GOD.

Leader: O Lord, keep us loyal to one another today.

ALL: WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, OUR GOD.

Leader: O Lord, help us to serve you today. May all that we say and do be a sign of our decisions to live for you. Grant that we will end this day knowing that we have been loyal to you. We ask this of you, who live among us forever and ever. AMEN.

CLOSING SONG: (SUNG BY ALL) "DAY BY DAY" (GODSPELL)

(Rev. John Sax)

MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS

CALL TO WORSHIP (LEADER)

Leader: We say hello to the morning and to this day. The sun has come, bringing light to this beautiful land and showing the goodness of God's creation which surrounds us. We begin our Morning Service with the singing of "AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL".



ALL SING: Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties
Above the fruited plain,
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown'd thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

Leader: God has filled this day and our lives with His love. He has shown us His friendship in giving us His Son and in giving us this world and one another. As we sign ourselves in His Name, let us give glory and praise to our God.

ALL: (WHILE MAKING SIGN OF CROSS)
GLORY BE TO THE FATHER,
AND TO THE SON,
AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING,
IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE,
WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER (LEADER) Let us pray. (PAUSE)

Lord Jesus, you called us your friends and laid down your life for us. Help us to be truly thankful for your friendship; and may we remember that the way to have a friend is to be a friend. During this day, make us more aware of the blessings of our friends, and make us more friendly, thoughtful, and courteous towards one another.

We ask this of you, for you are living among us and are sharing your life with us, forever and ever.

ALL: AMEN.

READING: (BY ONE OF THE SCOUTS/SCOUTERS)

EPHESIANS 4:1 - 6 and 25 - 32

SCOUT/SCOUTERS: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians . . .
This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

RESPONSE

Leader: How good it is, where brothers and sisters live as one.

ALL: HOW GOOD IT IS, WHERE BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE AS ONE.

Leader: A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one, finds a treasure.

ALL: HOW GOOD IT IS, WHERE BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE AS ONE.

Leader: A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth.

ALL: HOW GOOD IT IS, WHERE BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE AS ONE.

Leader: A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy; a true friend is born for the time of stress.

ALL: HOW GOOD IT IS, WHERE BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE AS ONE.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: As children of God and as brothers and sisters to Jesus, let us now pray as one to the Father, in the words that Jesus has given us.

ALL: OUR FATHER....
AMEN.

DISMISSAL (AN ADULT LEADER)

Let us go about this day's work and play as brothers and sisters and as friends. May we be kind and polite to all, eager to be courteous, and ready to lend a helping hand. Let us go in the spirit of Scouting and in the name of Jesus, our brother and friend. Amen.

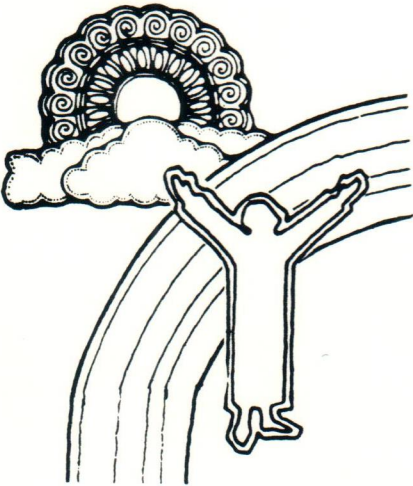
ALL: AMEN.

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG:

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS
BY Sebastian Temple

Franciscan Communications Center
1229 S. Santee St.
Los Angeles, CA 90015 c 1967

(Rev. John Sax)



MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: A SCOUT IS BRAVE AND CLEAN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord has turned the night into day.
The Lord has also turned our weakness
into strength. He is the Light of the
World: in Him we find our courage to
face the opportunities of this day; in
Him we have the strength to do what is
right and good. Let us worship the
Lord, for He has given us this day and
the grace to live it with clean hearts
and minds. We sign ourselves:

ALL: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
AND OF THE SON,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Leader: Let us now listen to the Word of the Lord.

READING: (BY ONE OF THE SCOUTS/SCOUTERS) LUKE 9:18-26

SCOUT/SCOUTER: A reading from the gospel according
to Luke.

....

This is the gospel of the Lord.

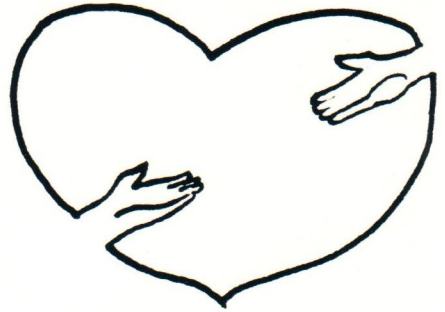
ALL: PRAISE BE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

RESPONSE: (SUNG BY ALL) "I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS"

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

With the cross before me, and the world behind me;
With the cross before me, and the world behind me;
With the cross before me, and the world behind me;
No turning back; no turning back.

(public domain)



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: O God, our Father, we come together at the start of this day to pray that you would give us the Spirit of Jesus. Give us His Spirit of courage and strength that we may act as true Scouts today. Knowing that you answer all our needs and help us in all we do, we now offer to you our prayers of petitions.

(AT THIS POINT, SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS ARE INVITED TO OFFER ANY PRAYERS OF PETITION, ALL RESPOND:

"HEAR US, O LORD")

e.g. 1) For our land that we may always respect it, care for it, and keep it clean and beautiful;

ALL: HEAR US, O LORD.

e.g. 2) For each one of us, that we may work together, help one another, and play fair this day;

ALL: HEAR US, O LORD.

e.g. 3) For our parents and for all those who support us in Scouting;

ALL: HEAR US, O LORD.

e.g. 4) That we may face each obstacle and difficulty, knowing that the Lord is with us to help us;

ALL: HEAR US, O LORD.

e.g. 5) That we may overcome wrong and evil by choosing the right and the good;

ALL: HEAR US, O LORD.

e.g. 6) That we may not give up when things do not work out as planned;

ALL: HEAR US, O LORD.

e.g. 7) That we may be clean in our thoughts and in our speech;

ALL: HEAR US, O LORD.

CONCLUSION TO PRAYERS: "THE SCOUT OATH"

(SCOUTMASTER/OR OTHER SCOUTER COMES FORWARD TO LEAD SCOUTS IN THE "SCOUT OATH".)

CLOSING SONG: "SCOUTING SPIRIT"

I've got that Scouting Spirit,
Up in my head

....

I've got that Scouting Spirit
Deep in my heart

....

I've got that Scouting Spirit,
Down in my feet

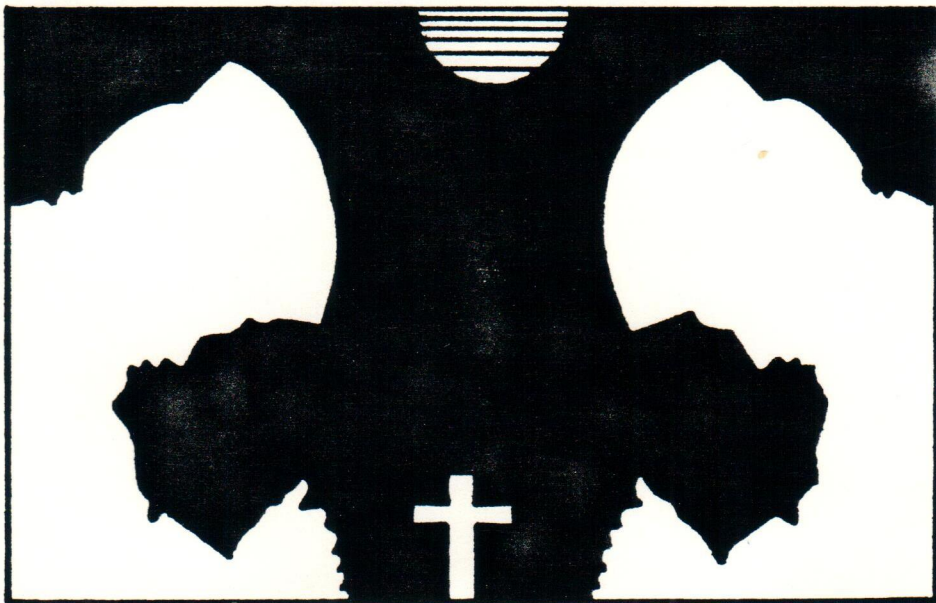
....

I've got that Scouting Spirit,
Up in my head
Deep in my heart
Down in my feet

I've got that Scouting Spirit,
All over me.

All over me to stay.

(Rev. John Sax)



EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE



THEME: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

CALL TO WORSHIP (LEADER)

We gather this evening to thank God for this day and to ask for his help during the night. As we begin our service, we remember the words of Jesus: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." Let us sing to Jesus in our opening song: "KUM BA YAH!"

THREE VERSES: SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD, BE WITH US.
SOMEONE'S THANKING, LORD, BE WITH US.
SOMEONE'S ASKING, LORD, BE WITH US.
O LORD, BE WITH US.

LEADER: We now sign ourselves with the cross, the sign of our faith in Jesus. (ALL MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IN SILENCE.)
(TO VARY THIS, SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS CAN BE ASKED TO COME FORWARD TO THE LEADER WHO HOLDS OUT A BOWL OF WATER FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL TO USE AS THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IS MADE.)

OPENING PRAYER (LEADER)

We pause now to think back on all the things that have happened to us this day so that we can grow. You want us to live life to the full; help us not to cheat ourselves or others by taking the easy way out. May we do your will be searching for life's meaning and by working for its highest values. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name, for he lives among us, forever and ever. AMEN.

READING: (BY ONE OF THE SCOUTS/SCOUTERS) MATTHEW 5:13-16

SCOUT/SCOUTER: A reading from the gospel according to Matthew....
This is the gospel of the Lord.

ALL: PRAISE BE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE DAY (LEADER)

- 1) Have I let my light shine today by telling the truth to the leaders and to my fellow Scouts? (PAUSE)
- 2) Have I let my light shine today by taking things only after I received permission and by returning things when I was finished using them? (PAUSE)
- 3) Have I been the salt of the earth today by playing honestly and fairly, and by doing my fair share of the work? (PAUSE)
- 4) Have I been the salt of the earth today by doing things I and my whole Troop will be proud of? (PAUSE)

LEADER: Jesus told us that if we do not forgive others, then the Father will not forgive us. Let us now pray that God will forgive our faults as we forgive the faults of one another.

ALL: OUR FATHER...

SIGN OF PEACE (LEADER)

As we end this prayer service and this day, let us show again our support and acceptance of each other. Let us offer each other the Scout handshake.

SCOUTMASTER'S BENEDICTION

(THE SERVICE ENDS WITH THE SCOUTMASTER COMING FORWARD AND DOING THE SCOUTMASTER'S BENEDICTION.)

(Rev. John Sax)

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL



CALL TO WORSHIP (LEADER)

Jesus was a helpful person and did his "Good Turn: to others". He came to serve others, and not to be served by them. He healed the sick; He fed the hungry; He gave comfort to the lonely and those in sorrow; He forgave sinners; and, He raised the dead to life. Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
(Leader makes Sign of the Cross)

ALL: LORD, BY YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION (ALL MAKE SIGN OF THE CROSS)

Leader: You have set us free;

ALL YOU HAVE SET US FREE;

Leader: You are the Savior of the world.

ALL: YOU ARE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

Leader: Come to us this night, Lord Jesus.

ALL: COME TO US THIS NIGHT, LORD JESUS.

READING: (BY ONE OF THE SCOUTS/SCOUTERS) Luke 10:25-37

SCOUT/SCOUTER: A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

.....

This is the gospel of the Lord.

ALL: PRAISE BE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

REFLECTION: "STORY OF THE UNKNOWN SCOUT" (BY SCOUTMASTER ... ENDING WITH:

"Have you done your good deed today?

Have you been a Good Samaritan today?"

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Let us now pray to the Lord Jesus who showed the great love and mercy of the Father. May the Lord show us His love and mercy tonight.

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us.

ALL: LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Christ, have mercy on us.

ALL: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us.

ALL: LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: May Almighty God, who helps all those in need and lifts the burdens of all who suffer and shows His kindness to all peoples, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, grant us His peace, and lead us to His life everlasting.

ALL: AMEN.

CLOSING SONG: SCOUT VESPERS (Everyone joins hands during singing of the song.)

Softly falls the light of day,

While our campfire fades away.

Silently each Scout should ask

"Have I done my daily task?

Have I kept my honor bright?

Can I guiltless sleep tonight?

Have I done and have I dared

Everything to be prepared?"

THE UNKNOWN SCOUT

Years ago in London during a heavy fog, an American businessman by the name of William D. Boyce was looking for a building which he was unable to find. As he stood on a street corner, uncertain which way to go, a boy came up and asked, "May I be of service to you?" The American told him the address he was seeking, and the boy quickly led him to the desired place. Boyce offered the boy a shilling, but to his surprise the young stranger replied, "No sir, I am a Scout, and Scouts do not accept tips for courtesies." The man was so impressed by the boy's kindness that after returning to America he started the movement which led to the organizing of the Boy Scouts of America. The name of the London Scout is unknown, but the result of his good turn will live forever. A boy can never tell what may happen as the result of a single deed of helpfulness.

c 1948 Boy Scouts of America
National Council

(Rev. John Sax)

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE



THEME: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT

CALL TO WORSHIP (LEADER)

Let us listen to the Word of the Lord from the gospel of Luke. "Jesus went down with Mary and Joseph, and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. Jesus, for his part, grew steadily in wisdom and age and grace before God and men." Jesus' obedience was one of the things that helped him to grow in wisdom, age, and grace. As Scouts, we are to be obedient, like Jesus was; and hopefully, we also will grow in wisdom, age, and grace. The cross is a sign of Jesus' total obedience to the Father; let us now sign ourselves with the Cross of Christ.
(ALL MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IN SILENCE.)

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us now pray that we can do the will of the Father just as Jesus did.
ALL: OUR FATHER...

READING: (BY ONE OF THE SCOUTS/SCOUTERS) ROMANS 13:1 & 2

SCOUT/SCOUTER: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

....

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us now confess to God the times we did not listen to our parents, our Scout Leaders, and to those who have authority over us. Let us together recite a Prayer of Contrition.

ALL: I CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD, AND TO YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THAT I HAVE SINNED THROUGH MY OWN FAULT, IN MY THOUGHTS AND IN MY WORDS, IN WHAT I HAVE DONE AND IN WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO DO. AND I ASK BLESSED MARY, EVER VIRGIN, ALL THE ANGELS AND SAINTS, AND YOU, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TO PRAY FOR ME TO THE LORD, OUR GOD.

Leader: Almighty God, Our Father, forgive us for the times when we did not follow your will; forgive us for the times when we did not obey the rules of Scouting and of our Troop; and forgive us for the times when we put off what we were supposed to do. Help us to be quick in responding to the call of duty and in answering the need for help. We ask this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

CLOSING SONG: (SUNG BY ALL) "BY THE BLAZING COUNCIL FIRE" or other appropriate song.

(Rev. John Sax)

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE



THEME: A SCOUT IS REVERENT

CALL TO WORSHIP (LEADER)

The Lord is everywhere: we can see Him in the works of nature; we can see Him in one another. But most clearly, we can see our God in Jesus, who is our leader in faith and guide to the Father. Let us now proclaim our faith in God and in the Lord Jesus.

ALL: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD
GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY:
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.
BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF
THE LORD:
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

Leader: Let us now sign ourselves with the sign of our faith.

ALL: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
AND OF THE SON,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER (LEADER)

Let us pray...(PAUSE)

O God, Almighty Father, you are our creator and we owe our life to you.
O Jesus, our Lord and Brother, you are our Savior, and we owe our life to you.
O Spirit of Life, you fill us with goodness and love, and we owe our life to you.
Help us to be more aware of your life in us, and may we find peace and happiness through our faith in you. We make this prayer to you, for you are living, forever and ever.

ALL: AMEN.

READING: (BY ONE OF THE SCOUTS/SCOUTERS)

HEBREWS 11:17 - 31 and 12:1 0 3

Leader: God is always coming into our lives with his love and power, He comes to us through the Scriptures, which is His Word and the message of Jesus. Let us now listen attentively to this evening's reading.

SCOUT/SCOUTER: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

....

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE

RESPONSE (SAID BY ALL):

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD,
THE FATHER, THE ALMIGHTY,
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
OF ALL THAT IS SEEN AND UNSEEN.
WE BELIEVE IN ONE LORD, JESUS CHRIST,
THE ONLY SON OF GOD,

ETERNALLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,
GOD FROM GOD, LIGHT FROM LIGHT,
TRUE GOD FROM TRUE GOD,
BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE, ONE IN BEING WITH THE FATHER.
THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE,
FOR US MEN AND FOR OUR SALVATION HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN:
BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
HE WAS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, AND BECAME MAN.
FOR OUR SAKE HE WAS CRUCIFIED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
HE SUFFERED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED.
ON THE THIRD DAY, HE ROSE AGAIN IN FULFILLMENT OF THE SCRIPTURES:
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.
HE WILL COME AGAIN IN GLORY TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD,
AND HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE NO END.
WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE,
WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON.
WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON HE IS WORSHIPPED AND GLORIFIED.
HE HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS.
WE BELIEVE IN ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH
WE ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,
AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER (LEADER)

O God, you have made us your people and have called us to be your own.
May we respond faithfully to your call, as did Jesus and the other holy men
and women who have lived before us. Help us to show our reverence for you by
doing Your will in all things, by living in harmony with your creation, and
by living in unity with other peoples. Guide us with your spirit so that we
can reach the fulfillment of our lives and eternal life with you, who are our
living God, forever and ever.

ALL: AMEN.

CLOSING SONG: "HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS"

He's got the whole world in His hands (four times)

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands (three times)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands

He's got you and me, sister, in His hands

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the little bitty baby in His hands (three times)

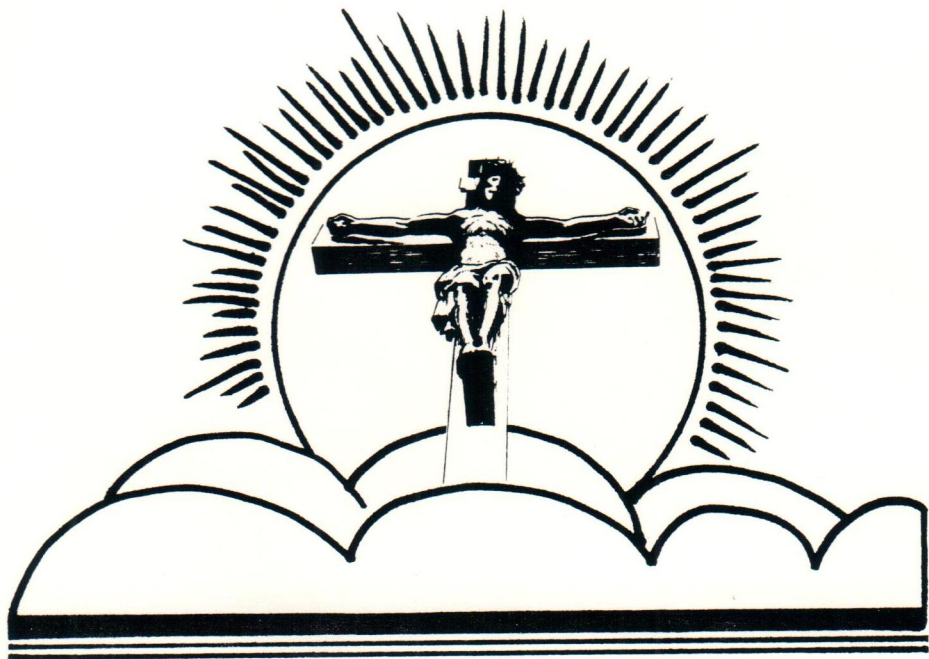
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands (three times)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

(public domain)

(Rev. John Sax)



SCOUTS' INTERFAITH VESPERS

SCOUTS' INTERFAITH VESPERS

OPENING PRAYER: (An Indian Prayer)

O' GREAT SPIRIT, Whose voice I hear in ther winds,
And whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.

LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.
MAKE MY HANDS respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

MAKE ME WISE so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.
LET ME LEARN the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock
I SEEK STRENGTH, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy--

MAKE ME ALWAYS READY to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.
SO WHEN LIFE FADES, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

FIRST READING:

RESPONSE TO READING: CANTICLE TO ALL CREATION.....
St. Francis

Be praised, my Lord, with all your created things.

Be praised for brother sun, who brings the day and gives us light.

He is fair and radiant with a shining face and he draws his meaning from on high.

Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars. In the heavens you have made them clear and precious and lovely.

Be praised, my Lord, for our brother wind, and for the air and clouds and calm days and every kind of weather by which you give your creatures nourishment.

Be praised, my Lord, for our sister water, which is very helpful and humble, precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for our brother fire, by which you light up the darkness: he is fair and mighty and strong.

Be praised, my Lord for our mother earth, for she sustains and keeps us, and brings forth all kinds of fruits together with the grasses and bright flowers.

Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, bodily death, from which no living man can flee.

Be praised, my Lord, for all creatures. We give thanks.

GOSPEL READING: HOMILY

PRAYER OF PETITIONS: (Response: We thank you Lord)

Lord's Prayer: Greeting of Peace: Final Prayer:

BENEDICTION: Blessing of Aaron

SUGGESTED FINAL HYMN: SING TO THE MOUNTAINS

Based on Ps. 118

Bob Duffod, S.J.

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Phoenix, AZ 85029



A W A K E S E R V I C E



THE CONSOLATION OF GOD
A Christian Wake Service

OPENING HYMN

"On My Honor"

On my honor I'll do my best to do my duty to God
On my honor I'll do my best to serve my country as I
On my honor I'll do my best to do my Good Turn each day
To keep my body strengthened and keep my mind awakened
To follow paths of righteousness.
On my honor I'll do my best.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Lord God,

the days allotted to each of us are in your fatherly care.
Though we are saddened that our _____ was with us for so short a
time, we entrust _____ live, radiant and for ever young, in the
happiness of your kingdom.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

READINGS: (select 1 or 2)

Wisdom 4: 7-15

Psalm 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6.

Matthew 11:25-30

HOMILY

PRAYER OF PETITION

OUR FATHER

Option 1

"SCOUT VESPERS"

Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfire fades away.
Silently each Scout should ask:
"Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
Everything to be prepared?"

SCOUT BENEEDICTION

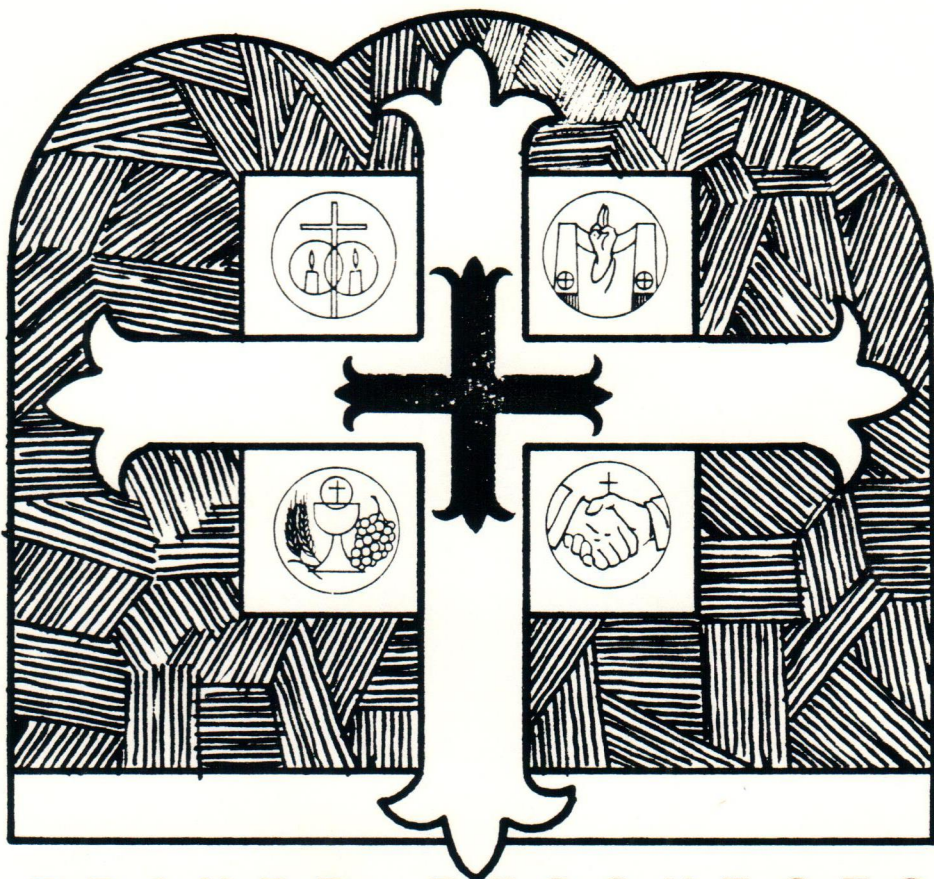
May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us till we meet again.

Option 2

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills,
From the sky;
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.
Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky,
Gleaming bright,
From afar, drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

(Rev. Christian Roy)



PRAYER RESOURCES

POSSIBILITIES FOR OPENING PRAYERS

Orations

1. May we uplift our words and hearts to you daily O God and be conscious of your presence in our work and play, we pray to the Lord.
2. May your Cross be a constant reminder to us of your ever loving concern for our welfare. May we reverence it with devotion.
3. O Lord give us strength of mind and body. Help us to do your will in all our endeavors so that we may grow in the Christian Spirit.
4. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters in need, but learn to serve all mankind. May we begin to love others more fully and unselfishly after the example of your Son.
5. Many helps are given us to come closer to you O Lord. May our reception of the sacraments and the hearing of your word inspire us to lead lives of joy.
6. Help us to grow in the knowledge of your Church. For countless centuries you have provided and protected your people. Inspire us to appreciate your presence with us now and forever.
7. Many gifts we receive are the work of human hands. May we learn throughout our life to share and care about others by using our talents well.
8. Lord when everyone does their fair share a community is built. Help us to join each other in doing what is necessary to spread the Good News of Salvation.
9. Lord keep us safe from all danger. Help us to avoid the occasion of sin and remain close to you by good works.
10. The example of your saints gives us courage O Lord. May our own patron saint lead us to greater heights of sanctity.
11. O Lord you guide us with your leaders. Assist them to carry on your work and help us to follow their call to become what we are because of our likeness to you.
12. May each of us take the time Lord to nourish our lives with the teaching and example your Son had provided. Thus may we be Christian witnesses in our world today.

CLOSING PRAYER:

We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord who with the Holy Spirit lives and reigns God forever and ever.

BLESSINGS:

May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us till we meet again.

BLESSING OF AARON (Numbers 6: 24-26)

The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD let His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you!
The LORD look upon you kindly and
give you peace!

AMEN

Let us go forth with God's blessing to serve Him in joy and gladness.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. AMEN.



A CATHOLIC COMMUNION SERVICE I (in the absence of an ordained minister)

With the increasing scarcity of clergy, more and more Eucharistic services are being conducted by lay ministers with the delegation of the Bishop or local pastor. The service which a lay minister presides at is a Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Holy Communion. This type of service would be especially applicable to Scout camps and campouts. Care should be exercised, however, to insure that the consecrated bread is treated with reverence. This type of service should be attempted only with the permission of the Scout chaplain. A short catechesis on the reason for such a service might also prove appropos.

Several ministers should be involved:

1. A Leader of Prayer (presider)
2. Readers
3. Leader of Music

The liturgical books (Lectionary and Sacramentary) should be used.

A Suggested Outline of the Service

Entrance Song

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Opening Prayer

First Reading (Old or New Testament)

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading (optional)

Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)

Gospel

Prayer of the Faithful

Collection (if that is the custom)

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Ministering the Sacrament

"This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper".

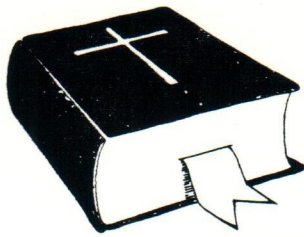
Communion Song

Blessing (The leader and all make the sign of the cross together)

"May Almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

Dismissal

Closing Song



A CATHOLIC COMMUNION SERVICE II

1. LITURGY OF THE WORD

LECTOR

- Lector and eucharistic minister place themselves before the assembly.
- Lector goes to lectern, greets the people and proclaims the Readings of the day with time for reflection after each Reading.

2. PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LECTOR

3. COMMUNION SERVICE

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

- Ciborium is on altar
- Lord's Prayer (community)
- Sign of Peace
- Distribution of Communion
- Thanksgiving

4. DISMISSAL PRAYER

LECTOR

_ "Let us go in peace to serve the Lord."

(Diocese of Manchester)

WEAK HAND - STRONG HAND PRAYER

(by Fr. Ron Meyer, OMI - Oblate Youth Mission Band)

Preparation:

We have two hands: a right and a left. For some of us, our left hand is our strong hand, for others, it is the right. You know which is your strong and your weak hand. Please empty your hands and place them comfortably in front of you for the following prayer:

Instruction:

Briefly clench your weak hand. Slowly let your hand open ...

PRAYER:

Oh God of the Universe, you know us as we are.
We are human beings, gifted with life and freedom by you.
Each of us has limits and weaknesses.
Each carries some pain and disappointment.
These are cause for frustration and humility
and are marked by feelings of sadness and regret.

Instruction:

Now clench your strong hand. Slowly let your hand open ...

PRAYER:

Yet, dear God, you have so blessed us with strengths and abilities
We have talents and skills, resources and treasures to share.
We've been blessed with a vision of faith that can see the death of
reality - with hope that can see beyond horizons - with love
that reaches over and through all barriers.
These strengths bring us a genuine sense of pride
and are marked by feelings of happiness and gratefulness.

Instruction:

Now join your two hands in any gesture which for you signifies prayer ...

PRAYER:

Lord, loving God, help us bring ourselves together in a recognition of
strengths and an acceptance of weaknesses.
May we find inner peace as we learn to share our gifts and accept the
talents offered us by others.
Show us how to discover deeper relationships in the mutual exchange
of treasures and the common embrace of trials.
Finally, bless us as we are: in our combined lives of sadness and
happiness, regrets and gratefulness ...
You who know and love us, Creator God, Saviour//Friend Jesus,
Strengthening Spirit - living forever and ever.

ALL: AMEN AND ALLELUIA!

Prayer created by Fr. Ron Meyer, OMI for use during events/retreats that stress God's desire to love us human beings into unity. For further information on such events/retreats - especially youth retreats, write: Fr. Ron - 5901 W. Main Street, Belleville, IL 62223 (or phone 618-233-2992)



C E R E M O N I E S

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCOUT SUNDAY LITURGY

Possible ways that Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and leaders can be involved in the liturgy.

ENTRANCE:

1. Greeters at the doors of the Church.
2. Hand out programs and/or missalettes.
3. Process in with American and Scout flags.
4. Carry in the cross and candles.
5. Act as servers.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

1. Do the readings (with proper preparation).
2. Homily could relate the Scriptures of the Day to the Scouting movement.
3. Read the intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful.
4. These or similar intentions could be added:
 - a) For Scouts and Scouters throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit may help them to live up to the ideals of the Scouting Movement, we pray to the Lord.
 - b) That Scouts everywhere may act as brothers and sisters toward one another and may work for peace, we pray to the Lord.
5. After the homily, religious emblems (Ad Altare Dei, Parvuli Dei, Family of God, and I Live My Faith) may be blessed by the priest, and presented to the recipients.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST:

1. Take up the collection.
2. Presentation of the Gifts. Scouts can bring up the gifts of bread and wine, and possibly one or more symbolic gifts such as a Scout emblem, religious emblems, booklets and logbooks, scrapbooks and handbooks, etc.
3. If adult scouters are Eucharistic ministers, help with communion.
4. Renew Scout Oath or Promises.

+++++

BITS AND PIECES:

- a) If there is no music at the proposed Scout Mass, scout musicians and singers could form a music ministry for that day.
- b) A Scout or leader could give a short witness about what duty to God means to him/her.
- c) Help pick up programs after the service.

+++++

This list is not exhaustive. Your suggestions are welcomed. Always check with the parish priest and liturgy committee before finalizing plans. The prayers and readings of the Sunday are to be used. These suggestions are just that - suggestions.

(Rev. Leo LeBlanc)

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PRESENTATIONS

Many larger dioceses present the emblems in a Cathedral ceremony, either in the context of a liturgy or of a prayer service, as is the case with the Archdioceses of N.Y.C., Chicago and the Dioceses of Rockville Centre, N.Y. and Phoenix, AZ. Some smaller dioceses present them on the parish/city/deanery level.

A POSSIBLE MODEL EMBLEM PRESENTATION AT THE CATHEDRAL OR PARISH CHURCH.

(Preparation: Small table in sanctuary for log books
A candle for each person receiving an award
Seating for parents & those receiving awards
(If ceremony is being held on Scout Sunday,
reserve seating for all scouts who are
participating)

Order of Entrance Procession:

1. Flags
2. 'Awardees' & their Parents
3. (Other participating Scouts)
4. Celebrant & acolytes

Introduction After The Homily:

The Celebrant points out that the teachings of Jesus have to be in our minds and in our hearts, not just in the Gospel, our projects, or our log books.

Blessing of the Medals:

ALMIGHTY FATHER, WE ASK YOUR BLESSING ON THESE MEDALS MADE BY HUMAN HANDS. WE SEE THESE MEDALS AS SIGN OF OUR SCOUTS INTEREST IN OUR FAITH. WE SEE THESE MEDALS AS SIGNS OF THEIR GROWTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR FAITH, AND THEIR PRACTICE OF OUR FAITH. THIS INTEREST, GROWTH, AND PRACTICE IS SHOWN BY THE WORK THEY DID IN ACQUIRING THIS AWARD. WE ASK YOUR CONTINUED STRENGTH AND GUIDANCE, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. + AMEN!

Calling of the Candidates: (Older Scout or Scout Leader)

(Bishop) or (Rev. Father), the following have completed the requirements for the Parvuli Dei/Ad Altare Dei Medal/Pope Pius XII, Light is Life. They have worked diligently and because of their efforts, are a source of pride to our troop/pack/team/post, and our parish (diocese).

(The names are called individually. The person calling the individual scout waits for each scout with his/her parents, to leave the pew, pick up a candle, light the candle from the Easter candle, and face the community gathered before calling the next scout.)

(The Celebrant, after all the scouts have been called, hands a medal to the parents of each scout, one of whom, pins it on the shirt of their son.)

After the Investiture:

Celebrant: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I PRESENT TO YOU THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US.
(Applause would be fitting).

YOUNG PEOPLE, NOW THAT YOU HAVE A BETTER GRASP OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH, I ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME, AND THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION IN MAKING A PROFESSION OF THAT FAITH.

WE BELIEVE ...

(At the conclusion of the Profession of Faith, the individual candles are extinguished, and those involved return to their places.)

Another possible blessing for Parvuli Dei medals:

"Almighty God, Who has given us the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as an example for all families, bless + these medals bearing an image of the Holy Family of Nazareth, so that those who wear them may be loving and obedient children of their parents and obtain with them your grace in this life and everlasting glory in the life to come. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

(Chaplains' Committee)

A POSSIBLE PARISH PRESENTATION OF SCOUTING RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

After the Homily (or after Communion) the lector calls up Scout recipients by name. Scouts are accompanied by their parents. They stand in the sanctuary. The priest addresses the congregation in these or similar words. "If we want to be happy, we must come to know, to love, and to serve God and others. Scouts recognize that they have a duty to God for a Scout is reverent. These Scouts have made a serious effort in growing in their knowledge and service of God. In recognition of their efforts, they are being presented with the (Parvuli Dei/Ad Altare Dei) emblem."

Priest blesses emblems.

"Almighty God and Father, look on us in love and mercy as we gather in your name. Bless + these _____ emblems.

Help those who wear them to wear them proudly as a sign of your goodness and of their love and devotion to you. Keep these Scouts always in your care as they continue growing in wisdom, age and grace.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord. AMEN"

Priest then hands medal to parent to pin on their child (or priest himself pins it on). He hands the pocket card or certificate to Scout and congratulates the Scout.

(If there is a mother's miniature pin, the priest adds: "Recognizing the role the parents play in their child's religious formation, we are happy to recognize them with this miniature pin."

Scout pins mother (or father in her absence).

APPLAUSE All return to their places.

(You may also want to consult the Counselor's Guide for AAD and Pius XII No. 3077, and Scout Ceremonies #6542).

AN OPTION FOR A PARVULI DEI PARISH PRESENTATION PRAYER SERVICE

SELECTIONS FOR CUB SCOUT AWARD DAY

1. St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13.
EXCELLENCE OF THE GIFT OF LOVE.
2. St. Matthew.
THE BEATITUDES.
3. Sirach 6: 7-14.
WISE WORDS ON MAKING FRIENDS.
4. Romans 12: 9-21.
WORDS ON FRIENDSHIP WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.
5. PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN. (Luke 15: 11-32).

RESPONSES

Hymns: (Suggested)

A. They will know we are Christians by our love.

B. America

- (A). O Lord bless + these medals we bless in your name. May those who wear them keep faith with you and live lives of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.
- (B). Enrich the lives of your servants O Lord by the wearing of these medals. May the holy family protect them during their years of growth. We ask all this through the giving of your Spirit to each boy who wears these medals. AMEN.

(Chaplains' Committee)



PRAYER FOR BLESSING A SCOUT RELIGIOUS EMBLEM

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord,

ALL: LORD, HAVE MERCY.

PRIEST:

O Lord, our God, you did not despise the youthfulness of your servant, David, but commanded the prophet, Samuel, to anoint him as king over your holy people, Israel.

Through the words of the holy apostle, Paul, you spoke to your servant, the holy Bishop, Timothy, saying, "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity."

Now send down your blessings upon these, your youthful servants, and grant that they may be worthy leaders in faith, not hesitating on account of their youthfulness, but witnessing to your holy gospel in the whole of their lives.

Bless, also, these medals which they will wear as a sign of their faith and commitment to the proclamation of the gospel and grant that they continue to grow in the divine likeness that they may come to full union with you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

ALL: AMEN.

PRIEST: These medals are blessed and sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit through the sprinkling of this holy water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (He sprinkles the medal(s) with holy water).

ALL: AMEN.

(Rev. Nicholas Rachford)

THE EAGLE SCOUT PRAYER I

Almighty God and Father,

We are ever grateful for your goodness to us in all places and circumstances.

We particularly thank you today for your son _____,

We join him, his parents and family and his Scout leaders and friends, as he expresses to you his gratitude for your life and grace which allow any one of us to accomplish all we have successfully achieved.

It is you who inspire us to work for your Kingdom of love and peace.

As _____ has distinguished himself in service to his family, friends, fellow Scouts and community, you are honored and glorified by his work. Bless all those who work for and with this Scout troop.

May _____ and each of us continue to work in your name for the good of all.

May he soar, as on eagles' wings, under your loving protection until that day when we all come at last to possess the crown which you yourself bestow on all your servants: life on high with Jesus your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

AMEN

(Rev. Henry Huot)

THE EAGLE SCOUT PRAYER II

Come to our aid and assistance, O Divine Spirit, Who breathes life and love into everything You have created. With fond memories of his past, and with dreams and hopes for a future hidden from his eyes, our brother _____ stands apart from his friends and his family this day to be recognized and honored for his achievement of the award of Eagle Scout. As a symbol of his lofty accomplishments, Lord, You have given to us the noble eagle with its strength, its prowess, its dignity, and its free, yet reverent spirit. With these qualities, You have endowed our brother _____ and You reward him for his past and present accomplishments. This noble symbol, a gift and a sign of Your creative power, also presents a challenge for our brother. He now faces his future with confidence and strength; may he live up to the ideals he professes and may his achievements be a challenge for us who stand at his side in this, his hour of triumph. Through the many opportune moments of living which yet await our brother: the moments of joy and laughter, the moments of sadness and tears, the times of success and failure, we ask that You will guide him with Your sustaining presence that he may be true and ever faithful to the ideals which are symbolized by the eagle. We pray that as his life unfolds before him and his human adventure continues, he will respond with generosity and joy to all that You call him to experience. When his life reaches its sunset, may he enter that Kingdom which You have made ready for those who love You. We make this prayer in Your blessed Name as the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier of all that exists. AMEN.

(Rev. David Dodson)



INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Inspirational Thought (For use at an award ceremony)

WHAT IS A SCOUT?

He comes in many sizes, hopes and colors.

His first purpose in life seems to be to outgrow his uniform.

His deathless creed is, "Never let the Scoutmaster get away with anything."

He likes dirt, rocks, snakes, sticks, trees, noise, campfires, ghost stories,
men, swimming, hiking, cooking outdoors, camping and more camping.

He doesn't care much for rainy weather, lectures, homework, washing, fires
that won't burn and Girl Scouts.

He's many different things to different people:

To Mother he's a uniform that must be washed and ironed each week, badges to be
sewn on, lunches to be packed, mess kits that need to be scrubbed and a
lump in her throat when he marches by on parade.

To Dad he's a source of pride, a pack of trouble, a constant stream of
information--a chip off the old block.

To the troop committee he's a boy who has trouble with his code, can't seem to
tie a clove hitch, constantly needs transportation, money and time.

To the Scoutmaster, a Scout is a headache and a heartache, a problem and a
prize, a conscience and a stern taskmaster, a bundle of questions always
predictable yet a constant surprise.

To the community, a Scout is an idea, the picture of a youngster helping an old
lady across the street saving lives, helping in emergencies, finding a
lost child, and administering first aid.

He's hope with a hand-carved neckerchief slide.

Joy with a pack on his back.

Determination with a wet match.

Courage with a flashlight.

Our hope for tomorrow, this Scout of today.

Today we honor this young Scout who has progressed well in his training. A
youngster who took the time to say I want to know more about life and God.
Today we pin him with a medal that says "well done"; go on now to greater
knowledge as the mysteries of life unfold before you. Hold on to what is good
and keep a Christian Spirit with you always. We congratulate each of you
sincerely and hope your days in Scouting will be happy days of growth. May
you always be a credit to your Church, your family and your community, and may
those who have helped these young boys receive their reward in admiration and
God's blessing.

(unknown)

Other Resources

Ad Altare Dei Counselor's Guide #3077

A Scout is Reverent #3075

Chaplain's Aide Guide

Chaplain's Guide for Scout Camps #12038

Holy Communion Outside Mass

National Conference of Catholic Bishops
1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Ritual for Lay Presiders

3225 13th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4T 1P5

Scout Ceremonies #6542

Tracks: A Young Way to God

Sacred Heart League
Walls, MS. 38686

With Jesus on the Scout Trail

When Scouts Worship

"Worship Resource Manual for Summer Camp Chaplains"

Rev. David Dodson
773 Portage St.
South Fork, PA 15956

Acknowledgements

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A special word of recognition to all our contributors, to those who helped compile this resource, and to those who offered helpful suggestions and guidance.

1. Suggested Inter-Religious Celebration

OPENING CEREMONY

Procession with American flag, state flag (if available) and unit flags.

OPENING REMARKS

“On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God.” It is hard to describe duty to God for any one person. This duty is based on a person’s own religious teachings. Duty to God is different for people of different faiths; however, for all people, it means living according to the teachings of their religion.

Membership in the Boy Scouts of America explicitly requires recognition of a Supreme Being, belief in God and respect for other Scouts’ and Scouters’ belief in God is an expectation that has been repeatedly affirmed by the National Council of the BSA. Whether the chartered partner of a Scouting unit is secular or religious, duty to God is a basic tenet of our movement. We express it each time we recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

We invite all Scouts and Scouters attending this inter-religious service to join in prayer in a way that we hope all will find comfortable. Let us express thanks for the many blessings that God has given to us and ask for the wisdom and skills to carry out and enhance the Scouting program. We pray that this observance will be a positive experience that helps you encourage appropriate religious observances within the world brotherhood of Scouting.

CALL TO WORSHIP

O great Spirit! Watch over us as we begin this day. Protect us as we live in your care. Give us bounty and hold us from harm. We are your children and wish only to please you. We hold our Mother Earth close to our hearts and wish her goodness. We thank you for your love.

~ Lakota Blessing

-OR-

For this time and this place
For your goodness and grace,
For each friend we embrace,
We thank thee, O Lord.

WORSHIP MESSAGE

“In doing your duty to God, always be grateful to Him. And it is a good thing to bless other people. In doing your duty toward man, be helpful and generous, and always be grateful for any kindness done to you and be careful to show that you are grateful. Remember again that a present given to you is not yours until you have thanked the giver for it.

While you are living your life on this Earth, try to do something good which may remain after you. It is something to **BE** good, but it is far better to **DO** good.

First love and serve God; second, love and serve your neighbor.”

~ Lord Robert Baden Powell

INVOCATION

Almighty Creator, thank you for the opportunity to be here in the midst of the beauty and majesty of your creation. Give us the strength to endure the challenges of this day, the wisdom to enjoy each moment, and the courage to push ourselves further than we ever have before. Bless each Scout and each leader as we journey together through the adventure of Scouting. Amen.

READING

The true servants of the gracious God are the following:

Those who walk upon earth with humility

and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: Peace;

Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;

Those who pray: Lord turn away from us the punishment of hell, for it is a heavy torment,

it is indeed an evil dwelling place;

Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keeping a balance between the two;

Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.

~ From the Koran, Al-Furqan, part 19, chapter 25

INSPIRATIONAL READINGS

The World, we are told, was made especially for humans – a presumption not supported by all the facts. Why should humanity value itself as more than a small part of the one great unit of creation? And what creature of all that the Lord has taken the pains to make is not essential to the completeness of that unit – the cosmos? The universe would be incomplete without humans; but it would also be incomplete without the smallest trans-microscopic creature that dwells beyond our

conceitful eyes and knowledge. From the dust of the earth, from the common elementary fund, the Creator has made Homo Sapiens. From the same material God has made every other creature, however noxious and insignificant to us. They are earth-born companions and our fellow mortals.

~ John Muir, "The Father of the National Parks"

"My Heart Soars"

The beauty of the trees,
The softness of the air,
The fragrance of the grass,
Speaks to me.

The summit of the mountain,
The thunder of the sky
The rhythm of the sea
Speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars,
The freshness of the morning,
The dewdrop of the flower,
Speaks to me.

The strength of the fire,
The taste of salmon
The trail of the sun,
And the life that never goes away,
They speak to me,
And my heart soars.

~ Chief Dan George, OC (Geswanouth Slahoot); actor,
musician, poet, author – Tseil-Waututh Nation,
North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

GROUP PRAYER/EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

~ *To be read together by entire group* ~

Bless us, O Great Spirit, as Scouts gathered together in this setting.
Grant that no harm may spoil our brotherhood and sisterhood.
Make us live together in wellness and good fellowship, ever mindful of Your
example and of our Scout Oath and Law.
We thank You for old friends and for new friendships.

We give thanks for the days of our gathering, and we pray that we safely return to our homes, with thanks for Your beautiful creation and the joy of life.

“Out of His fullness, we have all received grace in place of grace already given.”
~John 1:16 – (NIV)

~Expressions of Gratitude ~

Please take a moment to share any expression of gratitude you may have.

SONG OF PRAISE

Michael, Row the Boat Ashore

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah

The river is deep and the river is wide, Hallelujah
Green pastures on the other side, Hallelujah
(Milk and honey on the other side, Hallelujah)

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah!

Michael's boat is a music boat, Hallelujah
Michael's boat is a music boat, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah

The trumpets sound the jubilee, Hallelujah
The trumpets sound for you and me, Hallelujah

~ Traditional African-American spiritual - *“Michael, Row the Boat”* is an old American folk song that hails from the slave era. It was sung through the years and, most notably, became a popular anthem during the Civil Rights movement in the United States. Its existence was first noted in the early 1860s and was first published in 1867 in [Slave Songs of the United States](#), although the song itself is probably much older. The song was passed down orally long before it was ever recorded or written down. Because of this, there are many versions in circulation. Essentially, all variations of the lyrics describe finding God and one's family on the other side of the river in the Promised Land.

PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY (In Unison)

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask your blessings for our country – for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from your words, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom, may forever abide in our midst

Creator of all flesh, bless the inhabitants of our country with your spirit. May people of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land under your providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom – helping them to fulfill the vision of your prophet: “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more.”

And let us say, Amen. (*Siddur Sim Shalom*)

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains,
To the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home,

God bless America,
My home, sweet home.

PRAYER/SILENT REFLECTION

Master of the universe Grant me the ability to be alone;
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day
Among the trees and grass, among all living things.
And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,
To talk with the one to whom I belong.
May I express there everything in my heart,
And may all the foliage of the field
(All grasses, trees and plants),
May they all awake at my coming,
To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer
So that my prayer and speech are made whole
Through the life and the spirit of all growing things,
Which are made as one by their transcendent source.
~ Rabbi Nachman of Bratislava (1772-1811)

We need to find God, and He cannot be found in the noise of restlessness.
God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass- grows in
silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We
need silence to be able to touch souls.

~ Mother Theresa

*Please take a moment of silence for personal reflection/prayer
in the manner according to your faith.*

RESPONSIVE READING

RESPONSE: Blessed are the Scouts.

Leader: Blessed are the Scouts who are taught to see beauty in all things
around them, for their world will be a place of grace and wonder.

ALL: Blessed are the Scouts.

Leader: Blessed are the Scouts who are led with patience and understanding, for they will learn the strength of endurance and the gift of tolerance.

ALL: Blessed are the Scouts.

Leader: Blessed are the Scouts who have a home where family members live together in love, for they shall become the peacemakers of the world.

ALL: Blessed are the Scouts.

Leader: Blessed are the Scouts who are taught the value and power of truth, for they shall use what they learn to help others.

ALL: Blessed are the Scouts.

Leader: Blessed are the Scouts who are guided by those with faith in a loving God, for they will find God early and will walk with God through life.

ALL: Blessed are the Scouts.

ALL: Give us clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts, O God. Teach us to work hard and to play fairly. Forgive us when we are unkind and help us to help others. Send us strength to do a good turn each day and so to live after Thy will. Amen.

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

“The Crayon Box” by Shane DeRolf

While walking into a toy store the day before today

I overheard a crayon box with many things to say.

“I don’t like Red!” said Yellow.

And Green said, “Nor do I.

And no one here likes Orange, but no one knows just why.”

“We are a box of crayons that do not get along,”

Said Blue to all the others, “and something here is wrong.”

Well, I bought that box of crayons and took it home with me

And laid out all the colors so the crayons all could see...

They watched me as I colored with Red and Blue and Green

And Black and White and Orange and every color in between.

They watched as Green became the grass

And Blue became the sky,

The Yellow sun was shining bright

As White clouds drifted by.

Colors changing as they touched

Becoming something new.
They watched me as I colored,
They watched 'til I was through.

And when I finally finished, I began to walk away,
And as I did, the crayon box had something more to say.

“I do like Red!” said Yellow.

And Green said, “So do I!

And Blue, you were terrific so high up in the sky!”

We are a box of crayons, each one of us unique,

But when we get together, the picture is COMPLETE.

We can learn a lot from crayons; some are new, some lovingly used, some are sharpened, some are broken, some are bright, some have strange names – all different colors, all fitting perfectly together in the same crayon box.

RECOGNITION

Call all Scouts and Scouters who have completed the requirements for or received a religious emblem or other religious recognition during the past year to the front. Recognize each person for his or her accomplishment.

RECITATION OF THE SCOUT OATH AND SCOUT LAW

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

OFFERING (if appropriate)

If no local appeal is considered appropriate, consider the World Friendship Fund, which was developed during the closing days of World War II. At that time, there was a great need to rebuild Scouting in those nations that had been wracked by war and were just emerging from the shadows of totalitarianism.

Over the years, this fund has provided Scouts from around the world with Scouting literature, uniforms, summer camp equipment, computers, and other Scouting-related supplies.

ACT OF FRIENDSHIP/PEACE

Lord, make me a channel of Your peace.

That where there is hatred, I may bring love.

That where there is wrong, I may bring forgiveness.

That where there is discord, I may bring harmony.

That where there is error, I may bring truth.

That where there is doubt, I may bring faith.

That where there is despair, I may bring hope.

That where there are shadows, I may bring light.

That where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted,
to understand rather than to be understood.

To love, than to be loved.

Help us to learn that it is by self-forgetting that we find;

It is by forgiving that we are forgiven;

It is by dying that we awaken to Eternal Life.

Amen.

~ St. Francis

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure. Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth. Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; those who fear God will find them. Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship, for as they are, so will their neighbors be.

~ Ecclesiastes 6:14-17

Please take a moment to turn to those around and offer a sign of friendship and peace.

HYMN/SONG OF PRAISE

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on Earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father,
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now;
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow –
To take each moment, and live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on Earth
And let it begin with ME!

CLOSING PRAYER

Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made and His praise glorified.

~From the Baha'i Writings

-OR-

May we all remain fast and firm in faith, that the glory of glories may rest upon us.
Thou art Gracious, the Bountiful, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

~ From the Bahai Faith, Abdul Bahai.

BENEDICTIONS

And now in your journey, may the trail rise up to meet your stride,

May the sun shine softly on your backpack,

May the cool, clean waters carry your canoe safely to your next portage,

May the wind bring warm blessings to your encampment,

May your Scouts find in you a fine example of the adult they hope to be.

Peace be with you this day and forevermore. Amen.

May the time be not too distant, O LORD, when all Your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before You. Then shall Your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of Your prophet shall be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign for ever and ever." Amen.

~ From the Jewish Sabbath Service

SCOUTMASTER'S BENEDICTION

And now may the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

CALL TO WORSHIP

A PSALM FOR THE THANK OFFERING

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!
Know that the Lord is GOD!

It is He that made us, and we are His;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And His courts with praise!

Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures for ever,
And His faithfulness to all generations.
>From the Book of Psalms, Psalm 100

PRAYER

Read Together :

O Great Spirit of the North, O Great Spirit of the South,
O Great Spirit of the East, O Great Spirit of the West.
O Great Spirit, you are one.

You have given us our house. Where there is food,
Where there is drink. Where there are clothes.

You have given us our house. Where there is fellowship,
Where there is companionship, Where there is friendship.

You have given us our house. Where we can grow,
Where we can learn, Where we can know you.

O Great Spirit: You are One,
Our house is One.
We are One!
>A Native American Prayer

.....Column Break.....**INVOCATION**

May the time be not too distant, O LORD, when all your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be for ever united before you. Then shall your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of your prophet shall be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign for ever and ever." Amen

>From the Jewish Sabbath Service

READING

The true servants of the Gracious GOD are the following:

Those who walk upon earth with humility and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: Peace;

Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;

Those who pray: Lord turn away from us the punishments of hell, for it is a heavy torment, it is indeed an evil dwelling place;

Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keep a balance between the two;

Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.

>From the Koran, Al-Furqan, Part 19, Chapter 25

SILENT OBSERVANCE

May we observe a moment of silent prayer, each in his own faith.

Page Break **RESPONSIVE READING - I**

THE SCOUT OATH

Leader: Our honor is a quality we possess because of our dignity as human beings and children of GOD.

Our 'best' means to give all we have. It means to keep striving to do what we know is right, and in the Oath it means we will try to be good Scouts by fulfilling our Scout duties as expressed in the Scout Law.

Congregation: ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST.

Leader: Our duty to GOD and country means chiefly two things: obedience and loyalty. The duties we owe to the House of GOD, to our country, to parents, to one another, and to ourselves come from some command of GOD. the Scout Law sums up all the qualities a Scout should have and without which he can not be a good Scout.

Congregation: TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW.

Leader: Our Lord told us that love of our neighbor was like the first law of love of GOD. The first children of GOD were known by the love they had for one another. Real human charity or love prompts us to want to help others at all times. Our Scout training will give us skills and knowledge that will put us in a better position to do this.

Congregation: TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES.

Leader: Scouting offers us many opportunities to grow strong physically. To be alert and ready requires us to give special care to those gifts of soul - intellect and will - that make us unto GOD. 'Morally straight' means we must try to know what is right and true, and to love what is good and choose it.

Congregation: TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.

SONG: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL (ALL)

My country 'tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died
Land of the pilgrims' pride.
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring.

RESPONSIVE READING - II

THE SCOUT LAW

Leader: "The person who is dishonest shall not live in My house; the person who is untruthful shall not stand before My eyes." (*Psalms 101:7*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

Leader: And Ruth said: "Do not beg me to leave you or to return from following after you, for where you go I will go; and where you stay, I will stay." (*Ruth 1: 16*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS LOYAL,

Leader: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (*Leviticus 19:18*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

Leader: "Can two walk together unless they agree?"

Congregation: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY

Leader: "Honor your Father and your Mother." (*Exodus 20:12*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS

Leader: "Withhold not good from the person to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it" (*Proverbs 3:27*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS KIND

Leader: "Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge." (*Proverbs 23:12*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT

Leader: "A glad heart is good medicine." (*Proverbs 17:22*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL

Leader: "Precious treasure remains in a wise person's dwelling, but a foolish person uses it up." (*Proverbs 20:12*)

.....Column Break.....Congregation: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY

Leader: "Be strong and of good courage." (*First Chronicles 28:20*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS BRAVE

Leader: "Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? 'Me person who has clean hands and a pure heart. (*Psalms 24:3-4*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS CLEAN

Leader: "It has been told to you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (*Micah 6:8*)

Congregation: A SCOUT IS REVERENT

HYMN: OH BEAUTIFUL (ALL)

Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain.

(chorus)

America, America. God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.

(repeat chorus)

.....Column Break.....**PRAYER**

Master of the universe
Grant me the ability to be alone;
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day
Among the trees and grass, among all living things.

And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,
To talk with the one to whom I belong.
May I express there everything in my heart,
And may all the foliage of the field
(All grasses, trees and plants)
May they all awake at my coming,

To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer
So that my prayer and speech are made whole

Through the life and the spirit of all growing things,
Which are made as one by their transcendent source.
Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1772-1811)

BENEDICTION

May we all remain fast and firm in faith, that the glory of glories may rest upon us. Thou art Gracious,
the Bountiful, the Merciful, the Compassionate.
From the Bahai faith, Abdul Bahai.

Interfaith Worship Service



0 now, even more than in those days, is such training need if we, as a nation, are to keep pace with the development of the age and hold our own, in giving a moral lead to others. The character of a nation depends on the individual character of its members.

BP-1939

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

Page Break Call to Worship

Reader: Let us gather together to express our devotion to the Supreme Being, a Way of Life, and Respect among men.

Response: Make a joyful noise throughout the land. Serve with gladness. Come together with joy.

Reader: Let us praise our creator.

Response: Thanks to him who made us. His love and faithfulness endure forever.

Reader: Let us give thanks. We are his people who owe everything to him. All our actions and thoughts should reflect thankfulness.

Taken from Psalm 100

Hymn: Kum Ba Ya

Kum Ba Ya, My Lord, Kum Ba Ya Kum Ba Ya, My Lord, Kum Ba
Ya Kum Ba Ya, My Lord, Kum Ba Ya Oh Lord, Kum Ba Ya

Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Ya Someone's praying Lord, Kum
Ba Ya Someone's laughing Lord, Kum Bay Ya Kum Ba Ya, My Lord,
Kum Ba Ya

.....Column Break.....Invocation

Reader: May the time be not distant, O God, when all your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship they may be forever united before you. Then shall your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of your prophet shall be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign forever and ever." Amen

From: Service of Heart - Jewish

Reading

Reader: The true servants of the Gracious God are the following:

Group 1: Those who walk upon the earth with humility and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: "Peace";

Group 2: Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;

Group 3: Those who pray, "Lord turn away from us the punishments of hell, for it is a heavy torment, it is indeed an evil dwelling place";

Group 4: Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keep a balance between the two;

All: Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.

Muslim from the Koran: Al-Furqan, Part 19, Chapter 25
Page Break Moment of Silence

Let us all observe of moment of silent worship, each in their own way, according to their own faith.

Reading

Read together: There is but one great Spirit. He is eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, and invisible. He pervades all things at all times. Reverence him, and respect all Worship of him by others, for none have all the truth, and all who reverently worship have claims on our respect. Also, show respect to such things as are held sacred by others.

The Gospel of the Redman by Thomas Seton

Responsive Reading



Reader: On my honor I will do my best

All: Almighty God, keep us always mindful that our honor is a possession to be cherished as dearly as life itself. Endow us with firmness of purpose and uncommon integrity that will enable us to fulfill those responsibilities with which we are charged. Make us ever conscious of the trust others have placed in us as Scouts.

Reader: To do my duty to God

All: Creator of the universe, how often we forget the true source of life's joys and pleasures. How often, too, have we failed to remember the origin of

the inward strength which has enabled us to be aware of Your continual presence in our daily lives. Help us to understand the more meaningful rewards of service in Your name.

.....Column Break.....Reader: And my country

All: We thank Thee, Almighty God, for the privilege of living in a country such as the United States of America. Keep foremost in our minds that the freedoms which we enjoy were bought through the unselfish sacrifices of those who have gone before us. As the strength of a country is in her people, let us never avoid our responsibility to maintain this nation as a beacon of hope and freedom to all mankind.

Reader: And to obey the Scout Law

All: Heavenly Father, accept the heartfelt thanks of us Scouts and Scouters for such men of vision and leadership as Robert Baden-Powell, William Boyce, James West, and Waite Phillips, who donated Philmont Scout Ranch to the Boy Scouts of America. Keep always before us the ideals which they set forth, and grant us the courage to live by them when others may not. Allow us never to forget that our actions may be the examples others choose to follow.

Reader: To help other people at all times

All Grant us forgiveness, Patient Lord, when we place the insignificant wants in our lives above the necessities in others' lives. Teach us to recognize and understand the problems facing others and prepare us for each day's task of helping others.

Reader: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

All: God of our ancestors, let us never forget that our bodies and minds are but temporary gifts from Thee. Help us to preserve, strengthen, and use them for the betterment of our world. May our thoughts and actions be directed toward more meaningful service in Your name. Amen.

"On My Honor" by Dr. Carroll Osburn, 1997

A Hiking Prayer

Master of the Universe
Grant me the ability to be alone;
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day

Among the trees and grass, among all living things. And there may I be alone
and enter into prayer,
To talk with the one to whom I belong.
May I express there everything in my hear,
And may all the foliage of the field
(All grasses, trees and plants)
May they all awake at my coming
To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer, So that my prayer and
speech are made whole
Through the life and the spirit of all growing things, Which are made as one by
their transcendent source.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1772-1811)

.....Column Break.....Hymn: God Bless America

God bless America, Land that I love,
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from above.
From the mountains,
To the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam.
God bless America
My home sweet home.
God bless America My home sweet home.





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...


 *INVOCATION/WELCOME*

Dear Lord: we come together this evening to give you praise and thanks for all that you have given us through your Creation. We thank you for the hearts of all who are here and those that are in Scouting. We thank you for giving Baden Powell such great guidance. We thank you for the parents of our scouts and their belief in this program. So guide us as we learn and walk in your creation and love. Amen.
-Deneen Fifield

 *OPENING PRAYER FROM THE ISLAMIC TRADITION*

**Through the Silence of Nature
(Hazrat Inayat Khan)**

Through the silence of nature,
I attain Thy divine peace.
Oh sublime nature,
in thy stillness let my heart rest.
Thou art patiently awaiting the moment
to manifest through the silence of sublime nature.
Oh nature sublime, speak to me through silence,
for I am awaiting in silence like you the call of God.
Oh nature sublime,
through thy silence I hear Thy cry.
My heart is tuned to the quietness,
that the stillness of nature inspires.

 *SCRIPTURE READING. . . even if there is only one tree full of flowers and fruits in a village,
that place becomes worthy of worship and respect.*

(from the Hindu book of the Mahabharata - महाभारत)



INSPIRATIONAL POEM



All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil Frances Alexander



All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,

The sunset, and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.



RESPONSIVE READING PRAYER (Please respond with the words "We rejoice in the life which surrounds us")

Leader: Let us give thanks for the East: for the deep waters of the Atlantic from the reaches of Maine to the Florida Keys; for the hills, valleys and streams carved out by glaciers of long ago; for the graceful hemlock and the shaggy black bear; and for the blazing sweep of foliage which washes over New England each autumn.

Response: We rejoice in the life which surrounds us

Leader: Let us give thanks for the West: for soaring mountains, searing deserts and waters roaring into the Pacific; for migrating Columbia River salmon and the melodic song of the western meadowlark; for the gnarled branches of Jeffrey pines; for the cool mists of the Oregon coast and for the primeval sanctuary of the Olympic peninsula.

Response: We rejoice in the life which surrounds us

Leader: Let us give thanks for the North: for the golden prairies and wheat fields stretching across the horizon; for the mournful call of the loon; for the stark badlands of the Dakotas and the clear cold lakes of Minnesota; for northern pike and steeleye; and for the grazing bison of Yellowstone National Park.

Response: We rejoice in the life which surrounds us

Leader: Let us give thanks for the South: for the sultry bayous of Louisiana; for the vibrant Mississippi river delta and the great Smoky Mountains; for the exuberant call of the kiskadee and the powerful jaws of the American alligator; for the splendor of magnolia trees and the sweetness of sun-ripened peaches

Response: We rejoice in the life which surrounds us

PERSONAL PRAYER

First love and serve God. Second love and serve your neighbor. In doing your duty to God, always be grateful to him. Whenever you enjoy a pleasure or a good game, or succeed in doing a good thing, thank Him for it, if only with a word or two. Let us each now say a silent prayer for our brother or sister on our right...For our brother or sister on our left...And for our brother and sister Scouts around the world.

- Lord Robert Baden Powell

Please take a moment for silent Reflection



 **INSPIRATIONAL TALK**

This evening as we consider the beauty of the lakes and hills of Griswold Scout Reservation and Camp Carpenter, let's take a moment to absorb what the Creator has given us. We in New Hampshire find ourselves literally immersed in nature but we rarely stop and let it teach us its lessons.

Louis Agassiz the great paleontologist who came to this country from Switzerland in 1846, knew more about the wonders of nature than any other person who lived during his time. He loved the outdoors. He studied birds, animals and fish until people said he could almost speak their language. He understood flowers and trees and rocks, and he knew all sorts of secrets that seemed to be hidden from others.

While a professor of natural history at Harvard University, students flocked to his classes. As he talked about the beauty and wonder of the world, words would sometimes fail him, and he would say to his students, "Let us pray." Then he would thank God for the way all things in nature revealed the wisdom and goodness of the heavenly Father.

God's creation is all around us. The wisdom that Louis Agassiz was gifted with can also be ours if we simply take time out of our busy, noise filled lives to quietly and reverently place ourselves in His presence.

From grasses that are stilled with light ...we will be gifted with an understanding of peace

From the vastness of interstellar space ...we will experience humility

From the tree that stands alone against all odds ...we will be shown courage

From the eagle that soars in the sky ...we will learn of freedom

From the seed that rises in the spring ...we will share in the miracle of life

From the doe who nurtures her young ...we will learn caring and compassion

Take some time, leave your distractions at home, go, sit on a log and place yourself in God's presence, quiet your mind and listen. Ask for the miracle of revelation through nature and it will be yours. This is easier said than done for distractions continuously demand our attention. But when we learn to cast them aside, the Creator will reveal His secrets if we simply ask. Amen.

Let us pray. Open our eyes O God that we may see you everywhere. Grant that our hearts may be in harmony with the beauty and order that is around us so that we may live as loving children in our Creator's world.

- Clarke Kidder (adapted)

 **PARTICIPATORY PRAYER**

*(please respond with the words "A Scout is"
followed by the appropriate portion of the Scout Law)*

The Scout Law

Leader: The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of young adults throughout the world today, but the principles of the law have been brought to us from ancient days.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

Scouts: **A Scout is trustworthy.**

Leader: One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but a true friend sticks closer than a brother or sister. (Proverbs 18:24)

Scouts: **A Scout is loyal.**



Leader: For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brothers and sisters, to thy needy and to the poor, in the land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Scouts: **A Scout is helpful.**

Leader: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity! (Psalm 133)

Scouts: **A Scout is friendly.**

Leader: Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

Scouts: **A Scout is courteous.**

Leader: A righteous person has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (Proverbs 12:10)

Scouts: **A Scout is kind.**

Leader: Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Scouts: **A Scout is obedient.**

Leader: A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. The mind of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. All the days of the afflicted are evil, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. (Proverbs 15:13-15)

Scouts: **A Scout is cheerful.**

Leader: Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, the ant prepares food in summer, and gathers sustenance in harvest. (Proverbs 6:6-8)

Scouts: **A Scout is thrifty.**

Leader: Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Scouts: **A Scout is brave.**

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? One who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up one's soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully. (Psalm 24:3-4)

Scouts: **A Scout is clean.**

Leader: And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)

Scouts: **A Scout is reverent,**

Leader: A Scout is reverent toward God. A Scout is faithful in his or her religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.



CLOSING ACT OF FRIENDSHIP

As we came together this evening, we see all of God's creation around us, thus our theme for this evening's worship. God has given us these things through the colors of nature, the animals, the lakes and mountains. So we give the Lord praise and thanksgiving.

Recently, there was a presentation at Keene State Collage, through the Cultural group from a Lakota Indian named J.J. Kent or Wicasa Ho' Waste' Man with a Good Voice. His beautiful flute music and history filled the room. I wanted to leave you this evening with what the Lakota call their "Seven Sacred Spiritual Laws". So let us go this evening thinking of these words.

- 1) Wowahwala, "to be Humble, To Seek Humility."
- 2) Wacante Oganake, "To help, to share, to give, to be generous."
- 3) Wowauonihan, "To Respect, to Honor."
- 4) Wowaintanka, "Patience and Tolerance."
- 5) Woksape, "Understanding and Wisdom."



6) Wowaunsila, "Pity, Compassion."

7) Woohitike, "To be Guided By your Principles, Discipline, Bravery and Courage."



CLOSING HYMN

Scout Vespers

Lyrics - Folliot S. Pierpoint , Music - Conrad Kocher

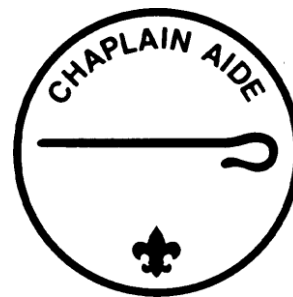
Softly falls the light of day,
As our campfire fades away.
Silently each Scout should ask
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
Everything to be prepared?

Thank you for attending.

A Scout is Reverent

Training for Local Unit

Chaplains & Chaplain Aides



Presented by the

Relationships Committee

Heart of America Council

Boy Scouts of America

2022

Interfaith Services for Scouts – Pre-test

When in a Scouting setting is it appropriate to use language (i.e., the name of God) from one's personal faith tradition?

Yes or no?

- 1) If someone is leading prayer in a group where all share the same faith?
- 2) If not everyone in the group shares the same faith, but the setting is that of a unit sponsored by a single faith at the site of that faith's worship (i.e., a troop sponsored by a Catholic Church that meets at the Catholic Church)?
- 3) If an individual is praying personally, perhaps witnessing the beautiful dawn on arising on a campout or high adventure program?
- 4) If a unit with members of more than one faith, even one sponsored by a single faith tradition, convenes in prayer on a campout or high adventure program and the setting is not the chartered organization's meeting place, but rather a natural or public setting (i.e., the great outdoors)?
- 5) In a setting where there are many faiths represented (grace before meals at summer camp, invocation at district dinner)?

True or false?

- 6) Those chosen to lead an invocation in a setting with members of multiple faiths present are leading a diverse community in prayer, rather than praying personally in public.
- 7) Interfaith invocations are to be worded to be inclusive, not to exclude any faith represented.
- 8) An invocation may be in any language native to a specific prayer tradition, as long as it is also translated into English, the common tradition of our diverse community.
- 9) Wordings and endings may, and are anticipated to reference God, but names for God should be avoided that are not shared by the diverse traditions represented in the audience (such as Allah, Hashem, and Jesus, as examples).
- 10) Interfaith invocations should end with inclusive language, such as "in Your name we pray, Amen;" or "in God's name we pray, Amen;" or simply "Amen."

Please find below an orientation recommended to be used for those asked to lead interfaith invocations, grace before meals, etc. As policy of the Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America, it is good to review and renew our awareness of how to do this.

Interfaith orientation:

When it is appropriate to use language from one's personal faith tradition?

- 1) If someone is leading prayer in a group in which all members share the same faith, it is expected that the language of that faith tradition would be used.
- 2) If not all members of the group being led in prayer share the same faith, but the setting is that of a unit sponsored by a single faith, at the site of that faith's worship (i.e. a troop sponsored by a Catholic Church that meets at the Catholic Church), then prayer would be anticipated to be of that faith tradition.
- 3) If an individual is praying personally, perhaps witnessing the beautiful dawn on arising on a campout or high adventure program, that individual would be expected to pray in his own tradition.
- 4) If the unit convenes in prayer on the campout or high adventure program, it gets a little more complicated....

If not all members of the group share the same faith (even if the unit is sponsored by a faith institution), and the setting is not the chartered organization's meeting place, but rather a non-faith based setting (i.e., the great outdoors), then the unit should be sensitive to the variety of faith traditions represented. It would be appropriate in such a setting to utilize a mixture of worship experiences. For example, the unit could celebrate the Jewish Sabbath on Friday night / Saturday morning, and the Christian Sabbath Sunday morning. In addition, daily invocations, evening reflections, grace before meals, etc. should be interfaith and drawn from various collected interfaith writings. The Eagles Soaring High BSA High Adventure Multi-faith / Inter-faith prayer booklet is a good resource.

- 5) Finally, in a clearly heterogeneous setting (grace before meals at summer camp, invocation at a District dinner), an interfaith invocation should be used, with care taken to use interfaith references to God (see the orientation below). This is all about the American tradition, not shared in all places in the world, of tolerance of and respect for the diversity of our population. It's a constant challenge, nonetheless, as we well know.

Recommended orientation for those asked to give an interfaith invocation:

*Thank you for accepting our invitation to lead the [troop, dinner, etc.] in an invocation, which has become a valued part of our tradition. We wish to remind ourselves that those chosen to lead us in an invocation are **leading a diverse community in prayer, rather than praying personally in public.***

We request and expect that our invocations be worded so as to be inclusive, not to exclude any faith represented in our group.

An invocation may be in any language native to a specific prayer tradition, as long as it is also translated into English, the common tradition of our diverse community.

*Wordings and endings may, and indeed are anticipated to, reference God, but we request and expect that you will **avoid** names for God that are not shared by the diverse traditions represented in the audience (such as Allah, Hashem [the Name], the Son, Jesus, and others).*

Similarly, please end your invocation with inclusive language, such as "in Your Name we pray, Amen;" or "in God's Name we pray, Amen;" or simply "Amen."

Thank you again for accepting our invitation to lead our community in an interfaith invocation. We are grateful for your inspiration.

Interfaith Invocations, Prayers, Messages and Services for Scouting

A sampling - 2022

1. Interfaith Invocation – Respect for Diverse Traditions

Let us pray,
Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe,
Who has created us, sustained us and brought us together this day.

You have allowed us to worship You, each in our own way;
Help us to hear each other's worship with respect.

You have enabled us to serve You, each in our own way;
Help us to see each other's service as complementary.

You have nurtured each of us in our relationship with You;
Help us to grow in our relationship with You, and with each other.
And let us say, Amen.

2. Interfaith Invocation – Responsive

Leader:

Let us pray.
There is no God but God.
Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe,
Who has created us, sustained us and brought us together this day.

Responsively (alternate lines):

You have allowed us to worship You, each in our own way;
Help us to hear each other's worship with respect.

You have enabled us to serve You, each in our own way;
Help us to see each other's service as complementary.

You have nurtured each of us in our relationship with You;

Help us to grow in our relationship with You, and with each other.

Help us to understand Your intent for us as stewards of Your creation;

Help us to understand Your will in our actions, and to use the gifts You have given us.

Leader:

Lord, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat and for the comforts we enjoy.

God be with you in all that you do.

And let us say together, *Amen*

3. Interfaith Invocation – Thankfulness

Let us join together in an ancient prayer of thankfulness

Holy are You, Lord, and hallowed is Your name. Holy are they who praise You.

How shall we render the Lord His due for all His many bounties to us?

We lift up the cup of deliverance and call upon the name of the Lord.

We are Your servants, Lord; to You we give thanks.

In the presence of all your people, praised are You, Lord and holy God.

4. Interfaith Prayer – Morning (on Arising)

I thank you, ever-living God, for re-awakening my soul.

Great is your mercy and faithfulness.

5. Invocation (Psalms) – for those interested in using selected original Hebrew phrases of the Hebrew Bible (the “Old Testament”)

Zeh ha’yom asah Adonai (*“Psalm 124”)

This is the day the Lord has made.

We are but stewards of this day. May we use this day wisely to contribute to serving Your creation.

Ki yoday'ah Adonai derech tzadikim ("Psalm 8")*

For the Lord cherishes the way of the righteous.

We seek Your guidance to instill in us wisdom and courage.

Elohim imcha b'chol asher atah oseh ("Genesis 21:22')*

God be with you in all that you do.

And let us say, Amen.

*[*Original Hebrew]*

6. Interfaith Invocation – Short

Blessed are You,
Lord our G-d,
Ruler of the universe,
Who has created us, sustained us, and
Brought us to be together this day.

Help us to understand Your intent for us as stewards of Your creation.
Help us to use the gifts You have given us
To help others,
To reduce suffering, and
To repair the world.

And let us say, Amen.

7. Interfaith Invocation – Poem

God who rules the heavens,
To whom all praise is due,
Bless all who are assembled here,
And the work we seek to do.

Guide us with Your spirit,
To follow in Your ways,
Help us to work in harmony,
In the tasks we face in our days.

Bless the works of our hands,
That through them we may reach
Beyond ourselves to others
To help, to guide, to teach.

When we reach to You for guidance,
As our task is never done,
Hear each of the names we call You,
And know that we know you are One.

[Add for grace before meals:]

Lord, we thank you for the beauty of the earth,
For the food we eat,
And for the comforts we enjoy.

And let us say, *Amen*

[Adapted 1-23-2010 by Norman Kahn, from Linda Salvay 1997 (#7) and BSA's Eagles Soaring High 2004 (#11)]

8. Interfaith Invocation – Prayer

Help us O Lord/Creator to gather in peace,
And strengthen us.

Spread over us your wisdom,
And guide us.

Shield us,
That we may come to serve your world and its people.

Praised are You Lord/Creator, Who spreads a shelter of peace over us,
Over all your people, and over your creation.

Blessed are You Lord/Creator, in peace.
Amen

9. Interfaith Benediction – The Week Ahead

May it be your will,
Lord our God, God of all,

To reawaken in us joy and blessing in the week ahead.
Grant us a good week,
A peaceful week of goodness and blessing,
Sustenance and vitality;
A week of reverence and piety,
A week free from shame and reproach,
A week of abundance and honor,
A reverent week guided by Your love;
A week in which our worthy aspirations will be fulfilled.
Amen

10. Interfaith Benediction – a Prayer of Thanksgiving

*We proclaim that You are our God, God of our ancestors, God of all life,
our Creator, the Creator of all.
We praise You and thank You for granting us life and for sustaining us.
May You continue to grant us life and sustenance.
Gather all of us to Your Holiness, to fulfill Your word and to serve You
wholeheartedly, doing Your will.
For this, we shall thank You.
Praised be God to Whom thanksgiving is due.*

11. Gaelic – Ansel Adams

I know that I am one with beauty
and that my comrades are one.
Let our souls be mountains,
let our spirits be stars,
let our hearts be worlds.

12. Scout Grace before Meals

God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat and for the comforts we enjoy.
Help us to love others more, to be concerned with the problems of our day, and to understand Your
will in our actions.
Grant us the strength to live wisely and well, to be worthy users of Your creation and ready and
willing workers for the causes of goodness.

Amen. [*Eagles Soaring High*, BSA 2004]

13. Scout Grace after Meals

Blessed be God and blessed be His Name; may the Name of God be blessed from now to eternity.
Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who feeds the whole world.

With goodness, with grace, and with kindness and mercy, He gives food to every creature, for His
mercy endures forever.

And in His great goodness we have never been in want, so, in His great Name, may there never be
want of sustenance, to the end of time.

For He feeds and provides for all, and is good to all, and prepares food for all the creatures He has
created. Blessed are You, Lord, who feeds all.

14. Multi-Faith Prayer

In the name of God, most Beneficent, most Merciful,

Praise be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds;

Most Gracious, most Merciful, Master of the Day of Judgment,

Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek.

Show us the straightway,

The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, those whose portion is not wrath, and
who go not astray.

["Surah Al Fateha," translated from the Qur'an 1:1-7, "Prologue." Contributed by Mahnaz Shabbir]

15. A Psalm of Praise (Psalm 100)

Acclaim the Lord, all people on earth.

Worship the Lord in gladness;

Come before Him with joyous song.

Know that the Lord is God. He fashioned us

And we are His, His people, the flock that He shepherds.

Enter His gates with acclamation, His courts with praise.

Acclaim Him and praise Him.

For the Lord is good, His love is eternal,

His faithfulness endures for all generations.

16. A Song for Ascents (Psalm 121)

I turn my eyes to the mountains;
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot give way;
your guardian will not slumber.
See, the guardian of Israel
neither slumbers nor sleeps!
The Lord is your guardian,
the Lord is your protection at your right hand.
By day the sun will not strike you,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will guard you from all harm;
He will guard your life.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
now and forever.
Amen.

17. Interfaith Group Prayer (compilation of Psalms)

Leader:

Let us pray. Most patient God, Master of mercy, we come before You in prayer.

Group (sequentially):

The Lord is my light and my help. Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life. Whom shall I dread?

Hope in the Lord and be strong.
Hope in the Lord and take courage.

Teach me Your way, O Lord.
Guide me on the right path.

As clay in the hand of the potter, to be thickened or thinned as he wishes,
are we in Your hand.

As stone in the hand of the mason, to be broken or preserved as he wishes,
are we in Your hand.

As iron in the hand of the blacksmith, to be thrust into the fire or withdrawn as he wishes,
are we in Your hand.

As a rudder in the hand of the helmsman, to be guided or abandoned as he wishes,
are we in Your hand.

As glass in the hand of the glazier, to be melted or shaped as he wishes,
are we in Your hand.

Hear our voice, Lord, our God,
accept our prayer with compassion and kindness.

Help us to return to You, and we will return.
Do not be far from us, as You are our help and our comfort.

Hear our words, O Lord, and consider our inmost thoughts.
May the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be acceptable to you, O Lord.

For we are Your people,
and You our God.

We are Your children,
and You our Father.

We are Your servants,
and You our Master.

We are Your congregation,
and You our only One.

We are Your heritage,
and You our Destiny.

We are Your flock,
and You our Shepherd.

We are Your vineyard,
and You our Watchman.

We are Your creatures,
and You our Creator.

We are Your faithful,
and You our Beloved.

We are Your treasure,
and You our Protector.

We are Your subjects,
and You our King.

We have chosen You,
and You have chosen us.

Leader:

Ours is the faith that we surely will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. One thing we ask of the Lord, for this we yearn: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.

And let us say, *Amen.*

18. Interfaith prayer

Oh Lord, open my lips that I may declare your praise.

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart find favor before you, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Oh God, establish your sovereignty over us.

Help us to acknowledge Your rule, not only with our lips, but also with our lives.

May we bend our will to conform to Your will, and may our hearts find delight in serving you.

May our every act proclaim "The Lord God is King and His sovereignty rules over all."

Oh God, help us to remember who we are.

Keep us from forgetting that we are your children, and that you want us to love each other.

Help us remember the past that we have inherited, and keep us ever mindful of the future which we must secure and enrich.

May the memories which guide our actions inspire us to lead lives worthy of being remembered.

Oh God, may you always be present to us.

Help us to sense Your spirit when we yearn for truth and righteousness, when we strive to create the good and the beautiful, and when we work for justice and peace.

May our daily deeds bear witness that You, who revealed Yourself to our ancestors, reveal yourself anew through us.

19. Traveler's Prayer

May it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our ancestors, to guide us in peace, to lead us to our desired destination in health and joy and peace, and to bring us home in peace.

Save us from every enemy and disaster on the way, and from all calamities that threaten the world.

Bless the work of our hands.

May we find grace, love and compassion in Your sight and in the sight of all who see us.

Hear our supplication, for You listen to prayer and supplication.

Praised are You, Lord, who hears prayer.

20. A Prayer for those Who Serve the Community

May God who blessed our ancestors bless us, together with all those who unite in prayer, those who pray, those who give, and all who devotedly involve themselves with the needs of our community and land.

May the Holy One reward them, remove sickness from them, heal them, and forgive their sins.

May God bless them by making all their worthy endeavors prosper, as well as those of the entire people.

And let us say, *Amen*.

21. A Prayer for Our Country

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask Your blessings for our country – for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights

from Your teachings, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions that are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land, under Your providence, be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom, helping them to fulfill the vision of your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war anymore."

And let us say, *Amen*.

22. Interfaith Worship Service for Scouts (*sample*)

Elements: (*note inclusivity*)

1. **Invocation (we invite God to be here with us today) - #8**
2. **Songs (5C, Open My Eyes, Amazing Grace, The Lord's Prayer, Morning Has Broken, Take Me to the River, God Bless America, Bridge Over Troubled Water)**
3. **Prayer - #10**
4. **Scriptural Reading – The Prophet Micha as modified, Psalms (150)**
5. **Message – 5A as modified**
6. **Benediction (we go out with God in our hearts) - #6 below, 5b, other (responsive)**

1. Call to worship, Psalm 100:1-3

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come into His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is He that made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

2. Song – "God Bless America"

*God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairie,
To the ocean, white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.*

3. Prayer

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe,
Who has created us, sustained us and brought us together this day.

You have allowed us to worship You, each in our own way;
Help us to hear each other's worship with respect.

You have enabled us to serve You, each in our own way;
Help us to see each other's service as complementary.

You have nurtured each of us in our relationship with You;
Help us to grow in our relationship with You, and with each other.
And let us say, *Amen*.

4. Scripture Reading (Micah 6:6 & 6:8)

With what shall I come before the **Lord/Creator**,
and humble myself before **G-d** on high?
Shall I come before **God** with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

God has told you, mankind, what is good,
and what the Lord requires of you –

To do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God.

5a. Interfaith Message *(sample)*

The early first century Rabbi Hillel was approached by a skeptic who challenged him, “Teach me the whole law while I stand on one foot.” Rabbi Hillel responded, “Do not unto others as you would not have them do unto you; that is the law, the rest is commentary; now go and study.”

Another early first century Rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth, was similarly approached by his disciples on a hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee. His response, found in the book of Matthew, was, “In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the law...”

We ask, “What is expected of me, in this, God’s creation?”

A famous twentieth century professor of religion, Huston Smith, taught that all religions meet three great needs of mankind:

1. Believing (answering mankind’s unanswerable questions, like why am I here, what is my purpose?);
2. Behaving (the development of moral law, forming the basis of social law); and
3. Belonging (the sense of community, understanding our place in the world).

In the passage of Scripture in our reading, the prophet Micah addresses our basic question, “What is expected of me?” and he responds with our now three familiar answers:

1. Do justice (meaning, “behave within the socially accepted law”),
2. Love kindness (meaning, “treat each other as extended family to which we all belong”), and
3. Walk humbly with your God (meaning, “come to believe and recognize that we are limited in comparison to God, and in our ability to understand His creation”).
4. **Same principles in the Scout Oath**

And let us say, *Amen*.

5b. Scouting Message

Responsive reading: A Scouting litany (*The Scout Law*):

Leader: Truly worthy people recognize their obligations and do them without being watched or compelled.

People: *A Scout is trustworthy.*

Leader: We owe much to many – home, school, community, nation; and to God.

People: *A Scout is loyal.*

Leader: The good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a good turn.

People: *A Scout is helpful.*

Leader: Be generous with the hand of fellowship, the tap on the shoulder, the smile of encouragement.

People: *A Scout is friendly.*

Leader: Courtesy is the mark of all faiths. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

People: *A Scout is courteous.*

Leader: Kindliness is the way people show respect for others.

People: *A Scout is kind.*

Leader: Life is filled with things we must do, whether we like them or not. One of the marks of growing up is our readiness to accept responsibilities willingly.

People: *A Scout is obedient.*

Leader: Our moods make our days. If we are grouchy, then our days are gloomy. If we are happy, then our days are always happier.

People: *A Scout is cheerful.*

Leader: The world offers many gifts. A wise person uses them with care.

People: *A Scout is thrifty.*

Leader: To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. In choice of courage or cowardice, may we be brave.

People: *A Scout is brave.*

Leader: We are like God when we have a clean mind and body. A good name and a clean record are treasures worth guarding.

People: *A Scout is clean.*

Leader: Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves, and our brothers and sisters, and see them as gifts of the goodness of God, then we live on a high plane.

People: *A Scout is reverent.*

5c. Optional – offering with prayer or song here

Song – “Sanctuary” (or other song):

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living*

sanctuary for You. (repeat)

6. Closing benediction:

May the time be not too distant, oh Lord, when all Your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before You.

Then shall Your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of Your prophet shall be fulfilled: the Lord will reign forever and ever.

And let us say, *Amen*.

Resources for Leadings Scouts at Worship

Resources for Religious Emblems

- US Scouting Service Project:
<http://usscouts.org/reverent.asp>
- P.R.A.Y. Resources for Religious Emblems:
<https://www.praypub.org/>

The chaplain patch, No. 00440, and the chaplain aide patch, No. 00443, may be ordered from the BSA National Distribution Center, 1-800-323-0732, or from any Scout shop, local council service center, or official Scouting distributor.

“Handbook for Chaplains and Chaplain Aides in Scouts BSA Troops and Venturing Crews” (*BSA publication 522-036, 2012 Printing*):

https://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/522-036_web.pdf

Wikipedia article on Religious Emblem programs:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_emblems_programs_\(Boy_Scouts_of_America\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_emblems_programs_(Boy_Scouts_of_America))

Songs:

THIS IS THE DAY (*Isaiah 40:31*)

E - - - / B7 - - - / B7 - - - / E - - -

This is the day (*repeat*)

That the Lord has made (*repeat*)

We shall rejoice and be glad in it (*repeat*)

A - - E - - / A - - E - B7 -

This is the day that the Lord has made,

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

E - - - / B7 - - E - -

This is the day (this is the day)

That the Lord has made.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

G D - - GD / G D A D / G D - - G / C G CD GO

O beautiful for spacious skies,

For amber waves of grain,

For purple mountain majesties,

Above the fruited plain!

America! America!

God shed his grace on thee!

And crown thy good with brotherhood,

From sea to shining sea!

JOSHUA FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF JERICO

Am - / E7

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho

And the walls came tumbling down

You may talk about the men of Gideon

You may brag about the men of Saul

But there's none like good old Joshua

At the battle of Jericho

Up to the walls of Jericho

They marched with spears in hand

Come blow them ram horns Joshua said

'Cause the battle is in our hands

Then the lamb ram sheep horns began to blow

The trumpets began to sound

Joshua commanded the children to shout

And the walls came tumbling down.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

D – G D / G – A D (x2) / D – A D / G D A D

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies;
For the love which from our birth,
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour,
Of the day and of the night;
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on Earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

AMAZING GRACE

D - G D / D - - A7 - / D D7 G D / D A7 D -

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

GOD IS SO GOOD

D - A7 - / A7 - D - / D - G - D A7 D

God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to me.

God cares for me . . .

I'll trust in him . . .

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

D G - D - / A - D - / (x2)

*This land is your land, this land is my land
From California, to the New York Island
From the redwood forest, to the gulfstream waters
This land was made for you and me*

As I was walking a ribbon of highway
I saw above me an endless skyway
I saw below me a golden valley
This land was made for you and me. *Chorus*

I've roamed and rambled and I've followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
And all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me. *Chorus*

The sun comes shining as I was strolling
The wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
The fog was lifting a voice come chanting
This land was made for you and me

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD

Em C G
Our God (echo) is an awesome God
D Em (B7)Em
He reigns (echo) from heaven above
C G (Em)
With wisdom power and love
Am Em (B7) Em
Our God is an awesome God

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD

D - / A - / D - / A D

He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got you and me brother / sister

He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the itty bitty baby . . .

He's got the sun & the moon . . .

He's got the wind & the rain . . .

He's got the sun & the moon . . .

He's got the whole world in his hands . . .

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

D -- D7 / G -- D / --- / D A D

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

All around the town, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

Everywhere that I may go . . .

In my daily work . . .

For the poor and hungry folk . . .

Free of fear and hatred . . .

Trustin' in the Lord . . .

Building a brand new world . . .

Put it under a bushel—No! . . .

Ain't nobody gonna "whoof" it out . . .

I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER

D -- D7 / G - D - / D - - A7 /

D -- D7 / G - D - / D A7 D

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in my soul;

Repeat

I've got love like an ocean . . .

I've got joy like a fountain . . .

ROCK-A MY SOUL

D - A7 / A7 - D

Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham (3x)

O rock-a my soul

When I went down in the valley to pray

O rock-a my soul

My soul got happy and I stayed all day

O rock-a my soul

Chorus

When I was a mourner just like you

O rock-a my soul

I mourned and I mourned till I come thru

O rock-a my soul

Chorus

So high, can't get over it

So low can't get under it

So wide, can't get 'round it

O rock-a my soul

Chorus

O GIVE THANKS (PS 136:1-5)

E - - A / E - - B7 / E - E7 - A - E / E - - B7 /

Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good

And his steadfast love endures forever

Oh give thanks to the God of gods,

Oh give thanks to the Lord of lords

For his steadfast love endures forever

To Him who alone does great wonders

For his steadfast love endures forever

To Him who by understanding made the heavens

For his steadfast love endures forever

For his steadfast love endures forever

**PREPARING A CHAPEL TALK
PLANNING SHEET FOR A ONE-POINT TALK**

TOPIC:

PURPOSE / DESIRED OUTCOME:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

INTRO — GET ATTENTION:

MAIN IDEA:

- ILLUSTRATION #1:

- ILLUSTRATION #2:

- ILLUSTRATION #3:

ACTION — WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LISTENERS TO DO?

OR

TAKE-AWAY IDEA — ONE THING YOU WANT THEM TO REMEMBER?

Please find below an orientation recommended to be used for those asked to lead *interfaith invocations, grace before meals, etc.* As policy of the Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America, it is good to review and renew our awareness of how to do this.

Interfaith orientation:

When it is appropriate to use language from one's personal faith tradition?

- 1) If someone is leading prayer in a group in which all members share the same faith, it is expected that the language of that faith tradition would be used.
- 2) If not all members of the group being led in prayer share the same faith, but the setting is that of a unit sponsored by a single faith, at the site of that faith's worship (i.e. a troop sponsored by a Catholic Church that meets at the Catholic Church), then prayer would be anticipated to be of that faith tradition.
- 3) If an individual is praying personally, perhaps witnessing the beautiful dawn on arising on a campout or high adventure program, that individual would be expected to pray in his own tradition.
- 4) If the unit convenes in prayer on the campout or high adventure program, it gets a little more complicated....

If not all members of the group share the same faith (even if the unit is sponsored by a faith institution), and the setting is not the chartered organization's meeting place, but rather a non-faith based setting (i.e., the great outdoors), then the unit should be sensitive to the variety of faith traditions represented. It would be appropriate in such a setting to utilize a mixture of worship experiences. For example, the unit could celebrate the Jewish Sabbath on Friday night / Saturday morning, and the Christian Sabbath Sunday morning. In addition, daily invocations, evening reflections, grace before meals, etc. should be interfaith and drawn from various collected interfaith writings. The Eagles Soaring High BSA High Adventure Multi-faith / Inter-faith prayer booklet is a good resource.

- 5) Finally, in a clearly heterogeneous setting (grace before meals at summer camp, invocation at a District dinner), an interfaith invocation should be used, with care taken to use interfaith references to God (see the orientation below). This is all about the American tradition, not shared in all places in the world, of tolerance of and respect for the diversity of our population. It's a constant challenge, nonetheless, as we well know.

Recommended orientation for those asked to give an interfaith invocation:

*Thank you for accepting our invitation to lead the [troop, dinner, etc.] in an invocation (grace before meals, benediction, etc.), which has become a valued part of our tradition. We wish to remind ourselves that those chosen to lead us in an invocation are **leading a diverse community in prayer, rather than praying personally in public.***

We request and expect that our invocations be worded so as to be inclusive, not to exclude any faith represented in our group.

An invocation may be in any language native to a specific prayer tradition, as long as it is also translated into English, the common tradition of our diverse community.

*Wordings and endings may, and indeed are anticipated to, reference God, but we request and expect that you will **avoid** names for God that are not shared by the diverse traditions represented in the audience (such as Allah, Hashem [the Name], the Son, Jesus, and others).*

Similarly, please end your invocation with inclusive language, such as "in Your Name we pray, Amen;" or "in God's Name we pray, Amen;" or simply "Amen." Thank you again for accepting our invitation to lead our community in an interfaith invocation. We are grateful for your inspiration