**Cornerstone Saturday Morning Prayer**

**November 18, 2017**

**Host -Jorge Lombardo Thanksgiving**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** Let us come into the presence of God, who invites us by name.

(Observe a period of silence, allowing the Lord to give us his peace)

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Loving heavenly Father, we come to you this hour asking for your blessing and help as we are gathered together this Saturday. Help us to build a community united in harmony of love and service. Watch over our families at home, at work and at school. We thank you, Lord, for everything that widens our knowledge and equips us more fully for the task of life and living. We thank you for this day: for life and one more day to love, for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace, for neighbors and one more person to love and by whom be loved, for your grace and one more experience of your presence, for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation. Above all, Lord, help us to really know you, for this is the beginning and end of all wisdom, this is eternal life.

**All:** Amen

**Theme**

"Thank you, God for the times You have said "no." They have helped me depend on You so much more. Thank you, God, for unanswered prayer. It reminds me that You know what's best for me, even when my opinion differs from Yours. Thank You, Lord, for the things you have withheld from me. You have protected me from what I may never realize. Thank You, God, for the doors You have closed. They have prevented me from going where You would rather not have me go. Thank you, Lord, for the physical pain You've allowed in my life. It has helped me more closely relate to Your sufferings on my behalf. Thank you, Lord, for the alone times in my life. Those times have forced me to lean in closer to You. Thank you, God, for the uncertainties I've experienced. They have deepened my trust in You. Thank You, Lord, for the times You came through for me when I didn't even know I needed a rescue. Thank You, Lord, for the losses I have experienced. They have been a reminder that You are my greatest gain. Thank You, God, for the tears I have shed. They have kept my heart soft and mold-able. Thank You, God, for the times I haven't been able to control my circumstances. They have reminded me that You are sovereign and on the throne. Thank You, God, for those people in my life whom You have called home to be with You. Their absence from this earth keeps my heart longing for heaven. Thank You, God, that I have an inheritance in the heavenly places...something that this world can never steal from me and I could never selfishly squander. Thank You, God, for the greatest gift You could ever give me: forgiveness through Your perfect Son's death on the cross on my behalf. Thank You, God, for the righteousness You credited toward me, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's a righteousness I could never earn or attain on my own. Thank You, Father, that You know me, You hear me, and You see my tears. Remind me through difficult times that You are God, You are on the throne, and You are eternally good. And thank You, Lord, not only for my eternal salvation, but for the salvation You afford every day of my life as You save me from myself, my foolishness, my own limited insights, and my frailties in light of Your power and strength." Cindy McMenamin

**Reflective Music**

**The Pretenders, I'll Stand By You**

Oh, why you look so sad?
Tears are in your eyes.
Come on and come to me now…
Don't be ashamed to cry.
Let me see you through,
'cause I've seen the dark side too…
When the night falls on you,
You don't know what to do.
Nothing you confess
Could make me love you less.

I'll stand by you…
I'll stand by you…
Won't let nobody hurt you.
I'll stand by you.

So if you're mad, get mad.
Don't hold it all inside.
Come on and talk to me now…
Hey, what you got to hide?
I get angry too,
Well I'm a lot like you…
When you're standing at the crossroads
And don't know which path to choose.
Let me come along
'cause even if you're wrong

I'll stand by you…
I'll stand by you…
Won't let nobody hurt you.
I'll stand by you…
Take me in, into your darkest hour
And I'll never desert you,
I'll stand by you…

And when...
When the night falls on you, baby,
You're feeling all alone.
You won't be on your own,

I'll stand by you…
I'll stand by you…
Won't let nobody hurt you,

I'll stand by you…
Take me in, into your darkest hour
And I'll never desert you,
I'll stand by you…
I'll stand by you…
Won't let nobody hurt you,
I'll stand by you…
Won't let nobody hurt you,
I'll stand by you.

**The Word of God**

**Psalm 118**

**1**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. **2**Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.” **3**Let the house of Aaron say: “His love endures forever.” **4**Let those who fear the Lord say: “His love endures forever.” **5**When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. **6**The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? **7**The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. **8**It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. **9**It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **10**All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. **11**They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. **12**They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them down. **13**I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. **14**The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.**15**Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! **16**The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!” **17**I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. **18**The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. **19**Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.**20**This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.**21**I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. **22**The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;**23**the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. **24**The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. **25**Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! **26**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. **27**The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. **28**You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. **29**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

**Psalm 138**

**1**I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing Your praise before the heavenly beings.**2**I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your constant love and truth. You have exalted Your name and Your promise above everything else. **3**On the day I called, You answered me; You increased strength within me. **4**All the kings on earth will give You thanks, Lord, when they hear what You have promised. **5**They will sing of the Lord’s ways, for the Lord’s glory is great. **6**Though the Lord is exalted, He takes note of the humble; but He knows the haughty from a distance. **7**If I walk into the thick of danger, You will preserve my life from the anger of my enemies. **8** You will extend Your hand; Your right hand will save me. **9** The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Lord, Your love is eternal;
do not abandon the work of Your hands.

**Psalm 33**

**1**Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. **2**Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. **3**Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. **4**For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. **5**The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. **6**By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. **7**He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.**8**Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.**9**For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. **10**The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. **11**But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. **12**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. **13**From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; **14**from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—**15**he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. **16**No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. **17**A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. **18**But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, **19**to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. **20**We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. **21**In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. **22**May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

**Reflection Questions**

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year.

* What does "thanksgiving" mean to you?
* What does "thanksgiving" mean in the Bible?

**Conversational Prayer**

Let us respond out loud with personal prayers and intention, for ourselves, for family members, for friends or anyone/thing else we need to pray for, also making sure to thank God for prayers answered in the past.

Jesus is here We focus on the presence Jesus and welcome Him with praise and adoration

Thank you, Lord Thank Jesus for people you care about, calling them by name.

Help me, Lord Be specific, honest and to the point. Jesus asks: “What do you want me to do for you?” Answer Him by praying for yourself (what are your needs for forgiveness, guidance, healing, growth in your spiritual life, etc.). This part is for you personally.

Help my brother/ Pray for each person by name

Sister, Lord

**Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** We pray that the Lord will bless and protect us and that He will show us mercy and kindness. May the Lord be good to us and give us peace. May the Lord guide our Cornerstone brothers to be living example of the mission. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

Let´s get into our huddle and pray the words that Jesus taught us.

**All:** Our Father…

 Hail Mary…

 Glory be..

**AMEN**