

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

September 2024

May you lean on the strength of the oak tree,
and drink in the beauty of each new day.

May the spring water refresh and heal you.

May the strength of the cross sustain you in
life's journey as the trinity enfolds you.

Amen.



1	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. <i>Amen. Presbyterian Book of Common Worship</i>
2	Martyrs of New Guinea (d.1942): Almighty God, we remember before you this day the blessed martyrs of New Guinea, who, following the example of their Saviour, laid down their lives for their friends; and we pray that we who honour their memory may imitate their loyalty and faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. <i>Amen.</i>
3	Gregory of Rome, bishop and teacher (d.604); Eliza Darling, pioneer social reformer in NSW (d.1868): God, you have given all peoples one common origin. It is your will that they be gathered together as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of humankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure an equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. May there be an end to division, strife, and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace. We ask this in your name.
4	Like a confiding child, she asked no questions, but left everything to God and nature, Father and Mother of us all, feeling sure that they, and they only, could teach and strengthen heart and spirit for this life and the life to come. <i>Louise May Alcott</i>
5	Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. <i>Proverbs 19:21</i>
6	For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God – his way is perfect. <i>Psalms 18:29-30</i>
7	But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness ... so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God. <i>Acts 26: 16, 18</i>
8	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Come Holy Spirit. Come as Holy fire and burn in us. Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within. Come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness. Come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance. Come as Holy Power and enable our weakness. Come as Holy Life and dwell in us. Convict us, convert us, consecrate us, until we are set free from the service of ourselves to be your servants to the world. <i>Amen</i> <i>John Henry Newman: Come Holy Spirit</i>
9	He will quiet you by his love. <i>Zephaniah 3:17</i>
10	The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <i>Psalms 27:1</i>
11	Mother Esther CHN, founder of the Community of the Holy Name, Melbourne (d.1931): The future is in the hands of God who loves us. <i>Mother Esther</i>
12	And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. <i>Luke 6:31</i>
13	Cyprian of Carthage, bishop and martyr (d.258): Wisdom ceases to be wisdom when it becomes too proud to weep, too grave to laugh, and too selfish to seek other than itself. <i>Khalil Gibran</i>
14	No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. <i>1 Corinthians 10:13</i>

15	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. <i>Joan Chittister OSB</i>
16	Ninian of Galloway, bishop and missionary (d.c.432): You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well. ; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. <i>Matthew 5:38-42</i>
17	Hildegard of Bingen, abbess, spiritual writer (d.1179): Our souls should be like a transparent crystal through which God can be perceived. <i>Hildegard of Bingen</i>
18	John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of Western Australia (d.1856): Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. <i>Psalms 100:3-4</i>
19	He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. <i>Psalms 114:3</i>
20	John Coleridge Patteson, first bishop of Melanesia, martyr (1871): What you are is God's gift to you; what you become is your gift to God. <i>Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-1988)</i>
21	Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. <i>Proverbs 3:5-6</i>
22	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Grant us the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of Your truth. <i>Archdiocese of Washington</i>
23	He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. <i>Psalms 114:3</i>
24	Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <i>Ephesians 4:29</i>
25	Sergius of Moscow, abbot and teacher (d.1392): 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>Psalms 62:1-2</i>
26	Lancelot Andrewes, bishop of Winchester (d.1626): Pray we for the Clergy; that they may rightly divide, that they may rightly walk; that while they teach others, themselves may learn. <i>Lancelot Andrewes</i>
27	Vincent de Paul, priest and worker with the poor (d.1660): Go to the poor: you will find God. <i>Vincent de Paul</i>
28	Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and he relents over disaster. <i>Joel 2:13</i>
29	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Michael and All Angels: But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him, for one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.' <i>Mark 9: 39</i>
30	Jerome, priest and biblical scholar (d.420): It is our duty as men and women to proceed as though the limits of our abilities do not exist. <i>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)</i>

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- Sunday Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, o Lord. And in Your great mercy, defend us from all evil and dangers of this night. For the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*
- Monday Lord, You are the Creator and Sustainer of life. You made everything. You are light, and in You there is no darkness. Help me not to lose the wonder of You in the midst of my daily routines. Let my thoughts center around You each day with praise and worship. *Amen.*
- Tuesday This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 114*
- Wednesday Dear God, springtime brings change. Some changes we eagerly await, some we abhor. Some we plan and others arrive uninvited. Remind us of Your changelessness and help us to rest in Your surety. *Amen.*
- Thursday Bountiful God, thank you for the St Alban's nominators and their tireless work in searching for the ideal candidate to lead your people. We give thanks for Phil's work as acting rector and help us to support him and his family as he embarks on this new role. *Amen.*
- Friday As the rain hides the stars, as the autumn mist hides the hills, as the clouds veil the blue of the sky, so the dark happenings of my life hide the shining of Your face from me. Yet, if I may hold Your hand in darkness, it is enough, since I know that if I stumble, You do not fall. *Jake Runestad*
- Saturday Lord, today I declare that Your Word is my greatest treasure. Every time I open it, it's like You have turned on the lights. Shed a light on every one of the enemies schemes, and give me the strength I need to stand. *Amen.*



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