



Daily readings,
reflections and prayers

Monday 20 July - Sunday 26 July

2020

Monday 20th July

Psalm 123

Luke 21:1-4

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 looks up and sees.....Jesus shows us time and time again that he sees the world through a different lens to others .He does not only look at the things that are visible on the surface, he's not impressed by how much in material terms ...but by how much from is given from the heart . Being poor, the widow knew the value of what she gave generously and Jesus sees and invites us to see the woman's action as an invitation to live with trust.

The psalm asks us to lift our eyes to see God and get His perspective; that will transform our generosity

A prayer:

Loving God All we have is a gift from your hand. Make us generous we pray.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for yourself and for those you know and love
- Pray for all those who suffer as a result of injustice and discrimination
- Pray for those who work to end discrimination
- Pray for wisdom and grace as lockdown continues to be eased, for grace and thoughtfulness

Tuesday 21st July

Psalm 133
Luke 21:5-19

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 temple was not just the centre of the Jews' civilisation: it was where God lived among them. Jesus told them that it was I going to fall apart! What is our "secure centre" – and how do we respond when it - threatens to collapse? The temple is replaced says Jesus by us as temples of the Spirit, we are 'born to living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..., to an imperishable inheritance. In the middle of what seems a very difficult passage the key I think is Jesus saying 'Do not be terrified' Our security is in Jesus and as church we are called to display unity and point to Jesus

A prayer:

In the midst of turmoil, uncertainty and challenge help us remember that you are the foundation on which we build our lives, help us to not be fearful and to reflect your love to the world around us.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for safety as people return to
- Pray too for the many who now have no job to return to and for the challenges that they will face

Wednesday 22nd July

Psalm 150
2 Cor 5:14-17

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:

'Christ's love compels us 'the motivation for how we act as Christians, how we behave as a church is Christ's love. Because we know his transforming power in our lives, because we understand what it is to be made new what it means to be free ...because of what Jesus has done for us we are to be different. This is big...it means that the way we respond to other people is motivated by Jesus love....how we talk to them, about them and with them; it changes our priorities, our decision making and puts Jesus at the centre. The Psalm calls us to be people who respond in praise.

A prayer:

Help us to recognise you as our primary motivation for all we do and say in this day and those to come. Amen

Prayer Focus:

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

Thursday 23rd July

Psalm 146

Luke 21:25-38

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:

This psalm is a reminder that only the LORD is a firm source of confidence in life. We are always tempted to put our trust in other people—we seek life and meaning in relationships and in employers. We must always look to God alone for the significance and security we long for. In the gospel, Jesus is using traditional Jewish symbolism to describe what will happen when God's final judgment occurs. He says that people "will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud." The cloud is a symbol for God's presence. Jesus' message bursts with hope and confidence because, unlike those who have reason to fear his coming, Jesus' followers will be able to hold their heads high because their liberation is at hand. We're called to both be wise and joyful and to look forward to the second coming of Jesus because of our trust in Him.

A prayer:

Thank You that because of Jesus, we are rescued, and can be confident when He comes again to rejoice.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for all those working in hospitals, hospices and care homes and those they care for.
- Pray for those taking much needed holidays for rest, renewal and restoration

Friday 24th July

Psalm 142

Luke 22:1-13

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 chief priests and scribes were afraid of Jesus. They were afraid of what they might lose if this movement continues to gain steam. They have to kill Jesus. And so the rest of the story unfolds with the chief priests and the scribes paying Judas to do their bidding. I wonder how often we function and make decisions out of fears that we have, especially in regard to other people. We can be afraid of what they will think of us and of what they might do to us. Our fear can drive us to make certain decisions and act in certain ways. Fear is not what we are called to as followers of Jesus. Even though following Jesus will indeed change our lives and we will be called into a higher way of living which can make us uncomfortable,

A prayer:

Loving God, help us to turn to you when we are fearful and to seek your transforming presence and peace

Prayer Focus:

- Firstly, 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 25th July

Psalm 29
Luke 9:46-56

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:

This is a strange argument to have just after the Lord had told His followers that he was going to be betrayed. It shows that his disciples had not grasped his teaching; although it does betray a common human instinct: to separate and distinguish ourselves from someone we are not associated with. Living with Jesus daily reminds us that we need to be humble, and gives us his perspective. What will help me to receive Jesus message now? What does being like a child mean to me?

A prayer:

Help us to be humble before you each day and to start to see as you see

Prayer Focus:

- Firstly, pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for our churches and all they are doing

Sunday 26th July

Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8: 26-39

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:

This is such an encouraging passage to end the week with; there are no cop outs, nothing is easy as the list of things which can't separate us from God's love makes clear ..but we have God's spirit working in us and transforming us and acting for us in prayer. Nothing but nothing can change how God loves us

A prayer:

Make us people who seek your face in prayer, and teach us how to pray

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.