

## Jesus: The Gift of Love

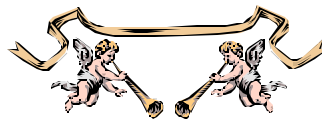


In his gentleness and weakness  
Jesus calls us to take the path  
of service and humility  
Which does not mean that we deny our gifts,  
Our abilities, our responsibilities  
He reveals that we are called  
To receive a new power from God  
The gift of the Spirit,  
Not for our own glory  
But for the glory of God, the work of God  
This power will allow us to do the impossible:  
To live in communion  
with the poor and the broken,  
To be brothers and sisters to all people,  
To respect and appreciate  
those who are strange and different,  
To love our enemies  
To be creative builders of a totally new order:  
The Kingdom of Love,  
To be a sign in our broken world  
Of the unity and love of the Blessed Trinity.

—Jean Vanier,  
Jesus, The Gift of God



## Closing Reflection



And then all that has  
divided us will merge  
And then compassion  
will be wedded to power  
And then softness will come  
to a world that is harsh and unkind  
And then both men and women  
will be gentle  
And then both men and women  
will be strong  
And then no person will be  
subject to another's will  
And then all will be rich and free  
and varied  
And then the greed of some  
will give way to the need of many  
And then all will share equally  
in the Earth's abundance  
And then all will care for the sick  
and the weak and the old  
And then all will nourish the young  
And then all will cherish life's creatures  
And then all will live in harmony with each other  
and the Earth  
And then everywhere will be called Eden once  
again.


—Judy Chicago

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Compiled by Les Miller and  
Melinda Rapallo  
York Catholic District School Board*



*L*ife is   
*B*eautiful

*....A Prayer Service  
In Remembrance of the  
Holocaust*



*“We come to You, for  
You alone make us  
whole...”*

*D. Adam*



# Life is beautiful...

## Introduction

Autumn falls.  
 The grasses wither and leaves fall.  
 The skies fill with clouds threatening snow.  
 It is time for breaking down.  
 But it is also a time for mending.  
 Retreating to our true home.  
 Our home with God.  
 October brings longer nights  
 But it also brings a peacefulness  
 Before the harsher days to come.  
 Above all, this fall is a time for healing:  
 It's a time where we try to learn and start to heal  
 From the terrible lessons of the holocaust,  
 It's a time for the preparation for our celebration of saints,  
 And it is a time to reflect on physical and spiritual wounds that have hurt us.



—Les Miller

## Life is Beautiful: A Call to Worship



The film, *Life is Beautiful*  
 is a story of loss and hope.  
 Reminds us that life is beautiful  
 It is a story of love  
 Of a man for his child  
 Of how the story saved the day  
 Of how a more beautiful reality  
 Can be conjured out of darkness  
 Of how hope conquers despair  
 Of how healing comes from loving.  
 Let the tears of the victims anoint us with hope.



And so we pray for the dead of the Holocaust, may their deaths not be in vain, may they be our teachers about how to live, how to resist evil and refusal. For this we pray to the Lord,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

—Les Miller



## Prayer for Healing

Leader: Let us pray together...  
 We come to you, God,  
 for you alone can heal  
 and restore us.

We are not able to heal ourselves,  
 We are not able to forgive ourselves,  
 We are not able to restore ourselves,  
 We are not able to sanctify ourselves,  
 We are not able to satisfy ourselves,  
 We come to you God, for You  
 alone make us whole.



—David Adam



Lord, you alone can heal and restore us...

## Choral Prayer:



## Psalm 23

**Left side:** The Lord is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside

still waters;

He restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

For His name's sake.

**Right side:** Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff—

They comfort me.

**Left side:** You prepare a table for me

In the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

**Right side:** Surely goodness and mercy Shall follow me

All the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of

The Lord

My whole life long.

