**St. Patrick –Prayer Service**

**Opening Hymn:** The Lord, He is my Shepherd – Psalm 23

**Teacher:** St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach us about the trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let us begin our prayer with the sign of the cross.

**Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Teacher**

We begin by lighting our candle. In the same way that Patrick’s fire showed the people that God was with them, our candle reminds us that God is with us too. *(Light candle)*

**Gospel:** Matthew (28:18-20)

**Teacher:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

**Teacher**

Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to tell all people everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Teacher:** Together, let’s offer our prayers to our loving God. The response to each prayer is, Lord, hear our prayer.

**Pupil 1:** St. Patrick came to Ireland from a different country. We pray for anyone who has come Ireland from abroad. Sometimes our new friends do not speak English. It must be difficult to be away from their own families. We pray that our new friends will feel welcome in Ireland and make it their home.

Lord, hear our prayer.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Pupil 2:** St. Patrick was lonely when he was away from his family. We pray for those who are lonely. May we look out for anyone who is lonely, or anyone who needs a friend in the school yard. We pray that we may always reach out to others and befriend them.

Lord, hear our prayer.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Pupil 3:** St. Patrick shared the Good News of God’s love with the people of Ireland. We pray for people who still do this work today. We pray that we too will spread the Good News that God loves us always. Let the rainbow continue to remind us of God’s constant love for us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Pupil 4:** St. Patrick was a slave minding sheep. He prayed to God many times a day and felt very close to God. We pray that we may always feel close to God, and that we may pray often.

Lord, hear our prayer.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Pupil 5:** St. Patrick lit the fire on the hill of Slane. The fire told people about God and about God’s love. Let’s bring our faith in God, and our love of God, to our prayer now.

Lord, hear our prayer.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Teacher:** Loving God, hear the prayers that we offer you today.

Help us to grow in love with you and with others.

We ask this through Jesus, our friend.

**All:** Amen.

**Closing Hymn:** Christ be Beside Me