

Opening prayer: O Lord, our God, forgive us, for we have a pharisee's attitude. We have failed to understand that our religion may be our ruin. The very strictness of life has resulted in perdition, as we have prided ourselves on our religiosity and morality, blinding us to the fact that we are sinners as we stand or bow before the throne of God. Forgive us. Remind us that there is absolutely nothing in ourselves to glory about. Let us pursue and accept divine righteousness by and through faith through Jesus Christ. We plead Amen

Pastoral prayer: O God, let us hear your words of wisdom once more: "Every one that exalted himself shall be abased; and he that humbled himself shall be exalted." We, too, ask for the praise of humility. As Jesus placed much emphasis on this virtue and demanded it of his followers, allow us to do the same. Grant us the wisdom to understand that without humility we are counterfeit or below the standard Jesus set for us. Speak and remind us of the virtue "He that humbled himself shall be exalted." We know that you abhor haughtiness while you ask for humility and reward it with exaltation. Allow us, through your wisdom to learn that the only way up is down