

Prayer Service to Honor
Phoebe of Cenchreae

Celebrate Phoebe on September 3 or at any other time

Prepare the gathering space with a center pillar candle and small, votive candles surrounding it.

Greeting: *(the prayer leader welcomes people, invites, introductions, etc.)*

Opening Song: *All Are Welcome* (Marty Haugen, © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.)
or *Anthem* (Tom Conry, © 1978 New Dawn Music)

Presider: The grace and peace of Jesus the Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: This day I commend to you Phoebe, our sister and benefactor, a deacon of the first-century Church or Cenchreae. We gather to celebrate her life, her story and witness. *(Light the center candle.)* May we receive her in Christ as is fitting for the saints.

All: Amen.

Presider: We gather to bless those who follow Phoebe's example of faith and ministry.

All are invited to come forward, light a small candle and name those outstanding in their service to the community, especially lectors, missionaries, benefactors, pastoral ministers, St. Vincent de Paul Society members, Eucharistic ministers, religious educators, deacons and their wives, etc. When the naming has come to a natural end, the presider continues.

May we receive one another in Christ as is fitting for the saints.

All: Amen.

First Reading: Romans 12: 1-13

Response: *Servant Song* (Richard Gilliard, © 1977, *Scripture in Song*, Arr. David Haas, © 1999 Gather GIA Publications, Inc. #476)

Gospel: John 15: 12-17

Reflection/Preaching: *A brief homily is offered on the readings and the life of Phoebe, or if the assembly is small, reflections may be shared by all present.*

Intercessions

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer.

Presider: O God, Phoebe was called sister by your servant, Paul. Give us the grace to live together in love as sisters and brothers, daughters and sons of you, our one Creator.
We pray...

Presider: O God, Phoebe was called deacon. Grant us the courage and humility we need to embrace our own vocations and to recognize the gifts given by the Spirit to each member of the community.

We pray...

Presider: O God, Phoebe was called benefactor. Make us generous people who care for the needy and the stranger.

We pray...

All: *(Other prayers may be added as the community wishes.)*

Closing Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Spirit of Christ, you filled our sister, Phoebe with courage, generosity and faith. May we receive her witness with gratitude. May the memory of her life fill us with hope. And may we be today a Church in service to the world. Thanks be to God!

Closing Song: *Sing a New Church* (Delores Dugner, OSB, © 1991 Srs of St. Benedict, #388 Today's Music MIssal Issue by OCP Publications)

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