

# Midday Prayer

## THE INVOCATION

E te whānau / My brothers and sisters,  
our help is in the name of the eternal God,  
**who is making the heavens and the earth.**

Eternal Spirit,  
flow through our being and open our lips,  
**that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

*Silence*

Let us worship the God of love.

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*A HYMN may be sung.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE PSALMODY

#### *Psalms for Sunday*

*Either*

#### **Psalm 119.1-32**

- 1 Blessed are those who live a blameless life:  
    who follow your law O Lord.
- 2 Blessed are those who obey your instruction:  
    and seek you with all their heart.
- 3 They also do no wrong:  
    but always walk in your ways.
- 4 You laid down your precepts:  
    for us to keep them diligently.
- 5 O that my ways might be steadfast:  
    in the keeping of your statutes.
- 6 Then I would not be put to shame:  
    when I give heed to all your commandments.
- 7 I will truly thank you from the heart:  
    when I learn your just decrees.
- 8 I will keep your statutes:  
    O do not utterly forsake me.
- 9 How shall the young keep themselves undefiled:  
    surely by obeying your word.
- 10 With my whole heart I seek you:  
    let me not stray from your commandments.

- 11 I treasure your word in my heart:  
for fear I should sin against you.
- 12 Blessèd are you O Lord:  
O teach me your statutes.
- 13 With my lips have I been telling:  
of all the judgments you have uttered.
- 14 I have found more joy  
in the way of your commandments:  
than in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your precepts:  
and I will give heed to your ways.
- 16 I will delight in your statutes:  
and I will not forget your word.
- 17 Deal kindly with your servant that I may live:  
and living I shall keep your word.
- 18 Take the veil away from my eyes:  
that I may see the wonderful things of your law.
- 19 I am but a stranger on earth:  
do not hide your commandments from me.
- 20 My soul is consumed with the longing:  
it has at all times for your judgments.
- 21 You have rebuked the insolent:  
and cursed are those who stray  
from your commandments.
- 22 Turn from me their reproach and scorn:  
for I have kept your testimonies.
- 23 Rulers sit plotting against me:  
but your servant will give thought  
to your statutes.
- 24 For your testimonies are my delight:  
and they are my counsellors.
- 25 I lie prone in the dust:  
revive me, according to your word.
- 26 I acknowledged my ways, and you answered me:  
instruct me in your statutes.
- 27 Help me to understand the way of your precepts:  
and I will meditate on your wonders.
- 28 My soul melts away through sorrow:  
strengthen me according to your word.
- 29 Keep me from the way of falsehood:

- and in your goodness teach me your law.  
30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness:  
and set your judgments before me.  
31 I hold fast to your decrees O Lord:  
let me never be put to confusion.  
32 I will run the way of your commandments:  
when you enlarge my understanding.

*Or*

**Psalm 121** *see page*

**Psalm 122** *see page*

### ***Psalms for Monday***

*Either*

Psalm 119.33-56

- 33 Teach me Lord the way of your statutes:  
and in keeping them I shall have my reward.  
34 Give me understanding,  
and I shall keep your law:  
I shall keep it with all my heart.  
35 Make me walk  
in the path of your commandments:  
for that is my desire.  
36 Incline my heart to your instruction:  
and away from covetous desires.  
37 Turn away my eyes from what is empty and false:  
and give me life in your way.  
38 Fulfil your promise to your servant:  
your promise to those who fear you.  
39 Turn away from me the scorn that I dread:  
for your judgments are very good.  
40 How I long for your precepts:  
in your righteousness give me life.  
41 Let your steadfast love come to me O Lord:  
your saving help according to your promise.  
42 Then shall I have my answer  
for those who taunt me:  
for my trust is in your word.  
43 Let my mouth never fail to speak the truth:  
for my hope is in your judgments.  
44 I shall always keep your law:

- I shall keep it for ever and ever.
- 45 I shall walk in the path of freedom:  
because I study your precepts.
- 46 I will speak of your decrees before kings:  
and I will not be abashed in their presence.
- 47 I find delight in your commandments:  
which I have greatly loved.
- 48 I will revere your commandments and love them:  
and I will meditate on your statutes.
- 49 Remember your word to your servant:  
by which you have given me hope.
- 50 This is my comfort in trouble:  
for your promise has given me life.
- 51 The arrogant may utterly deride me:  
but I do not swerve from your law.
- 52 I remember your judgments of old:  
and then O Lord I take comfort.
- 53 I am seized with hot indignation:  
because of the wicked who forsake your law.
- 54 But your statutes are the theme of my song:  
in the house of my pilgrimage.
- 55 I remember your name O Lord in the night:  
and dwell upon your law.
- 56 This is true of me:  
because I have kept your precepts.

*Or*

Psalm 123 *see page*

Psalm 124 *see page*

### ***Psalms for Tuesday***

*Either*

Psalm 119.57-80

- 57 You Lord are all that I have:  
I have promised to keep your word.
- 58 I have sought your favour with all my heart:  
be gracious to me according to your promise.
- 59 I have given thought to my ways:  
and always turned back to your instruction.
- 60 I made no delay:  
but hastened to keep your commandments.

- 61 Though the nets of the wicked ensnared me:  
I did not forget your law.
- 62 At midnight I rise to give you thanks:  
for the justice of your decrees.
- 63 I keep company with those who fear you:  
with those who keep your commandments.
- 64 The earth is full of your unfailing love:  
O Lord instruct me in your statutes.
- 65 Lord you have been good to your servant:  
according to your word.
- 66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge:  
for I trust in your commandments.
- 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray:  
but now I keep your word.
- 68 You are good, and your deeds are good:  
instruct me in your statutes.
- 69 The proud have smeared me with lies:  
but I will keep your precepts with all my heart.
- 70 Their heart is gross like fat:  
but my delight is in your law.
- 71 It is good for me that I was afflicted:  
so that I might learn your statutes.
- 72 The law from your mouth is to me more precious:  
than a fortune in gold and silver.
- 73 Your hands have made me and shaped me:  
give me understanding  
that I may learn your commandments.
- 74 Let those who fear you be glad when they see me:  
because I trust in your word.
- 75 Lord I know that your decrees are just:  
and that in your very faithfulness  
you have caused me to be afflicted.
- 76 Let your unfailing love be my comfort:  
according to your promise to your servant.
- 77 Let your compassion come to me, that I may live:  
for your law is my delight.
- 78 Let the arrogant be put to shame,  
for with their lies they have wronged me:  
but I will meditate on your precepts.
- 79 Let those who fear you turn to me:

that they may know your testimonies.  
80 Let my heart be sound in your statutes:  
so that I may never be put to shame.

*Or*

Psalm 125 *see page*

Psalm 126

### ***Psalms for Wednesday***

*Either*

Psalm 119.81-104

- 81 I yearn for your saving help:  
hoping for the fulfilment of your word.
- 82 My eyes are strained  
with watching for your promise:  
and I say, 'When O Lord will you comfort me?'
- 83 I am shrivelled like a wineskin in the smoke:  
yet I do not forget your statutes.
- 84 How long must your servant wait:  
for you to give judgment on my persecutors?
- 85 The arrogant have dug pitfalls to trap me:  
and thus they flout your law.
- 86 All your commandments are true:  
help me, for they pursue me with lies.
- 87 They had almost made an end of me on earth:  
but I did not forsake your precepts.
- 88 Give me life, because of your steadfast love:  
so that I may keep the testimonies  
of your mouth.
- 89 Your word O Lord is everlasting:  
it is firmly fixed in the heavens.
- 90 Your faithfulness endures  
throughout all generations:  
stable as the earth you created  
and made to stand firm.
- 91 Your ordinances stand fast to this day:  
for all things are your servants.
- 92 If my delight had not been in your law:  
I should have perished in my affliction.
- 93 I will never forget your precepts:  
for by them you have given me life.

- 94 I am yours O save me:  
for I have studied your precepts.
- 95 Though the wicked lie in wait to destroy me:  
I will apply my mind to your instruction.
- 96 I see that all things reach a limit:  
but your commandment has no bounds.
- 97 Lord how I love your law:  
all the day long it is in my mind.
- 98 Your commandment has made me wiser  
than my enemies:  
for it is always with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers:  
for your instruction is my study.
- 100 I am wiser than the aged:  
because I keep your commandments.
- 101 I have held back my feet from every evil way:  
in order to keep your word.
- 102 I have not swerved from your judgments:  
because you yourself have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are your words to my taste:  
sweeter than honey in my mouth.
- 104 Through your commandments  
I get understanding:  
therefore I hate all the ways of falsehood.

*Or*

Psalm 127 *see page*

Psalm 128 *see page*

### ***Psalms for Thursday***

*Either*

Psalm 119.105-128

- 105 Your word is a lamp for my feet:  
and a light upon my path.
- 106 I have sworn an oath, and confirmed it:  
to keep your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am in deep distress:  
revive me O Lord, according to your word.
- 108 Accept O Lord the willing tribute of my lips:  
and teach me your decrees.
- 109 I take my life in my hands continually:

- yet I never forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me:  
but I have not strayed from your precepts.
- 111 Your testimonies are my heritage for ever:  
they are the very joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes:  
for ever and to the end.
- 113 I detest those who are not single\_minded:  
but my love is for your law.
- 114 You are my shelter and my shield:  
my hope is in your word.
- 115 Away from me, you that do evil:  
I will keep the commandments of my God.
- 116 Support me Lord according to your promise,  
so that I may live:  
and let me not be disappointed in my hope.
- 117 Hold me up and I shall be safe:  
and I shall be occupied  
with your statutes continually.
- 118 You spurn all those  
who swerve from your statutes:  
their cunning is all in vain.
- 119 All the wicked of the earth  
are to you as so much dross:  
therefore I love your instruction.
- 120 My flesh trembles with dread of you:  
I stand in awe of your judgments.
- 121 I have done what is just and right:  
do not abandon me to my oppressors.
- 122 Stand surety for your servant's welfare:  
let not the arrogant oppress me.
- 123 My eyes grow dim  
from watching for your saving help:  
for the fulfilment of your righteous promise.
- 124 Deal with your servant  
according to your loving mercy:  
and teach me your decrees.
- 125 I am your servant, O give me understanding:  
that I may know your testimonies.
- 126 It is time for you O Lord to act:



- for people have flouted your law.  
127 I love your commandments more than gold:  
yes, more than the finest gold.  
128 Therefore I direct my steps by all your precepts:  
and I hate all the ways of falsehood.

*Or*

Psalm 132 *see page*

### ***Psalms for Friday***

*Either*

Psalm 119.129-152

- 129 Your instruction is wonderful:  
therefore I keep it with all my heart.  
130 The unfolding of your word gives light:  
and those who are untaught  
receive understanding.  
131 I open my mouth and sigh:  
with longing for your commandments.  
132 Turn to me and be merciful to me:  
as is your way with those who love you.  
133 Keep steady my footsteps,  
according to your promise:  
and let no evil get mastery over me.  
134 Rescue me from human oppression:  
so that I may keep your precepts.  
135 Let your face shine on your servant:  
and teach me your decrees.  
136 Tears stream from my eyes:  
because people do not heed your law.  
137 Lord you are just indeed:  
and upright are your judgments.  
138 The decrees that you have made:  
are exceedingly righteous and true.  
139 My indignation consumes me:  
because my enemies  
have forgotten your words.  
140 Your promise has been tested to the uttermost:  
and therefore your servant loves it.  
141 I am small and of little account:  
but I do not forget your commandments.

- 142 Your justice is an everlasting justice:  
and your law is the truth.
- 143 Trouble and anguish have fallen upon me:  
yet my delight is in your commandments.
- 144 The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting:  
O give me understanding that I may live.
- 145 I call with my whole heart:  
answer me Lord, I will keep your statutes.
- 146 I cry out to you to save me:  
that I may keep your testimonies.
- 147 I rise before dawn and call to you:  
for my hope is in your word.
- 148 I wake before the hour of my night\_watch:  
so that I may meditate on your words.
- 149 Hear me in your unfailing kindness:  
and give me life by your decrees.
- 150 Those who pursue me with malice draw near:  
and they are far from your law.
- 151 But you O Lord are near at hand:  
and all your commandments are true.
- 152 I have long known from your decrees:  
that you have given them eternal foundations.

*Or*

Psalm 129

Psalm 130 *see page*

### ***Psalms for Saturday***

*Either*

Psalm 119.153-176

- 153 Consider my affliction and deliver me:  
for I do not forget your law.
- 154 Plead my cause and win my release:  
true to your promise give me life.
- 155 Salvation is far from the wicked:  
for they give no heed to your statutes.
- 156 Great is your compassion O Lord:  
give me life by your decrees.
- 157 Many are those who persecute me  
and trouble me:  
yet I do not swerve from your instruction.

158 I looked at the faithless with loathing:  
because they do not keep your commandments.  
159 Consider O Lord how I love your precepts:  
and in your steadfast love preserve my life.  
160 The sum of your words is truth:  
and all your just decrees endure for ever.  
161 Princes oppress me without any cause:  
but my heart stands in awe of your word.  
162 I rejoice at your promise:  
as one who finds great spoil.  
163 Lies I hate and detest:  
but your law is the thing that I love.  
164 Seven times a day I praise you:  
for the justice of your decrees.  
165 Great is the peace of those who love your law:  
and nothing shall make them stumble.  
166 Lord I have waited for your saving help:  
and I have fulfilled your commandments.  
167 From my heart I have obeyed your instruction:  
and I have loved it deeply.  
168 I have kept your precepts and commands:  
for all my ways are open before you.  
169 Let my cry come before you O Lord:  
give me understanding according to your word.  
170 Let my supplication come before you:  
save me according to your word.  
171 My lips shall pour forth your praise:  
because you have taught me your statutes.  
172 My tongue shall sing of your word:  
for all your commandments are just.  
173 Let your hand be ready to help me:  
for I have chosen your precepts.  
174 Lord I long for your saving help:  
and your law is my delight.  
175 Let me live, that I may praise you:  
and let your judgments be my support.  
176 I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost:  
O seek your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.

*Or*

Psalm 131

Psalm 133 *see page*

*Each psalm or group of Psalms may end with:*

**Glory . . .**

*for the reading(s), response, collect, and blessing use the **seasonal** sections which follows, or use the **thematic** sections, arranged according to the days of the week, which are printed after the seasonal ones, or the following*

*THE READING(S)*

From the rising of the sun to its setting my name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. *Malachi 1.11*

*THE RESPONSE*

*THE PRAYERS*

*THE COLLECT*

Blessed Saviour, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching our your loving arms; grant that all the peoples of the earth may be drawn to your uplifted love; for your kingdom's sake. **Amen.**

*THE LORD'S PRAYER*

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,  
Our Father . . .

*THE BLESSING*

May God's blessing remain with us. **Amen.**

**Advent**

READING

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." *Matthew 3.1-2*

THE RESPONSE

Behold, I send my messenger  
to prepare my way before me.

**And the One whom you seek  
will suddenly come to God's temple.**

Who can endure the day of God's coming?

**And who can stand when the Most High appears?**

For God is like a refiner's fire

and like fuller's soap  
**And shall sit as a refiner of silver  
and purify the offspring of Levi.**  
Who can endure the day of God's coming  
and who can stand when the Most High appears?  
**As for me, I will look to the Most High,  
I will wait for the God of my salvation.**

THE COLLECT

God of hope,  
when your Son appears  
may he not find us asleep or idle,  
but active in his service and ready. . .

THE BLESSING

May Christ coming bless us. **Amen.**

**Christmas**

READING

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen the Word's glory, full of grace and truth. *John 1.1, 14*

THE RESPONSE

That which we heard from the beginning,  
**Which we saw with our own eyes and touched with our hands,**  
The Word of life, which was from the beginning,  
**We now proclaim to you.**  
The darkness is passing away  
**And the true light is already shining.**  
God is our light, in whom there is no darkness at all.  
**If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with Christ.**

THE COLLECT

Son of God, Child of Mary,  
born in the stable at Bethlehem,  
be born again in us this day  
that through us the world may know  
the wonder of your love . . .

THE BLESSING

May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith. **Amen.**

## **Epiphany**

READING

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. *Matthew 11.25-27*

THE RESPONSE

Let us keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,

**For there is one body and one Spirit,  
one hope of our calling.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**One God and Father of all.**

Grace was given to each of us

**According to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

Christ gave some to be apostles, some prophets,  
evangelists, pastors and teachers,

For building up the body of Christ.

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith,

**To the knowledge of the Son of God.**

No longer shall we be children, but fully mature,

**Measured by the stature of the fullness of Christ.**

THE COLLECT

O God, by the leading of a star  
you revealed your Son Jesus Christ to the gentiles;  
grant that your Church may be a light to the nations,  
so that the whole world may come to see  
the splendour of your glory  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. . .

THE BLESSING

May we be Christ's light to the world. **Amen.**

## **Lent**

READING

It was about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." *Luke 23.44-47*

THE RESPONSE

The preaching of the cross is folly  
to those who are perishing,

**But to those who are being saved,  
it is the power of God.**

To those who are called,

**Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

For the folly of God is wiser than human wisdom,

**And the weakness of God**

**is stronger than human strength.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

**Because by your holy cross,**

**you have redeemed the world.**

THE COLLECT

Jesus, crucified and risen,  
you have turned a criminal's cross  
into release and reconciliation.

Let us who are marked with the cross  
be not ashamed to witness to you . . .

THE BLESSING

May Christ crucified draw us to himself. **Amen.**

**Easter**

READING

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth have been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have

commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*Matthew 28.16-20*

THE RESPONSE

Blessèd are you, O God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

**We give you praise and honour for ever.**

For you have loved us from all eternity,

**And remembered us when we were in trouble.**

Blessèd are you, Lord Jesus Christ,

**Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven.**

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

**You became incarnate of the Virgin Mary.**

You loosed us from our sins by your own blood:

**And on the third day rose from the dead.**

You ascended up on high,

**And opened wide for us the everlasting doors.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father

**And ever live to intercede for us.**

Blessèd are you, O God: Source of all being,

eternal Word and Spirit of life;

**We give you praise and honour for ever.**

THE COLLECT

Christ, you are risen from the dead.

We are risen with you.

May our life never deny

this eternal life,

this peace and hope and joy.

Praise and glory to the God of life

who is stronger than all kinds of death. Alleluia.

THE BLESSING

May the risen Christ bless us. **Amen.**

**Pentecost**

READING

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Sprit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and



joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

*Romans 8.14-17*

THE RESPONSE

You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit

**Since the Spirit of God dwells in you.**

If Christ lives in you,

though the body is dead because of sin,

**The Spirit is alive because of righteousness.**

If the Spirit of God who raised up Jesus from the dead

lives in you

**God will give life to your mortal bodies also,**

**through the Spirit which lives in you.**

For you are not in the flesh,

**But in the Spirit.**

THE COLLECT

God of power,

may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,

may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,

may the gifts of your Spirit

be our goal and our strength

now and always . . .

THE BLESSING

May the Spirit of truth bless us. **Amen.**

**All Saints' to Advent**

READING

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, God saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by Christ's grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. *Titus 3.4-7*

THE RESPONSE

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,

**And Christ shall give you light.**

If you have been raised with Christ,

seek the things that are above,  
**Where Christ is,**  
**who is seated at the right hand of God.**  
Set your mind on things that are above,  
**Not on things that are on the earth.**  
You have died,  
**And your life is hid with Christ in God.**  
When Christ who is our life shall appear,  
**Then you will appear with Christ in glory.**  
Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,  
**And Christ shall give you light.**

THE COLLECT

Eternal God,  
you have always taken men and women  
of every nation, age and colour  
and made them saints;  
like them, transformed,  
like them, baptized in Jesus' name,  
take us to share your glory . . .

THE BLESSING

May God give us grace to follow the saints in faith and hope and love. **Amen.**

***Thematic section***

***Readings for Sunday (Creation and New Creation)***

*Week*

- 1: Gen 2.2-3 *or* Heb 4.9-11a; *leisure & sabbath*
- 2: Job 38.4-7 *or* Ps 68.15-16; *the elements*
- 3: Gen 1.24-25 *or* Job 39.19-25; *animals*
- 4: Matt 6.28-30 *or* Song of Songs 2.11-13; *plants*
- 5: Ps 19.1-4 *or* Rom 8.19-21; *the universe*
- 6: Gen 2.19-20 *or* Ps 8.4-8; *stewardship over creation*
- 7: Col 1.15-17 *or* Isa 55.12; *harmony with creation*

*Or, the short reading:*

Wisdom says: I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. *Proverbs 8.30-31*

THE RESPONSE

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
**The leopard lie down with the kid;**  
The calf and the lion together,  
**And a little child shall lead them.**  
They will not hurt or destroy  
**On all my holy mountain.**  
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God  
**As the waters cover the sea.**

THE COLLECT

God, you have made our world and seen that it is good; grant to us, created to complete your work, the bright, delightful vision that makes us care for what we do  
...

THE BLESSING

May God who made both heaven and earth bless us.  
**Amen.**

***Readings for Monday (Communication and Cultures)***

*Week*

- 1: Ps 96.1-3 *or* Dan 7.13-14; *one world, one community*
- 2: Rom 2.13-16 *or* John 4.19-24; *other faiths*
- 3: 2 Sam 18.24-27 *or* Isa 52.7-8; *the media, propaganda & communication*
- 4: Acts 8.26-29 *or* Acts 2.5-12; *language, culture, race*
- 5: Jonah 1.3-6 *or* Acts 27.4-12; *transport: land, sea, & air*
- 6: Exod 35.30-35 *or* 1 Sam 16.14-23; *artists & creators*
- 7: Wisd 7.15-17 *or* Luke 2.46-50; *education*

*Or, the short reading:*

The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. *Habakkuk 2.14*

THE RESPONSE

This the sign of the Covenant  
**That I make between myself and you.**  
I set my bow in the clouds  
**The sign of the covenant between us.**  
The Covenant between God and creation  
**And all that lives on the earth.**

THE COLLECT

God of revelation,  
whose mercy embraces all peoples and nations:  
tear down the walls which divide us,  
break open the prisons which hold us captive  
and so free us celebrate your beauty  
in all the earth;  
through Jesus, our Brother and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May God kindle in us the fire of love. **Amen.**

***Readings for Tuesday (Wealth and Work)***

*Week*

- 1: Ps 65.9-13 *or* Luke 13.6-9; *productivity*
- 2: Deut 15.7-11 *or* Luke 12.42-48; *the global economy*
- 3: Deut 24.17-end *or* Luke 4.16-21; *unemployment*
- 4: Amos 4.9-10 *or* Gen 8.20-22; *pollution*
- 5: Judges 9.8-15 *or* Mark 10.42-45; *use & abuse of power*
- 6: Col 3.23-24 *or* 2 Thess 3.11-13; *workers*
- 7: Gen 3.17b-19 *or* Matt 11.27-30; *overwork & stress*

*Or, the short reading:*

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. *Genesis 1.31a*

THE RESPONSE

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
**Those who build it labour in vain.**  
Unless the Lord defends the city,  
**The guard keeps watch in vain.**  
It is in vain that you rise up early  
**And go so late to rest.**  
Vain, also, to eat the bread of toil,  
**For God gives the beloved sleep.**  
The Lord will preserve you from all evil;  
Your Maker will guard your life.  
God will keep your going out and your coming in,  
**Now and for evermore.**

THE COLLECT

God of grace and goodness,

who made us body and spirit  
that our work and faith may be one:  
may we, by our life and worship,  
join in your labour to bring forth a new creation  
in justice, love and truth;  
through Jesus our Redeemer. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May God bless the work of our hands. **Amen.**

***Readings for Wednesday (Family and Community)***

*Week*

- 1: Gen 1.27-28a *or* Song of Songs 7.10-13; *marriage*
- 2: Ruth 1.16-18 *or* 1 Sam 18.1-5; *alternative life  
commitments*
- 3: Luke 2.36-38 *or* Matt 19.10-12; *being single*
- 4: Mark 10.13-16 *or* 1 Sam 2.18-21; *infancy, childhood,  
youth*
- 5: Luke 2.41-45 *or* 2 Tim 1.2-5; *parenthood*
- 6: Eccles 12.1-8 *or* Gen 49.29-33; *old age, bereavement*
- 7: Gen 21.9-14 *or* Gen 44.25-31; *broken families*

*Or, the short reading:*

Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother. *Mark 3.35*

THE RESPONSE

I bow my knees before the Father  
**From whom every family takes its name.**  
May we be strengthened in our inner being  
**With power through the Holy Spirit.**  
May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith  
**As we are being rooted and grounded in love.**  
May we know the love of Christ  
that surpasses knowledge  
**And be filled with the fullness of God.**

THE COLLECT

Loving God,  
from birth to death, you hold us in your hand:  
make us strong to bear each others burdens  
and humble to share our own,

that as one family  
we may rest in your power  
and trust in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

THE BLESSING

May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith. **Amen.**

***Readings for Thursday (Health and Healing)***

*Week*

- 1: Phil 1.20-22 *or* Ps 139.13-15; *our bodies*  
2: Job 3.20-26 *or* Mark 5.2-9;  
*the sick: mental illness & depression*  
3: Isa 49.14-16 *or* Luke 1.39-45;  
*birth: pregnancy, miscarriage, childlessness*  
4: Num 21.5-9 *or* Eccles 38.1-8;  
*medicine: the medical profession*  
5: Acts 16.27-29 *or* Luke 23.42-43;  
*dying: suicide, terminal illness*  
6: Isa 35.3-6a *or* Matt 11.2-6;  
*the disabled: physically, emotionally*  
7: Matt 8.1-3 *or* 2 Cor 4.16-18;  
*the sick: chronic & short term*

*Or, the short reading:*

Great crowds came to Jesus, bringing with them those who were lame and maimed, those who were blind, those who could not speak, and many others. They put them at Jesus' feet and he cured them.

*Matthew 15.30*

THE RESPONSE

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

**And when you pass through rivers,  
they shall not overwhelm you.**

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned:

**And the flame shall not consume you.**

Do not fear, for I am with you,

**I am the Holy One, your Saviour.**

THE COLLECT

Heal us, O God, from all afflictions  
and keep us steadfast in your love;  
bind up our wounds,  
raise us from death  
and lead us to fullness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour . . .

THE BLESSING

May Christ our redeemer give us healing and wholeness. **Amen.**

***Readings for Friday (Caring for the Needy)***

*Week*

- 1: Gen 4.8-12 *or* Exod 1.8-14;  
*victims of torture, slavery and violence*
- 2: Luke 6.32-36 *or* Deut 15.7-10; *helping organisations*
- 3: Deut 24.10-15 *or* James 2.1-5; *hungry & homeless*
- 4: Exod 18.21-23 *or* Acts 9.36-38; *the caring professions*
- 5: Heb 13.3 *or* Ps 107.10-14; *prisoners, the prison system*
- 6: Gen 41.53-57 *or* 1 Sam 4.19-22;  
*victims of famine & natural disaster*
- 7: Gen 12.4-9 *or* Jer 29.4-7; *minorities & immigrants*

*Or, the short reading:*

Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

*Galatians 6.2*

THE RESPONSE

Come, you that are blessed of my Father,  
**Inherit the kingdom prepared for you.**

I was hungry and you gave me food,  
**I was thirsty and you gave me drink,**  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
**I was naked and you clothed me.**

I was sick and you took care of me,  
**I was in prison and you visited me.**

As you did it to one of the least,  
**You did it to me.**

THE COLLECT

Merciful God,  
you loose the bonds of injustice  
and let the oppressed go free:

give us the will to share our bread with the hungry  
and to give shelter to the homeless poor,  
for thus your glory shall be revealed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

THE BLESSING

May Christ our Saviour give us peace. **Amen.**

***Readings for Saturday (Justice and Peace)***

*Week*

- 1: Acts 17.24-28 or Eph 2.14-18; *racial justice*
- 2: Micah 4.3-4 or Luke 21.20-24; *the arms race*
- 3: Luke 24.5-10 or Gal 3.27-28; *affirming equality*
- 4: Dan 13.19-25 or 1 Cor 6.18-20;  
*sexual violence: abusers & abused*
- 5: Deut 26.5-11 or Mark 13.14-20; *refugees*
- 6: Matt 10.16-22 or James 4.1-3; *conflict*
- 7: 1 Peter 3.13-17 or Luke 23.8-12; *prisoners of conscience*

*Or, the short reading:*

In those days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. *Psalms 72.8*

THE RESPONSE

Blessèd are you who are poor,  
**For yours is the kingdom of heaven.**  
Blessèd are you who hunger now,  
**For you will be fed.**  
Blessèd are you who weep now,  
**For you will laugh.**  
Blessèd are you when people hate you,  
and when they exclude you,  
**When they revile and defame you,**  
Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,  
**For surely your reward is great in heaven.**

THE COLLECT

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;



where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be love as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May God grant to the world, justice, truth and peace. **Amen.**

