

(Matthew chapters 5, 11 - excerpts)

Reader 1: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Reader 1: Jesus prayed:

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,

Reader 2: "Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reader 1: *and I will give you rest.*

Reader 2: Blessed are those who mourn; they will be consoled.

Reader 1: *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,*

Reader 2: Blessed are the meek; they will inherit the earth.

Reader 1: *for I am meek and humble of heart;*

Reader 2: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; they will be filled.

Reader 2: Blessed are those who show mercy to others; they will be shown mercy.

Reader 1: *you will find rest for yourselves.*

Reader 2: Blessed are the pure in heart; they will see God.

Reader 1: *For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.*

Reader 2: Blessed are those who work for peace; they will be called children of God.

Allow a slight pause in silence

Reader 1: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.