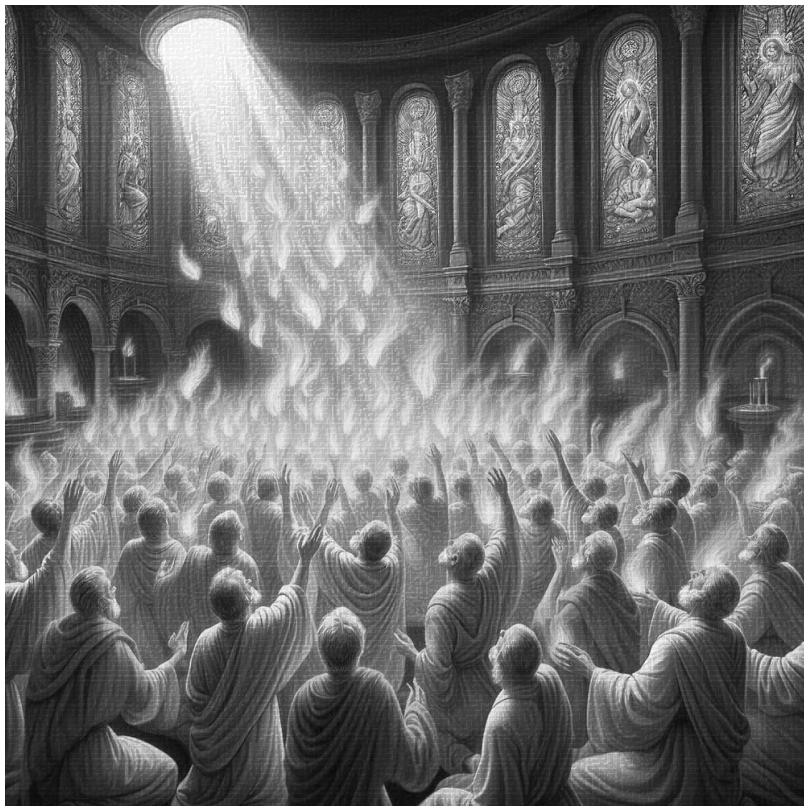


Thoughts and Prayers For Reflection

September 2026

*I am the fiery life of the essence of God;
I am the flame above the beauty in the fields;
I shine in the waters;
I burn in the sun, the moon, and the stars.
And with the airy wind, I quicken all things vitally
by an unseen, all-sustaining life.*

Hildegard of Bingen



1	My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. <i>1 Corinthians 4-5</i>
2	Martyrs of New Guinea (d.1942): In order to know what is just in a person-to-person encounter, love listens. It is its first task to listen. No human relation, especially no intimate one, is possible without mutual listening. <i>Paul Tillich (1886-1965)</i>
3	Eliza Darling, pioneer social reformer in NSW (d.1868): He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? <i>Micah 6:8</i>
4	Then Uzziah said to her, "All that you have said was spoken out of a true heart, and there is no one who can deny your words...but from the beginning of your life all the people have recognised your understanding, for your heart's disposition is right." <i>Judith 8:28-29</i>
5	Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy. <i>Amen.</i>
6	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. <i>Romans 13:8-10</i>
7	All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. <i>Francis of Assisi</i>
8	Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord: The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognise him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognising the coming of the Lord. <i>Henri Nouwen</i>
9	The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head. <i>Obadiah 1:15</i>
10	What if He knows prayer to be the thing we need first and most? What if the main object in God's idea of prayer be the supplying of our great, our endless need – the need of Himself? <i>George Macdonald</i>
11	Mother Esther CHN, founder of the Community of the Holy Name (Melbourne) (d.1931): All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. <i>Amen. Mary Sumner (Founder of the Mothers' Union)</i>
12	Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but do what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. <i>3 John 1:11</i>
13	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Almighty God, who gave to your servant Cyprian boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. <i>Amen.</i>
14	Holy Cross: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <i>John 3:16</i>
15	John Oliver Feetham, bishop and bush brother (d.1947): Loving God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land...our farmers and their families, our Royal Flying Doctor Service, those who minister in distant and out-of-the way towns. Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness; in times of drought and flooding rains and keep us ever mindful of their needs and concerns. <i>Amen.</i>

16	Ninian of Galloway, bishop and missionary (d.c.432): The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. <i>Psalms 97:1</i>
17	Hildegard of Bingen, abbess and spiritual writer (d.1179): Dare to declare who you are. It is not far from the shores of silence to the boundaries of speech. The path is not long, but the way is deep. You must not only walk there, you must be prepared to leap. <i>St. Hildegard of Bingen</i>
18	John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of Western Australia (d.1856): The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my Heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. <i>Psalms 28:7</i>
19	Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i>
20	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: O Holy Spirit, give me stillness of soul in you. Calm the turmoil within, with the gentleness of your peace. Quiet the anxiety within, with a deep trust in you. Strengthen the faith within, with the awareness of your presence. Confirm the hope within, with the knowledge of your strength. Give fullness to the love within, with an outpouring of your love. O Holy Spirit, be to me a source of light, strength and courage so that I may hear your call ever more clearly and follow you more generously.
21	Matthew, apostle, evangelist and martyr: Man is at his tallest when he bows. <i>G.K. Chesterton</i>
22	Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. <i>Ephesians 4:32</i>
23	Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. <i>Proverbs 30:5</i>
24	What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. <i>Ecclesiastes 1:9</i>
25	Sergius of Moscow, abbot and teacher (d.1392): The merciful lend to their neighbours; by holding out a helping hand they keep the commandments. Lend to your neighbour in his time of need; repay your neighbour when a loan falls due. Keep your promise and be honest with him, and on every occasion you will find what you need. <i>Ecclesiasticus 29:1-2</i>
26	Lancelot Andrewes, bishop of Winchester (d.1626): For having wealth and wherewithal to "do good", if you do it not, talk not of faith, for you have no faith in you. <i>Lancelot Andrewes</i>
27	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born into human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. <i>Philippians 2:5-8</i>
28	The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater. <i>J.R.R. Tolkien</i>
29	Michael and all Angels: Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i>
30	Jerome, priest and biblical scholar (d.420): Heart of Understanding, One who gazes upon the imperfect, the incomplete, the flawed, the weak, you never stop extending mercy. <i>Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems and Reflections for Every Season - Joyce Rupp</i>

Weekly Prayers and Thoughts

- Sunday** To pray is to listen, to move through my own chattering to God, to that place where I can be silent and listen to what God may have to say.
Madeleine L'Engle
- Monday** Father, I am so thankful that when I placed my trust in You, all of my past, present and future sin was forgiven. At the same time, I never want to take advantage of Your grace. Open my eyes to see anywhere my confession is hollow and my heart needs to repent. Help me want to change. *Amen.*
- Tuesday** Heavenly Father, what an incredible privilege and responsibility to realise that as members of Christ's Body, we are His representatives on earth. I pray that You would use me in the place where You have put me so that other may hear the good news and be saved by Your goodness. *Amen.*
- Wednesday** God of love and wisdom, You know all our anxieties and fears. Grant that we may cast all our cares on You, knowing that You care for us. Give us quietness of mind, and unshakeable trust in You and keep us in Your perfect peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*
- Thursday** Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. *Teresa of Avila*
- Friday** I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.' I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my star, my sun: and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done. *Horatius Bonar*
- Saturday** Go into the world in peace, be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted. Give honour to all. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection
for our *city on a hill*.... and beyond.

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