



# Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

**Sunday, November 5, 2023**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**The Time is Now Week 1**

## Opening Song

[Now is the Time ~ Tom Kendzia](#)

## Opening Prayer

1. **Call on Jesus to hear your petitions.**

*O Jesus! Meek and humble of heart, Hear me.*

2. **Ask Jesus to deliver you from the desire for people to see you in a particular way or light. After each petition, respond with, “Deliver me, Jesus.”**

*From the desire of being esteemed,  
From the desire of being loved,  
From the desire of being extolled,  
From the desire of being honored,  
From the desire of being praised,  
From the desire of being preferred to others,  
From the desire of being consulted,  
From the desire of being approved,*

3. **Ask Jesus to deliver you from the fears that prevent you from living life with compassion for God, others, and yourself. After each petition, respond with “Deliver me, Jesus.”**

*From the fear of being humiliated,  
From the fear of being despised,  
From the fear of suffering rebukes,  
From the fear of being calumniated,  
From the fear of being forgotten,  
From the fear of being ridiculed,  
From the fear of being wronged,  
From the fear of being suspected,*

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4. **Ask Jesus to guide you toward loving your neighbors before yourself. Respond with, “Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.”**

*That others may be loved more than I,  
That others may be esteemed more than I,  
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease,  
That others may be chosen and I set aside,  
That others may be praised and I unnoticed,  
That others may be preferred to me in everything,  
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should,*

## Gospel

Mt 23:1-12

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying,  
"The scribes and the Pharisees  
have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.  
Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you,  
but do not follow their example.  
For they preach but they do not practice.  
They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry  
and lay them on people's shoulders,  
but they will not lift a finger to move them.  
All their works are performed to be seen.  
They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels.  
They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues,  
greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.'  
As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.'  
You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers.  
Call no one on earth your father;  
you have but one Father in heaven.  
Do not be called 'Master';  
you have but one master, the Christ.  
The greatest among you must be your servant.  
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;  
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

## Reflection Video: [Weekend Homily](#)

### Discussion Questions

1. Is there anything missing from the three sections of the opening prayer that you would add?
2. What kinds of behavior does Jesus condemn in this passage?
3. As Jesus sees it, what is the main evil of the pharisees? How are the disciples to avoid falling into that evil?
4. What distinction is Jesus trying to make between his followers and the Pharisees?
5. Explain how you view the line between righteousness and humility and what are some helpful ways to live this out?

### Closing Prayer

Ask for the group intentions ~ *Lord hear our prayer* after each

*Glory be to the Father,*

*and to the Son,*

*and to the Holy Spirit.*

*As it was in the beginning,*

*is now,*

*and ever shall be,*

*world without end.*

*Amen.*

### Closing Reflection Song

[A Rightful Place ~ Steve Angrisano](#)