

# *Year of Faith*

## *Prayer Service for Children*

### **Opening**

*Suggested: Opening Song—Open My Eyes, Lord by Jesse Manibusan*

(Leader) Opening Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the gift of faith, a gift meant to change our lives and lead us to heaven. As we open this Year of Faith, Lord, we ask you to open new doors of faith for us. Help us to know our faith more deeply, live our faith more fully, and share our faith more freely with others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Reading**

*Suggested: sung Gospel Acclamation*

(Reader) Let's listen to what Jesus says in this reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

“[Jesus] said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’” Matthew 17:20

*Suggested: Give each child a mustard seed glued onto a bookmark, or holy card.*

(Leader) Reflection: The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds, but it grows into one of the largest plants. Think about what would happen if you planted a tiny mustard seed in good soil where it could get all the water and sun it needed.

This is what our faith is like. It may start small; it may even stay small for a while. But if we give our faith what it needs—the Sacraments, the Word of God, and prayer—it grows and becomes strong, strong enough to get us through anything.

### **Creed**

(Leader) Let us stand now, and proclaim together the faith we share.

(All) The Nicene OR Apostles' Creed

# Prayer

(Leader) Let us pray that God will be with us and make this Year of Faith a time of growth and blessing for all his children.

(Various children leading)

1) Lord, bless Pope Benedict, all our bishops, priests, and deacons, with wisdom and holiness, so that they will be good examples of what it means to live by faith. For this we pray.

2) Lord, help us to learn more about what we believe, so that we may not only know more *about* you, but come to truly know you in a personal way. For this we pray.

3) Lord, we ask you to give each one of us the grace we need to trust your plan for our lives, and live our faith no matter what the cost. For this we pray.

4) Lord, we ask you to give our families the faith they need to heal brokenness and unite them in love for one another and for Christ Jesus. For this we pray.

5) Lord, we place those whose faith is weak or who have no faith at all into your care. Strengthen them with your grace, and guide us in sharing the joy of salvation with them. For this we pray.

(Leader) God gave us faith at Baptism. And at Baptism, he also gave us all the grace we need to live our faith, and share it with others. As we begin this Year of Faith, we recall our baptism and remember how and where our faith began. In his name, we ask the Lord to strengthen the faith he gave us then, and give us more grace to live it every day.

## Closing

*Suggested Action: In a church—Have everyone process up to the Baptismal font before they leave, and bless themselves making the Sign of the Cross with water from the font. This is a concrete way to recognize that God gives us faith at Baptism, and that the grace we need for our faith to grow has already been given to us.*

*In the classroom or home—Make the Sign of the Cross.*

*Suggested: Closing Song—I Will Choose Christ by Tom Booth, or Baptized in Water sung together if there is no procession to the font, or can be played as people approach the baptismal font and leave.*