



Rejoice and Be Glad!

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles (unlit), a globe to represent the missions and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

Leader: Recently, Pope Francis published an apostolic exhortation called *Rejoice and Be Glad*, which is what Jesus calls us to do in the Sermon on the Mount. The Holy Father reminds us that our faith is to be lived with joy not just in the big moments and great gatherings but also in the details of everyday life.

Reader 1: *A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew*

When (Jesus) saw the crowds, He went up the mountain, and after He had sat down, His disciples came to Him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Pause for silent reflection.

Reader 2: Every day, there are moments where we can live our faith in what Pope Francis calls "the details". In his exhortation, he reminds us that Jesus helped people by paying attention to the details of life.

Reader 1: Pope Francis gives us these examples from Jesus' life: "(He saw) the little detail that wine was running out at a party. The little detail that one sheep was missing. The little detail of noticing the widow who offered her two small coins. The little detail of having spare oil for the lamps, should the bridegroom delay. The little detail of asking the disciples how

many loaves of bread they had. The little detail of having a fire burning and a fish cooking as he waited for the disciples at daybreak." Let us pray now that we live our faith everyday in both the large and small moments

Reader 2: Our response is:

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in the details of life!

Reader 1: For our classmates and teachers: may we show them the love of Jesus as we learn, play, and pray together.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in the details of life!

Reader 2: For our parents and siblings, our guardians and caretakers: may we show them faith filled respect in our daily interactions.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in the details of life!

Reader 1: For the people of our parish, our town or city, and our country: may we strive to show our fellow citizens merciful face of Jesus as we build His kingdom on earth.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in the details of life!

Reader 2: For the children of the missions: may we remember to gladly share our blessings with those who were born without those same opportunities.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in the details of life!

Reader 1: For ourselves: may the joy of our faith in Jesus shine through the way we live out the details of our lives in service to others.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in the details of life!

Leader: God of gladness, you created us to live in your love and carry your joy to the world. Help us to be mindful of even the smallest details of our actions and how they can affect others. Let us remember that we are called to act with love, compassion, and peace towards others so that all may know your peace in their lives. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Closing Song: Blest are They by David Haas