

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their
ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's love, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray for the poor and the hungry, those who weep, and those who are hated and reviled. Grant them abundant blessings, strengthen them, comfort them, and lead them into the joy of your love. God of love,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose hearts have turned away from you. Send them your grace and love, and help us to gently bring them back to you. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Bless and inspire all world leaders, that they may know and value the true needs of their citizens. By your grace, and the help of peacemakers, save your children from violence, war, and hatred. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Make your church into a holy instrument of blessing and healing. By your Spirit, help the church to bring peace and love into the world. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Bless this congregation to be like a tree planted by streams of water. Nourish us, and grant us courage and wisdom in all we do. By the way we speak and live, strengthen us to witness to your abiding presence and the glorious resurrection. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Let the blessings of your healing flow abundantly upon the sick, the hurting, and the injured. Draw close to all who are suffering in any way, especially those close to our hearts. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, as we pray, watch over us and send your blessings according to the needs of all your children. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.