



## *Opening Prayer*

Gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

We are here to serve you,  
opening our hearts and minds  
to your sacred voice.

Help us to have the meekness of mind  
to seek your thoughts  
over our own thoughts;  
to have the humility of heart  
to yearn for one will—your will;  
to have the Serenity of the Spirit  
to let your peace be our peace,  
no matter what transpires.

Help us to be your servants seeking wisdom,  
and acting in faith.

Hear us as we pray the prayer Christ taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven...*



## **Brother Lawrence,**

### *The Practice of the Presence of God*

- All things are possible to him who believes; they are less difficult to him who hopes; they are easier to him who loves; and they are easier still to him who perseveres in the practice of all three of these virtues.

- As often as possible we should recall that our only business in this life is to please God, and that all else besides the Lord is folly and vanity.
- I am sure you know that most people's love for the Lord stops at a very shallow stage. Most love God for all the tangible things He gives them. They love him because of His favor to them. You must not stop on such a level, no matter how rich His mercies have been for you. Many outward blessings can never bring you as close to God as can one simple act of faith.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- *Reflecting on these quotes, what principles for life would you say are central?*
- *What does Brother Lawrence imply is central for us as leaders of the church?*