

Moravian Day of Service Prayer at the Start of Our Service

Let us reflect on our call to be servants, as we prepare to act in the name of Christ to do good.

**We do not do good *to* those around us.
We do not do good *for* those around us.
We seek to do good *with* those around us.**

As we serve, who stands – or sits – in the place of Jesus? Who “gets to be Jesus” in this situation?

It is not we who stand in Jesus’ place. It is those we serve.

As we do it for – and with – the least of these who are members of Jesus’ family, we do it for and with Jesus.

**Yet we are the hands and feet of Christ. So we too sit and stand in the place of Jesus.
Let the Jesus in me speak to the Jesus in you.
Let the Jesus in me receive from the Jesus in you.**

It is all about Jesus.
And it is all about those whom we serve.
And it is about us, too.

God loves in a holy Trinity. We are welcomed into that relationship as lover and as beloved. Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-11, read responsively

May the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

HYMN

DARWALL (342 D)

We honor you, Lord Christ, you truly were divine.
You were in very nature God, and yet designed
to come to serve all humankind
that we might find a brand new birth.

You took the servant’s towel, wrapped it around your waist,
you took the bowl and washed their feet as one abased.
And then you said, “I have served you,
you do it too, as I have led.”

You humbled yourself more; you died upon the tree.
You died that we might live and be forever free.
God raised you up, gave you the name
above all names, that we worship.

Now we too will go serve, employ the gifts from you,
put others first, ahead of self, as you would do.
We share your grace: serve in your name,
your love proclaim in every place.

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Let us serve with our brothers and our sisters, in the name of Christ!

Thanks be to God!