

Another Service of Thanksgiving

for Graduation

WELCOME

A welcome and short statement of the purpose of the gathering.

Kia ora tātou. Grace, healing and peace to you from God.

May God fill you with truth and joy.

This is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

We give you thanks, God our Creator,

for you have made us in your image and breathed your Spirit into us.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We come into God's presence with thanksgiving,

acknowledging God's love at work in our lives.

Thanks be to God!

We give thanks today for God's provision and guidance through all our years of study.

Thanks be to God!

We give you thanks, God of abundant life, for success, friendship, hope and love. Today we celebrate that our dreams are being fulfilled and that we can look forward to the future with hope.

Thanks be to God!

WAIATA | SONG

PRAYER

We gather in gratitude, oh God,
for the journey that led us to this moment;
for the people that supported us;
the hard work we completed;
the late nights and long days that brought us to this celebratory occasion.

We gather this morning in faith and in hope
that we will meet you here.
You have made our minds, so help us to know you.
You have made our hearts, so help us to love you.
You have made our voices, so help us to sing your praises.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
so that together we may celebrate your glory and worship you.

May we feel your presence among us this morning;
and may we be reminded that you have tended to your flock for generations
and will continue to do so for generations to come.
We gather our voices together as we say the words you taught you us pray:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.*

*E to mātou Mātua i te rangi,
kia tapu tōu ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mo tēnei rā.
Murua o mātou hara,
me mātou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Aua hoki mātou e kawea
kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino.
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,
te kaha, me te kororia,
Āke, āke, āke, Amine.*

READING(S)

Followed by a few words of reflection

MUSICAL REFLECTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Each petition of this prayer may be read by a graduand. Alternatively the whole prayer may be read by the officiating minister.

To the words, we pray to the Lord, you are invited to respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

On this day of celebration, we pray for our world.

We remember those who are suffering

and we pray for our world leaders as they address issues
like climate change, illness, and war.

We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

On this day of celebration, we give thanks for all who work to make our world better.
We pray for wisdom for our world leaders,
for health and safety for our first responders and healthcare workers,
and for continued compassion for those who work against violence and terrorism.
We pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

On this day of celebration, we pray for our parents, our families,
our lecturers, our mentors, and our friends.
We give thanks for those who have journeyed with us,
supported us, and encouraged us.
We pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

On this day of celebration, we remember those who are unable to be with us.
We remember those who have died, those who are unwell,
those who are separated from us.
May we remember that nothing can separate us from the love we have from God
and the love we have for one another.
We pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray these things, and also the things that we silently carry in our hearts for
ourselves and for others, in you Holy Name. Amen.

BLESSING of the GRADUANDS

May God who began this good work in you carry it through to completion,
enabling you to use your talents to the fullest.

May God give you the grace to make wise choices
and to be faithful to your commitments,
always confident in the support of those who love you.

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,

half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you will live, act, and speak deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice and oppression,
so that you will work with sympathy for justice and equality.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain
so that you can comfort them with compassion.

May God bless you with resilience
so you can navigate through life's unprecedented challenges
and life's moments of conflicting emotions.

May God bless you with family, friends,
and mentors who support, love, and encourage you on your journey
so that you can one day do the same for others.

May your integrity be a gift to the world
and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen.

HĪMENE | HYMN

BENEDICTION

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhingatahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu,
ake, ake, ake Amine.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all,
now and forever, Amen.