Call to Prayer and Sharing

- Invitation to Prayer - Leader
  Let us begin,
  Now, here in this place
  With a moment of silence, to reflect,
  to focus, to be attentive to ourselves,
  to one another, and to the presence of Christ.
  May the Lord come and increase our faith. (reflective pause)

- Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.

- Then: “In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . .”

The Word of God

- Leader: Let us welcome God’s Word into our hearts.
  - Sing to the melody of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”.
    Open our minds to, know you Lord;
    Open our hearts to, hear your voice;
    Open our hearts now, to your Word;
    Come to us now, O Lord, our God.

From Luke 9:51 – 62 (I will follow you wherever you go)

When the days for Jesus’ being taken up were fulfilled,
he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem,
and he sent messengers ahead of him.
On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there,
but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem.
When the disciples James and John saw this they asked,
“Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?”
Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.

As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him,
“I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus answered him,
“Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests,
but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”

And to another he said, “Follow me.”
But he replied, “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.”
But he answered him, “Let the dead bury their dead.
But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” And another said, “I will follow you, Lord,
but first let me say farewell to my family at home.”
To him Jesus said, “No one who sets a hand to the plow
and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”
The Word of the Lord...

- At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.
Faith Sharing/Question of the Week (consider sharing on either question)

❖ Adult: When this past week did you invite someone to pray or go to mass with you?
❖ Mixed Ages: When did you pray this week with your family, and when will you pray today?

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.

❖ When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.

Litany of Faith
Leader: Christ Jesus, you alone hold the answer to our troubled lives.
        Teach us to pray.
All: Help us to pray, Lord, each and every day.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you alone are the way that we are to follow.
        Teach us to pray.
All: Help us to pray, Lord, each and every day.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you alone are our center, our source of strength.
        Teach us to pray.
All: Help us to pray, Lord, each and every day.

The Lord’s Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together:
All: Gracious God, we know that you are with us here, and we have taken your Word into our hearts.
      You call us all to conversion, we who are here in this place, and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.
      We are ready, we are willing, and we are yours.
      So we surrender to you our aches and longings into one as we pray:
      Our Father...

Continue with the Meeting

Final Blessing
Leader: Now let us bless one another:
All: May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.
      May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.
      And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; may we always love and serve, filled with God’s Peace. Amen.
Leader: Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.