



ANTIPHON (Footprints)

Left side: One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

Right side: When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

Left side: This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

Right side: The Lord replied: "My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

OPENING

Leader: Together we are gathered in God's name, ✠ Father, Son Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May God fill us with peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Blessed be God forever.

All: **Blessed be God forever.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Leader: Brothers and Sisters let us call to mind our sins and ask for God's mercy for our weakness and sinfulness.

Leader: Lord Jesus you bring salt to the Earth to enliven our lives. Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the word, you scatter the darkness. Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division. Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy.**





GLORIA

Leader: Lord open our lips
All: **And we shall proclaim your praise.**

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 sin 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

God you are always with us despite our loneliness, despite our sinfulness. In times of despair you are so ever more with us and for this we thank You. May our prayer session be pleasing to you and our conversation edifying. May we always be mindful of the presence of Your Son, for You loved the world so much that you gave Him for us so that we who believe in Him may be able to share in communion with You. Be with us as we prepare ourselves for the World Youth Day pilgrimage, and afterwards that we will journey together with Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING (Isaiah 9:1-6, NAB)

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counsellor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**





RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 25, Marty Haugen)



Response: **To You O Lord I lift my soul. To You I lift my soul.**

Reader: Lord, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths and keep me in the way of Your Truth. For You are God, my Saviour. **R.**
For the Lord is good and righteous. Believe in the way to know to seek God. Gently healing the poor and the humble. **R.**
To the ones who seek you Lord. Who look to your Word, who live your love. You will always be near. You will show them your mercy. **R.**

SECOND READING (Acts 9:1-6, 20-22, NAB)

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city..." He began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. All who heard him were astounded and said, "Is not this the man who in Jerusalem ravaged those who call upon this name, and came here expressly to take them back in chains to the chief priests?" But Saul grew all the stronger and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus, proving that this is the Messiah.

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

GOSPEL (Matthew 16:24-28, NAB)

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord.**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

The Good News of the Lord. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**





DISCUSSION (Catechism reading: 1996-2005)

Leader: Let us have some silent reflection time to reflect on the scripture readings and the attached passage from the Catechism. Last week's theme was about the effect of WYD on the community at large. Today we want to focus on our own personal spiritual development and growth. Feel free to leave the circle and find a nice quiet spot in the chapel to reflect. We will get back together in about five minutes and talk about our hopes for World Youth Day 2002.

APOSTLES' CREED

Leader: Inspired by the Word of God, let us proclaim our faith as one Body of Christ.

All: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son Our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins, the Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Lord we thank you for all that you have done to win over our souls. We ask you to hear the prayers that your faithful flock humbly brings before you.

RESPONSE: **Lord, be with us on our journey**

Reader: That the God who led the people of Israel through the desert may be our protection on our journey and bring us home safely, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, be with us on our journey.**

That the Church throughout the world, led by Holy Father Pope John Paul and the Bishops through the merits of apostolic succession, may shine brighter through our own individual lights, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, be with us on our journey.**

That all of us gathering for World Youth Days may be travelling ambassadors for Christ, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, be with us on our journey.**

That we may be a leaven to people all over the world. We pray to the Lord, **Lord, be with us on our journey.**

That we may always remember Christ's presence during our journey in life and that we will use the strength of that presence to better serve Him. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, be with us on our journey.**

For any additional petitions, to which we respond **Lord Hear Our Prayer.**

We pray to the Lord. **Lord Hear Our Prayer.**





Leader: Let us call upon Mother Mary, Our Spiritual Mother and Protector of the Church to pray with us:

All: **Hail Mary, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Jesus taught us to call God our Father. Calling Him "Our Father" makes us sons and daughters of God and brothers and sisters to each other. Faithful we are to His command that we confidently pray:

All: **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. Amen.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: Jesus said "I leave you peace, my peace I give you". May He grant us the peace and unity of His kingdom where He lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As Christians we boldly preach a crucified Christ. The Cross, once a symbol of death and despair is lifted up as triumph over death and despair. Let us now offer each other a sign of peace by tracing a cross on each other's forehead as a gesture reflecting our desire to have the Cross planted deeply within our minds and our hearts in the hopes that we too will share in the triumph of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2002

All: **God our Father, Your Son Jesus calls us to be salt of the Earth and light for the world. Let the light of your justice shine in our lives, so that our words may season the world with the flavour of the Gospel, and our lives be shining examples of Jesus who is the True Light. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: May God be constantly at our side and in his loving care guide our journey. **Amen.**
May God grant that this journey indeed be a pilgrimage and an experience of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church. **Amen.**

May God be our companion not only on this journey but on the journey of life. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless us, the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit ☩ and be with us in all that we are and in all that we do. **Amen.**





CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

GRACE

1996 Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is *favour*, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.

1997 Grace is a *participation in the life of God*. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his Body. As an "adopted son" he can henceforth call God "Father," in union with the only Son. He receives the life of the Spirit who breathes charity into him and who forms the Church.

1998 This vocation to eternal life is *supernatural*. It depends entirely on God's gratuitous initiative, for he alone can reveal and give himself. It surpasses the power of human intellect and will, as that of every other creature.

1999 The grace of Christ is the gratuitous gift that God makes to us of his own life, infused by the Holy Spirit into our soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it. It is the *sanctifying* or *deifying grace* received in Baptism. It is in us the source of the work of sanctification:

Therefore if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.

2000 Sanctifying grace is an habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that perfects the soul itself to enable it to live with God, to act by his love. *Habitual grace*, the permanent disposition to live and act in keeping with God's call, is distinguished from actual graces which refer to God's interventions, whether at the beginning of conversion or in the course of the work of sanctification.

2001 The *preparation of man* for the reception of grace is already a work of grace. This latter is needed to arouse and sustain our collaboration in justification through faith, and in sanctification through charity. God brings to completion in us what he has begun, "since he who completes his work by cooperating with our will began by working so that we might will it:"

Indeed we also work, but we are only collaborating with God who works, for his mercy has gone before us. It has gone before us so that we may be healed, and follows us so that once healed, we may be given life; it goes before us so that we may be called, and follows us so that we may be glorified; it goes before us so that we may live devoutly, and follows us so that we may always live with God: for without him we can do nothing.

2002 God's free initiative demands *man's free response*, for God has created man in his image by conferring on him, along with freedom, the power to know him and love him. The soul only enters freely into the communion of love. God immediately touches and directly moves the heart of man. He has placed in man a longing for truth and goodness that only he can satisfy. The promises of "eternal life" respond, beyond all hope, to this desire:

If at the end of your very good works . . . , you rested on the seventh day, it was to foretell by the voice of your book that at the end of our works, which are indeed "very good" since you have given them to us, we shall also rest in you on the sabbath of eternal life.

2003 Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the





salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church. There are *sacramental graces*, gifts proper to the different sacraments. There are furthermore *special graces*, also called *charisms* after the Greek term used by St. Paul and meaning "favour," "gratuitous gift," "benefit." Whatever their character - sometimes it is extraordinary, such as the gift of miracles or of tongues - charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity which builds up the Church.

2004 Among the special graces ought to be mentioned the *graces of state* that accompany the exercise of the responsibilities of the Christian life and of the ministries within the Church:

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

2005 Since it belongs to the supernatural order, grace *escapes our experience* and cannot be known except by faith. We cannot therefore rely on our feelings or our works to conclude that we are justified and saved. However, according to the Lord's words "Thus you will know them by their fruits" - reflection on God's blessings in our life and in the lives of the saints offers us a guarantee that grace is at work in us and spurs us on to an ever greater faith and an attitude of trustful poverty.

A pleasing illustration of this attitude is found in the reply of St. Joan of Arc to a question posed as a trap by her ecclesiastical judges: "Asked if she knew that she was in God's grace, she replied: 'If I am not, may it please God to put me in it; if I am, may it please God to keep me there.'"

