



Synod on Synodality Listening Session – Opening Prayer

Leader of Prayer (clergy or lay person):

Lector:

Reflection:

Intercessor:

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

Leader: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **Brothers and sisters, let us bless and praise the Lord, the
fountain of all goodness.**

All: **Blessed be God forever.**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: **We come to you, O God, in silence
to listen with the ear of the heart
to the indwelling voice of your Holy Spirit.
We pray for unity of all members of the Church,
women and men, young and old,
those in positions of leadership
and those at the margins who feel excluded.
Give us who gather this day
open hearts and ears to hear the Church,
the people of God,
with wisdom, knowledge, patience and courage.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-6, 25

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians:

Brothers and sisters,

**Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the spirit
through the bond of peace:**

One body and one Spirit,

**as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.**

**Therefore, putting away all falsehood,
speak the truth, each one to his neighbor,
for we are members one of another.**

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: Excerpt from address of His Holiness Pope Francis for the opening of the Synod, 9 October, 2021.

“You have come by many different roads and from different churches, each bearing your own questions and hopes. I am certain the Spirit will guide us and give us the grace to move forward together, to listen to one another and to embark on a discernment of the times in which we are living, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity. I want to say again that the Synod is not a parliament or an opinion poll; the Synod is an ecclesial event and its protagonist is the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit is not present, there will be no Synod.

...

And so, brothers and sisters, let us experience this moment of encounter, listening, and reflection as a season of grace that, in the joy of the Gospel, allows us to recognize at least three opportunities. First, that of moving not occasionally but structurally towards a *synodal Church*, an open square where all can feel at home and participate. The Synod then offers us the opportunity to become a *listening Church*, to break out of our routine and pause from our pastoral concerns in order to stop and listen.

...

Finally, it offers us the opportunity to become a *Church of closeness*. Let us keep going back to God’s own ‘style,’ which is closeness, compassion and tender love.”

BRIEF SILENCE OR OTHER WORDS OF REFLECTION

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Leader: **Brothers and sisters, as we now make our prayer for our Church and our community, let us all pray to Christ the Lord, humbly trusting in his mercy:**

Reader: For the Church, gathered in Synod: that by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit this journey will be marked by humble listening, courageous speech, and lively hope ... we pray to the Lord,

Reader: For us gathered here and for the people of God in the Archdiocese of Louisville, that this synodal process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church ... we pray to the Lord,

Reader: For all civic and public authorities, that they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity ... we pray to the Lord.

Reader: For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and all who suffer, especially in this time of pandemic, that they may be treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world ... we pray to the Lord,

(Other petitions may be added.)

Leader: **As we gather our prayers of need and thanksgiving and embark on this time of reflection and dialogue, let us pray together our Closing Prayer, the *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, asking the Holy Spirit to guide our Church on this synodal journey:**

CONCLUDING PRAYER: *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*

All: We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). The Church invites us to use this prayer for gatherings pertaining to this Synod.