



## Daily reflections and prayers 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August

(Based on the Common Worship  
Lectionary)

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August

**Psalm 44**

**Acts 1:1-14**

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*The ascension reminds that Jesus is King and is now in the heavenly sphere actively reigning over God's kingdom; it is about His presence not his absence even though the disciples are for a moment left forlornly looking heaven ward...the angels remind them that the ascension is not primarily about location but it is primarily about relationship. Just as Jesus maintained a relationship with God whilst he was limited to a human body, so they and us can maintain a relationship with God through his spirit which is to be poured out on all who believe equipping them to continue the building of God's kingdom....the work transfers to the disciples and to us the church.... You see when we acknowledge that Jesus reigns over His Kingdom...then we are asking Him to be the ruler of our lives as well....if we wish to be in His kingdom....we ask Him to reign in us....*

*Each time we speak lovingly rather than out of hurt and bitterness...*

*Each time we choose to set aside anger and irritation*

*Each time we choose to love rather than to hate*

*Each time we choose to stop and listen rather than move on...*

**A prayer:**

Risen ascended Jesus live in us today and be evident in all we do.

**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for yourself and for those you know and love
- Pray for wisdom and grace as lockdown is eased, for grace and thoughtfulness in the midst of uncertainty

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August

**Psalm 48**

**Acts 1:15-end**

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and help me to see you more clearly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*The disciple's way of choosing someone to replace Judas may seem strange to us; they prayed and they cast lots. Such an ordinary, arbitrary and even random action to make what must have felt like a very significant choice. The key is not in the ordinary action but in the prayer and trust they demonstrated. As they waited the coming of the Spirit that Jesus promised, they trusted themselves to God. We need to be willing to seek direction in prayer and allow God to work in ways that may surprise us*

**A prayer:**

Help us to trust you as we pray for your direction in our lives

**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for safety as people return to work
- Pray too for the many who now have no job

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August

**Psalm 119:57-80**

**Acts 2:1-21**

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*Following the ascension the pouring out of the Holy Spirit is God equipping his disciples for their mission; to declare God's kingdom where ever they are and wherever they go. God is present with us through His spirit; we each are given the power and the gifts we need for the task we are called to in declaring God's kingdom wherever we are and wherever we go .I guess a lot of the time we are fearful or anxious or simply unsure; sometimes we don't feel God's presence like we wish we could. As we read this passage and look at the psalm lets be encouraged to turn to God's word and reflect on it so we can hear his voice today.*

**A prayer:**

Fill us we pray, with your Holy Spirit that we may declare your love in our lives

**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for those who struggle with long term effects of lockdown
- For those grieving loss and suffering pain

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August

**Psalm 63**

**Acts 2:22-36**

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*One statement that states the purpose of the church in a very clear way is 'Christianity is Christ'. Peter begins his Christ-centred section of his sermon by summarising the public ministry of Jesus: he was 'a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know' (One important point about Peter's preaching here is that he is responding to a question that was asked by the crowd. The people wanted an explanation of what was taking place.) The challenge for us is to be ready to explain who Jesus is when we are asked for an explanation of our faith in him*

**A prayer:**

Help us to be willing to speak about you because you are who our faith is all about.

**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for those taking much needed holidays for rest, renewal and restoration

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August****Psalm 54****Acts 2:37-end****Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*After Peter's proclamation his hearers are "cut to the heart", deeply moved and shaken, and sincerely ask what they should do. It reflects both their belief in what they have just heard about Jesus and regret over former rejection. Repentance' implies not just regret for the past but, much more positively, a radical change to one's way of thinking and behaving. a turning around to a completely new way of seeing life. This they pledge through being baptised and having their former sins forgiven and left behind, and receiving the gift of the Spirit. What things do we need to repent and turn round in our lives?*

**A prayer:**

Give us the humility we need to repent what we should and turn to you again.

**Prayer Focus:**

- pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for teachers. For a good holiday and safe preparation for September
- Pray for our neighbours and our community

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August****Psalm 43****Luke 1:46-55****Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*Today in the church calendar is the festival of Mary....so we read on and reflect on the Magnificat...a song of praise which is charged with dynamite. It points to a society in which nobody wants to have too much while others have too little. The hungry are fed and the lowly are raised up. Mary's 'Yes' to God is generous and absolute. Even though she didn't know where that journey would take her, she trusted that God knew.*

**A prayer:**

Lord we pray that we will trust you for our future even when we can't see the way ahead

**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for our churches and all they are doing as they reopen

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August****Psalm 67****Matthew 15:10-20****Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*Jesus often challenges us to understand the deeper meaning beneath rules and practices. He wants to learn to look beyond the surface. For example we might stop and think about how easily we can speak without thinking and not realise the hurt and pain it can cause to others. The gospels show us Jesus always seems to look farther than people do - he looks to and into the heart. He looks to see if we are growing in love and faith, he looks to see the fruit of the spirit being nourished and flourishing in our lives and if we are developing in faith and trust in him.*

**A prayer:**

Transform us by your love we pray that we may be your people

**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- But today, let us also pray for those who are mourning loved ones today, for whatever reason.
- Pray for all who have been impacted in so many ways by this pandemic
- Pray for the week ahead for all its challenges and opportunities that we may make Christ known in all we do and say.