



ADORATION and DEVOTION

A September 11 Prayer Service with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Songs from the *Never Too Young* songbook:

"Adoration" (Maher/TANTUM ERGO) NTY 236 CD 10 Track 18

"Christ, Be Our Light" (Farrell) NTY 8 CD 1 Track 8

"King of My Heart" (Walton) NTY 237 CD 10 Track 19

"My Soul Is Thirsting / As Morning Breaks" (Angrisano) NTY 120 CD 5 Track 24

"We Fall Down" (Tomlin) NTY 238 CD 10 Track 20

"You Alone" (Hart/Liles) NTY 240 CD 10 Track 22

In this time of post-9/11, many parish communities designate September 11 as a day of prayer and reflection. They have prayer services and special Masses and remembrances of those who lost their lives on that tragic day. Numerous parishes around the country have begun to establish a new tradition on that day, one that can be very beautiful and hold great meaning.

In the morning, the parish has Liturgy of the Hours, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, for prayer and worship all day.

In the evening, the parish gathers together again for the solemn closing, followed by a brief social time.

With a few adaptations for young people, we have included a morning prayer with a September 11 remembrance followed by the ritual for exposition. Beginning this special day with prayer and exposition, teachers should be free to bring classes of students into church for prayer and quiet reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, perhaps for twenty to thirty minutes, depending on the age of the students. Having an all-school September 11 prayer presents a great opportunity for students to make a connection between a current event that is very much a part of their lives and an ancient Church tradition of prayer and adoration. Hopefully many students will return with their parents in the evening for the parish solemn closing (with the structure of that solemn closing determined by the parish staff and/or parish liturgy preparers).

Morning Prayer: Remembering September 11

followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Presiding Minister: *O God, come to my aid.*

All: *O Lord, make haste to help me.*

Presiding Minister: (all bow their heads)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

All: *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

All (sing Morning Hymn): “Christ, Be Our Light” NTY 8

(During the Morning Hymn, students can process in with candles that can be placed in prescribed places around the front of the altar and ambo. The church lights should be dimmed, if possible.)

All (sing Morning Psalm): “My Soul Is Thirsting / As Morning Breaks” NTY 120

(REFRAIN)

As morning breaks I look to you; be my strength this day.

As morning breaks I look to you; be my strength this day, be my strength this day.

Opening Prayer

Presiding Minister: Let us pray.

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, you send light into the darkness and chase away the shadow of death with the bright dawn of new life.

Comfort your people in their loss and sorrow as we remember September 11, 2001.

Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord, and lift us from the depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence.

Jesus, your Son, died and rose so that we might have eternal life. May we, one day, be reunited with those who died that tragic day and with all the faithful departed in your kingdom where every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

All (sing): “King of My Heart” NTY 237

Scripture

(adapted from John 14:1–6)

Reader 3: Jesus said to his friends: “Do not be worried and upset. Believe in God and believe also in me.

There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going there to prepare a place for you.

I would not tell you this if it were not true.

And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you there,

so that you will be where I am. And you know the way that leads to the place where I am going.”

Then Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where you are going;

so how can we know the way to get there?”

Jesus answered him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except through me.”

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

(The Presiding Minister may choose to give a brief reflection on the day or on the Gospel.)

All (sing): “You Alone” NTY 240

Intercessions

Reader 1: When we remember the office workers, the military personnel, the maintenance workers, the window-washers, the tourists, the bystanders, and all the others who worked together so valiantly to help each other in the midst of confusion and panic, we can only say together:

All: We remember their courage.

Reader 2: When we recall the firefighters who rushed up stairs as most everyone else was racing out, we can say together:

All: We remember their selfless service.

Reader 1: When we recall the police officers who stood to protect and defend the people and performed their duties until the towers came crashing down on top of them, we can say together:

All: We remember their sacrifice for the safety of others.

Reader 2: When we recall the thousands of workers, military personnel, women and men, old and young, single and married, American-born and those born in countries around the world who did not escape the towers, the Pentagon and Flight 93, we can say together:

All: We remember the gift of these lives that were lost.

Reader 1: When we recall those citizens who rushed to help, did all they could to help, we can say together:

All: We remember and give thanks for their commitment to those in distress.

Reader 2: When we recall the people who stood in line at the nation's blood banks to make living donations, we can say together:

All: We give thanks for those who live to pass on life and love to others.

Presiding Minister: In a time filled with tragedy, we dare to hope for an age to come in which terror, greed, the desire for power, and cultural, racial, and religious prejudice are but memories of a dim and forgotten past.

Now let us remember all those who died on that tragic day. Let us remember these victims in our hearts, and pray for them, their families, and friends in a time of silence. May they forever be in the loving embrace of the Father.

(Moment of silence to remember the victims of September 11, 2001.)

Presiding Minister: Let us listen to the words of the late Pope John Paul II on the one-month memorial of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. (paraphrased)

Reader 4: Lord we recommend to the eternal mercy of the God of our Fathers the many innocent victims who died on September 11, 2001.

We ask for comfort for their families and relatives, burdened by pain; we invoke strength and courage for the many who continue their work in the places struck by this terrible disaster; we pray for perseverance by all people of goodwill who are working for justice and peace.

May the Lord remove from the hearts of all persons all resentment, hostility, and hate, and open them up to reconciliation, solidarity, and peace.

Let us pray that the “culture of love” may be established all over the world.
Comfort your children and open our hearts to hope, that our world and time may again know days of serenity and peace, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

(The following song is sung as the priest takes the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle and places it in the monstrance. Incense is used to honor the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.)

All (sing): “Adoration” NTY 236

(The priest takes the Blessed Sacrament and blesses the assembly. All kneel for a time in adoration.)

(Before classes are dismissed...)

All (sing): “We Fall Down” NTY 238

(Students are dismissed back to their classes. A schedule should be established for teachers to bring classes of students into church for prayer and quiet reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, perhaps for twenty to thirty minutes depending on their age.)



(at left) Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center towers in Lower Manhattan, New York City.