

Thoughts for Prayer and Reflection

November 2024



Lift up your heads, O gates;
Be lifted up, O everlasting doors;
And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord of Hosts,
He is the King of glory.

Psalm 24.7-8,10

1	All Saints: For all the saints who from their labours rest, to Thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia. <i>Bishop William Walsham How</i>
2	All Souls: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing but life everlasting . . . <i>from the Russian Kontakion of the Departed</i>
3	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints: And He said to me "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts". <i>Revelation 21.6</i>
4	Day for Anglicans and Roman Catholics to pray for one another (General Synod 2001): Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength. <i>Dalai Lama</i>
5	Let us not discount the different ways others see and hear God. Surely our end goal is for all of us to get closer to God. Let us be open to hearing Him in all kinds of ways and places. Let us not discount the small ways, the simple ways, the quiet and the loud, the tangible and the intangible. Let's just be listening. <i>Katherine Gilmore</i>
6	I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. <i>Psalms 18:1-2</i>
7	If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart. <i>Nelson Mandela</i>
8	Saints, martyrs, missionaries, teachers of the Anglican Communion: I believe with all my heart that the Church of Jesus Christ should be a Church of blurred edges. <i>George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury (1991-2002)</i>
9	Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. <i>Psalms 23:4</i>
10	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Prayer for the Defence Forces of Australia: Eternal God, the only source of peace; we pray for all who serve us in the defence forces of this land. Give them courage and comfort in all dangers, and help us, we pray, to seek for all people the freedom to serve you and each other in peace and justice. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i> <i>A Prayer Book for Australia</i>
11	Martin, bishop of Tours (d.c.387): With the sign of the cross, I shall more certainly break through the ranks of the enemy than if armed with shield and sword. <i>Martin of Tours</i>
12	Charles Simeon, priest and evangelist (d.1836): I have never thought that the circumstance of God's having forgiven me was any reason why I should forgive myself. <i>Charles Simeon</i>
13	Perseverance is more prevailing than violence; and many things that cannot be overcome when they are together, yield themselves up when taken little by little. <i>Plutarch</i>
14	According to St Ignatius, we should not be attached to earthly goods, nor ought we necessarily reject them. Rather, we should be indifferent to them, desiring them only to the extent that they profit us in obtaining the ultimate good, which Ignatius names as the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls. <i>Fr Michael Grace</i>
15	I have often repented of having spoken, but never of having kept silent. <i>Arsenius</i>
16	Margaret of Scotland, queen, helper of the poor (d.1093): We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty. <i>Mother Teresa</i>

17	Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him". <i>1 Samuel 1.17</i>
18	Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <i>Luke 25:44-45</i>
19	Elizabeth of Hungary, princess & philanthropist (d.1231): As in heaven Your will is punctually performed, so may it be done on earth by all creatures, particularly in me and by me. <i>Elizabeth of Hungary</i>
20	I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you, I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. <i>Psalm 9:1-2</i>
21	Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. <i>John 12:24-26</i>
22	Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <i>Psalm 51:102</i>
23	Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr (d.c.100): Let all nations know that you are God alone, and that Jesus Christ is your Son, and that we are your people and the sheep of your pasture. <i>Clement of Rome</i>
24	Christ the King/The Reign of Christ/Last Sunday after Pentecost: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power forever! Amen. <i>Revelation 1.4b-6</i>
25	James Noble, pioneer Aboriginal deacon (d.1941): The earth is the Lord's, and all it's fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. <i>Psalm 24.1</i>
26	For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress. I shall never be shaken. <i>Psalm 62:1-2</i>
27	St John of the Cross said, "The language that God hears best is the silent language of love!" Prayer is an attitude of the heart, not words. Prayer is a longing for communion with our God who is love, and if words help that longing, so be it. <i>Br Damian Price</i>
28	Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. <i>Psalm 68:19</i>
29	Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other - things that are of no real consequence - the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside. <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Letters from Prison - November 21, 1943</i>
30	Andrew, Apostle & Martyr: Almighty God, who didst give such grace to thine apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of thy Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give unto us, who are called by thy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. <i>Amen.</i> <i>Collect for St Andrew</i>

Prayers and Thoughts

- Sunday** If busyness can become a kind of violence, we do not have to stretch our perception very far to see that Sabbath time – effortless, nourishing rest – can invite a healing of this violence. *Julia Baird*
- Monday** Dear Lord, as you were with Martha and Mary, thank you for reminding us that time with you is our priority. May our quiet moments with you enrich our lives in order that we may be present to others and serve the world with our gifts. *Amen.*
- Tuesday** Lord, help us grow in resilience, adaptability, discernment and trust. Help us be people who persevere in faith and in hope and seek you out in all things. *Amen.*
- Wednesday** Father, may I portray your goodness, so that those I meet may see the wonder of your power as your love shines through me. *Amen.*
- Thursday** Lord, grant that I may not cheapen your grace by receiving it lightly. Rather, may each touch of your goodness make me a better person more dedicated to doing your will. *Amen.*
- Friday** Father, may everything we do begin with your inspiration, and continue with your saving help. Let our work always find its origin in you, and through you reach completion. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*
- Saturday** Be silent, be still. Alone, empty before your God. Say nothing. Ask nothing. Be silent, be still. Let your God look upon you. That is all. God knows, God understands, God loves you with an enormous love, and only wants to look upon you, with that love. Quiet, still, be. Let your God love you. *Br Damian Price*

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for our *city on a hill...* and beyond.

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