

### Introduction:

Dear friends in Christ, the readings of today bring home to us the fact that we worship Christ, who even though was divine, became human like us, taking up the cross. All who follow him must do the same – deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. We pray for the grace to be faithful disciples of Jesus, who laid down his life for us.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 50: 5-9a  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 116: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9  
**Second Reading:** James 2: 14-18  
**Gospel:** Mark 8: 27-35

### Prayers of the Faithful

#### Celebrant:

Let us now offer our prayers and petitions to the Lord, who emptied himself for us.

#### Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Francis Our Pope, the Bishops, Clergy and Religious everywhere, that embracing the Cross, they may exemplify in their lives and mission the Self-emptying of Christ on the Cross. ... *(Brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

We pray for World leaders that giving up selfish interests, they may strive to put an end to Wars and conflicts going around in the world and work for peace and justice. ... *(Brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

We pray that as Christians, we may strive to know Christ, as Our Lord and Saviour and thus, work to make him know by our words and deeds. ... *(Brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

We pray that we may tread the pathway of the Cross, by self-denial and follow Christ faithfully and radically, bearing witness to him by our sacrificial way of life. ... *(Brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord

We pray that in our families and small Christian Communities, we may imitate the Self-emptying of Christ through our selfless service to one another. ... *(Brief pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

#### Celebrant:

Keep your family, Lord, we pray, in your constant care, so that under your protection, they may be free from all troubles and by self-denial and good works show dedication to your name, You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.