

Giving Ourselves to God and Others

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Open your hearts to the word of God as he speaks to us today in Scripture.

One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: How do you love God? Reflect for a moment on the ways you praise and worship. In what ways do you show God how much you love him?

All: Dear Lord, help me always to put you first. I know that sometimes I am distracted. I choose my own desires over what I know to be right. I want to do better. Give me strength.

Leader: How do you love your neighbor? Reflect for a moment on ways you show others care and compassion. In what ways do you show your neighbor how much he or she is loved?

All: Loving Father, it's easy to love those who are kind and considerate. But even then I sometimes put myself first. Help me remember that every person is made in your likeness and image. I want to be like Jesus. Open my heart. Help me become more loving and compassionate—to be Christ's hands and feet on earth.

Leader: Let us pray for the virtues of faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. May God grant us the strength to be chaste, generous, grateful, zealous, gentle, and humble.

All: Gentle Lord, as we prepare for Confirmation, help us practice these virtues and grow to become more loving. Thank you for your love and compassion. May we always be open to accepting your love and willing to share it with others. In your name, we pray. Amen.