

# MAY 2026 PRAYER SERVICE

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## Prayer Service for Chapter 9 of “Love is Much More Than Love” Study Topic The Chapter focuses on Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 By Fr. Eli Lopez, USA-SR Spiritual Counselor

### SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT:

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** teaches that life and work are **strengthened by companionship**.

### **Key Elements of the Passage:**

- Two are better than one: working together brings a “**good reward**” to shared effort.
- In trouble, help matters: if one person falls, the other can lift them up; but a person alone who falls may not have anyone to assist.
- Even warmth and comfort come from togetherness: two sharing presence can keep each other warm, while one alone struggles.
- Together you are more resilient: one can be overcome, but two can withstand; and even more, “a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

In short, community provides practical support, emotional steadiness, and greater strength to endure hardship.

### **Complementary Scripture passages to Ecclesiastes 4:9-12:**

**Scripture passages** that complement **Ecclesiastes 4:9–12** (the teaching that **community, companionship, and mutual support strengthen us**, especially in hardship):

### **Companionship as a “good reward”**

- **Psalm 133:1–3** — Unity among “kindred” is described as **pleasant and good**, like consecrating oil and life-giving dew. **Connection:** reinforces Ecclesiastes’ theme that shared life has real spiritual “**reward**.”

### **Mutual help when someone falls / needs support**

- **Ecclesiastes 9:4** — “Whoever is joined with all the living has hope.” **Connection:** highlights the hope that comes from not being **isolated**.
- **Ecclesiastes 9:7–10** — Enjoyment of daily life and faithful work within God’s approval. **Connection:** complements Ecclesiastes 4’s insistence that life’s toil and hardship are meant to be lived with steadiness, not solitary despair.

### **Wise friendship and loyalty in trouble**

- **Sirach 6:14–16** — “Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter... beyond price... life-saving medicine.” **Connection:** deepens **Ecclesiastes’** practical picture (lifting one another) into a moral/spiritual one (friendship that truly shelters in danger).

## Foundational teaching on being “not alone.”

- **Genesis 2:18** (“It is not good that the man should be alone.”) and the covenantal “one flesh” union of spouses (Genesis 2:24).  
**Connection:** gives the **theological root** of why “two” are better than “one”—human communion is part of God’s plan.

## Strength in unity and inseparability of union

- **Matthew 19:6** — “So they are no longer two, but one flesh.”  
**Connection:** echoes Ecclesiastes’ “two will withstand one,” showing unity as something meant to endure.

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## READING OF SCRIPTURE:

### **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

*Two are better than one: they get a good wage for their labor. If the one falls, the other will lift up his companion. Woe to the solitary man! For if he should fall, he has no one to lift him up. So also, if two sleep together, they keep each other warm. How can one alone keep warm? Where a lone man may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken.*

## A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:

### SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.
- The team should respond at the end of each person’s turn, for example, “Lord, hear our prayer”.

### LITURGICAL PRAYER:

**Psalms that complement Ecclesiastes 4:9–12.** (the truth that **togetherness and mutual support** bring strength in hardship):

#### **Psalm 133: Unity brings blessing**

- “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”
- The Psalm compares unity to **life-giving abundance**: oil and dew, with God’s blessing that leads to “**life forevermore.**”  
**Why it fits:** **Ecclesiastes** describes companionship as practical strength; **Psalm 133** portrays unity as a **real source of God’s blessing and life.**

#### **Psalm 122: A city “bound firmly together” and peace within walls**

- “Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.”
- “Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

- Prayer for those who love Jerusalem is also broadened to **relatives and friends**.  
**Why it fits:** **Ecclesiastes** emphasizes that being “**not alone**” increases resilience; **Psalm 122** presents communal life as a structure of **peace, security, and shared well-being**.

#### **Psalm 14: God is with “the company of the righteous”**

- In the face of wrongdoing and fear, the Psalm states: “**God is with the company of the righteous.**”  
**Why it fits:** Where **Ecclesiastes** highlights help among people, **Psalm 14** underlines that the deepest “company” is **God-with-us for the righteous**, especially when threats rise.

#### **Psalm 63: Help, upholding, and clinging—strength when you’re weak**

- “**for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**”
- “**My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**”  
**Why it fits:** **Ecclesiastes 4:9–12** speaks of being lifted when someone falls; **Psalm 63** gives the spiritual foundation: **God’s upholding help** for the person who clings to **Him**.

#### **Psalm 63:2-13**

**Response: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!**

*O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!  
For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts,  
In a land parched, lifeless, and without water.*

**Response: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!**

*I look to you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory.  
For your love is better than life; my lips shall ever praise you!*

**Response: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!**

*I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands, calling on your name.  
My soul shall be sated as with choice food, with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you!*

**Response: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!**

*I think of you upon my bed, I remember you through the watches of the night  
You indeed are my savior, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.*

**Response: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!**

*My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.  
But those who seek my life will come to ruin; they shall go down to the depths of the netherworld!*

**Response: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!**

*Those who would hand over my life to the sword shall become the prey of jackals!  
But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by the Lord shall exult, but the mouths of liars will be shut!*

**Response: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!**

**CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:**

Prayer for Married Couples inspired by Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

**ALL:**

Lord God, Creator of man and woman,  
You formed spouses so that they might become one flesh and never be divided.

We place our marriage in Your hands.  
When we toil, be our strength and our shared “good reward.”

When one of us grows weak, lift us up in time:  
let the other be ready to help, so that we do not fall alone.

When life feels cold, warm our hearts with faithful presence,  
so that we may cling together and keep one another steady.

When trouble rises, strengthen us to withstand together—  
make our unity firm, like “a threefold cord” upheld by Your grace.

Pour out upon us the grace of the Holy Spirit, and pour Your love into our hearts,  
that we may remain faithful to the marriage covenant and be “made of one heart in love.”

In happiness, teach us to praise You;  
in sorrow, help us to seek You together—  
comforted by Your nearness, strengthened in our need, and sanctified in love.

Grant that we may reach together the fullness of years in Your Kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**DEEP POOLING:**

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

**SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:**

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The “endeavors” are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.