



Daily readings, reflections and prayers for Mon 1 – Sun 7 June

Our Daily Worship this week follows the Lectionary OT reading in the early chapters of Joshua. Liturgically speaking today sees the beginning of Ordinary Time which takes right the way through to the end of October. An abridged form of Morning Prayer from Common Worship for this season starts these Notes which you can use each day with variations as you choose.

Morning Prayer for the Easter Season

O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

In your resurrection, O Christ, **let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

A prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, creator of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your dawn renews the face of the earth
bringing light and life to all creation,
may we rejoice in this day you have made;
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

This opening prayer may be said

The night has passed, and the day lies open
before us; let us pray with one heart and
mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may
the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now
and for ever. Amen.

The Daily Psalm (please see the Psalm listed for
each day)

The Old Testament reading

Gospel Canticle

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who
has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty
Saviour, born of the house of his servant
David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of
old to save us from our enemies, from the
hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, and to
remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father
Abraham: to set us free from the hands of
our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, holy and
righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of
the Most High, for you will go before the Lord
to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation by
the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God the
dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death, and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall
be for ever. Amen.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

- ¶ *for the day and its tasks*
- ¶ *for the world and its needs*
- ¶ *for the Church and her life*

The Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Monday 1 June

Psalm 131

OT Reading: Joshua 1

Reflection: The book of Joshua follows on the narrative of the Israelites wandering in the desert – heading for the 'land of milk and honey'. At the very end of Deuteronomy, Moses dies at the age of 120 but before he does so, he is given a glimpse of the land to which they had all been travelling for 40 years. God had condemned Moses not to enter the Promised Land as punishment for an earlier incident (recalled in Psalm 95) but at least he got to see it!

Joshua had already been anointed as Moses' successor and in the beginning of the book in his name, Joshua is commissioned by God who makes mighty promises to Joshua.

Many of us will be familiar with the action song which is taken from verse 9. 'Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you. I am not afraid, I am not dismayed for I'm waking in faith and victory, for the Lord your God is with you!'

We learn things so well when we sing them and singing makes us feel better, so why not sing this verse today and in the coming days when you need some encouragement for the task ahead. With Joshua and the Lord you will be in good company!

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs
The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord
Your own private prayers – including for front line staff and for adequate resourcing for them to do their jobs safely.

Tuesday 2 June

Psalm 132

OT Reading: Joshua 2

Reflection: We can begin now to get involved in a really good story – spies, courage, strategic thinking, bravado, perhaps a bit of luck and a heroine! If we need confirmation of this latter detail, we can turn to Hebrews 11. 31 where Rahab is commended in the 'Hall of Fame' of those who acted in faith; the only woman in such company as Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Moses. She also appears as one of four gentile women in Jesus' genealogy at the beginning of Matthew (1.5). So we should be in no doubt that what she was an exceptional woman.

Yes, she was brave and quick thinking but what was most exceptional was that she was prepared to turn her back on her upbringing and welcome a new God into her heart and her life. She also had to accept the promise of the two spies that they would keep her and her family safe without any immediate certainty that they could be trusted. She asked for a sign from the two spies but she didn't get one. She had no certainty that her bargain would work but she trusted and it was credited to her. Can you think of a time when you have had to seemingly take a risk but done so in the trust that the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. with people, he shows us how to live.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs
God's creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care
Your own private prayers including for those in our church family and for those who are isolated.

Wednesday 3 June

Psalm 119.153-end

OT Reading: Joshua 3

Reflection: This reading strikes a wholly more resonant chord for us now with the instruction from the officers that all should stay socially distanced from the Ark of the Covenant, the presence of God among them. Let us give thanks

that we no longer believe that God is confined to one place at one time but is here among us - at our side, behind us and before us. Praise the Lord that our God defies the 2 metre rule of separation but is very much here with each one of us in whatever situation in our lives might require courage and faith!

Then we wonder if Joshua might have questioned, if only for an instant, God's commission to him that he should be strong and courageous because God would be forever with him, as he stood on the banks of the seasonally –high River Jordan. There was the prospect of a whole city to defeat but first things first – how to get to the other side? It seems very likely that Joshua's thoughts would have turned back to the story (told and re-told so often around the campfire of his childhood and youth) of the Israelites crossing of the Red Sea. History is about to repeat itself – watch out Jericho!

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs
Those in despair and darkness that they may find the hope and light of Christ
Your own private prayers giving thanks for the blessings which you receive and can share.

Thursday 4 June

Psalms 143

OT Reading: Joshua 4.1-5.1

Reflection: The crossing of the River Jordan is a wonderful story and you can be assured that the re-telling of the event would have been repeated many times to allow the memory of it to live on. But God instructed that a physical monument should be erected too. Each of the twelve tribes were to be included as each put down a marker in the land that was soon to be given to them by the Lord.

Can you remember a time on holiday when you sat on the beach and piled up stones into a tower - maybe only to enjoy knocking it down straight after! Or perhaps on a walk you have seen cairns which have been built as landmarks or trail marks. Either way, they indicate that some have gone before you and will continue to do so. The Tower which was built by the side of the River Jordan

was a man-made testament to God's faithfulness to his people in guiding them into a strange land.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs
Those in fear of death, especially those in our local Care Homes
Your own private prayers including for those who are suffering from domestic abuse in any of its forms.

Friday 5 June

Psalms 144

OT Reading: Joshua 5.2-end

Reflection: The phrase 'their reputation went before them' could have been coined for the events we read about today. The inhabitants of Jericho and the surrounding lands are left in no doubt that they have to face a formidable foe.

But this confrontation is not to be rushed. Preparations have to be made. Joshua wants his men to be acceptable in service to God so he orders that those who haven't been, must be circumcised. Then there is the celebration of the Passover. Bringing the past into the present had already happened on the banks of the Jordan but once again happened in ritual celebration of the delivery of the Israelites from Egypt. What a celebration that must have been; the God of escape and protection is back, following the 'hiccup' of 40 years in the wilderness. Such celebration may only have been surpassed by the realisation that God's provision of daily manna was no longer required as the people were now able to live of the fresh produce of the land.

*Another song to sing this week – this time the last verse of 'Guide me O though great Jehovah'.
When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Lead me safe of Canaan's side;
Songs of praises . . .*

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs
Prisoners and captives

Your own private prayers including prayers of thanksgiving for the celebration of Easter this year even in such altered circumstances

Saturday 6 June

Psalm 147

OT Reading: Joshua 6

Reflection: This story is much loved by little boys in Sunday School with colourful imaginations and violent tendencies in play acting! But what horrors lurk within the story. We are told that hundreds, thousands of innocents lose their lives as Jericho is laid to waste. Is this what ethnic cleansing looked like in Old Testament times? What are we to do with this story and the tension between a loving God and this slaughter? The usual way to look at this is to see it as a giant visual aid of God's greater purpose, that of building his kingdom in the world. This is not about building the Israelites up into a super power but it is about removing what is not of God from the place chosen for his people to begin their new life. The Israelites need to understand that they cannot assimilate with the culture around them – God requires wholehearted worship and obedience. This is not because he needs it but because we do.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs
The leaders of our nation and in local government
and those in authority with the power to make
decisions which affect the lives of so many.
Your own private prayers including confession of
your sins.

Sunday 7 June – Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28.16-20

Reflection: This reading is chosen for Trinity Sunday telling us of Jesus' final command (or

'Great Commission' as it is better known) to the eleven disciples. Those of us who attend St Matthew's see it every week in the stained glass window at the front of church.

The disciples, and we in our turn, are instructed to do three things. We must make disciples of all nations by telling them the good news. We are told to baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and finally we are to teach (by example and by words) a lifestyle quite different from the one to which the world usually conforms. Jesus finishes with a promise to be with us every single day to the very end of the age.

It is unlikely that St Matthew wrote this ending intending it to be a central text in many theological and ecclesiological debates ever since about the Trinity. However, as Jesus' final words in Matthew's gospel it gives us the direction of travel for the Christian faith to spread throughout the world over the coming centuries down to our own and continuing.

Collect for Trinity Sunday

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your
truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of
your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Prayer:

For the day and its tasks; the world and its needs
All who are struggling with broken relationships
especially in the light of God being a community
of love at his centre – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Your own private prayers including for yourself
and your loved ones