

THOUGHTS FOR
PRAYER AND REFLECTION

November 2023

*May the Lord bless us
and keep us;
The Lord make his face
to shine upon us,
And be gracious to us;
The Lord lift up
his countenance upon us,
And give us peace.*

Amen

Numbers 6:24-26



1 st All	All Saints: People never cease to project on to God their individual and collective obsessions, so that they can appropriate and make use of him. But they ought to understand that God cannot be apprehended from without, as if he were an object, for with him there is no outside nor can the Creator be set side by side with the creature. <i>Olivier Clement (1921-2009)</i>
2 nd	All Souls: 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>
3 rd	Richard Hooker, priest and teacher (d.1600): 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>Psalms 9:1-2</i>
4 th	Gratitude helps you to grow and expand; gratitude brings joy and laughter into your life and into the lives of all those around you. <i>Eileen Caddy (1917-2006)</i>
5 th	Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost: Come, O Spirit of God and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evils be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified by his risen life. <i>APBA</i>
6 th	He also said to the one who invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." <i>Luke 14:12-14</i>
7 th	The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. <i>Psalms 19:1-4</i>
8 th	Saints, martyrs, missionaries and teachers of the Anglican Communion: 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>
9 th	The gospel is so simple that small children can understand it, and it is so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches. <i>Charles Hodge (1797-1878)</i>
10 th	Leo of Rome, bishop and teacher (d.462): Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life. <i>Pope Francis</i>
11 th	Martin, bishop of Tours (d.c.387): 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>
12 th	Twenty-Fourth 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.</i>
13 th	Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about. <i>N T Wright: Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, & the Mission of the Church</i>
14 th	Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it. <i>Psalms 34:13-14</i>
15 th	Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret – it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. <i>Psalms 37:7-9</i>

16 th	Margaret of Scotland, queen, helper of the poor (d.1093): To be poor does not mean you lack the means to extend charity to another. You may lack money or food, but you have the gift of friendship to overwhelm the loneliness that grips the lives of so many. <i>Stanley Hauerwas</i>
17 th	Hilda of Whitby, abbess (d.680); Hugh, bishop of Lincoln (d.1200): Acceptance is the universal currency of real friendship. . . .It does not warp or shape or wrench a person to be anything other than what they are. <i>Joan Chittister</i>
18 th	Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble. <i>Psalms 41:1</i>
19 th	Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Love is within us. It cannot be destroyed. It can be ignored. To the extent that we abandon love we will feel it has abandoned us. Denying love is our only problem, and embracing it is the only answer. Through the power of love, we can let go of past history and begin again. Love heals, forgives, and makes whole. <i>Ernest Holmes (1887-1960)</i>
20 th	I know that whatever God does endures forever nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by. <i>Ecclesiastes 3:14-16</i>
21 st	Union with God is not something that needs to be acquired but realised. <i>Martin Laird: Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation</i>
22 nd	The hunger for solitude appears to be the hunger for the gifts of solitude: for spiritual and emotional healing, for regaining a sense of meaning and purpose, and for getting back in touch with ultimate realities. In this sense the hunger for solitude is nothing less than a search for God. <i>Solitude: A neglected path to God: Christopher Moore</i>
23 rd	Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr (d.c.100): Toleration of people who differ in convictions and habits requires a residual awareness of the complexity of truth and the possibility of opposing view having some light on one or the other facet of a many-sided truth. <i>R. Niebuhr</i>
24 th	Ember Day: Heavenly Father, I pray for the grace to walk boldly in unwavering commitment and dedication to you. Fill me with your wisdom and power as I strive to serve you faithfully every single day. Remind me of your love, mercy and presence, so that my life may truly make a difference in this world <i>Amen</i>
25 th	James Noble, pioneer Aboriginal deacon (d.1941): Creator Spirit, we come together in prayer and thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received. Allow your Spirit to wash over us and give us strength, to walk together, as one. <i>From the Reconciliation Church Prayer written by a group of Aboriginal Elder women and Reconciliation Church staff members in 2014.</i>
26 th	Christ the King/The Reign of Christ: Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul. <i>Henry Ward Beecher</i>
27 th	"...; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." <i>Luke 21:1-4</i>
28 th	Giver of Life, awaken my entire being so that I can enter this day with the eagerness of one who sees beauty and truth strewn through every part of life. Deepen my bond with you and strengthen my peace. <i>Amen. Out of the Ordinary: Joyce Rupp</i>
29 th	Neighbour is not he whom I find in my path, but rather he in whose path I place myself, he whom I approach and actively seek. <i>Gustavo Gutiérrez</i>
30 th	Andrew, Apostle and Martyr: May we all grow in grace and peace, and not neglect the silence that is printed in the centre of our being. It will not fail us. Music is pleasing not only because of the sound but because of the silence that is in it: without the alternation of sound and silence there would be no rhythm. <i>Thomas Merton</i>

PRAYER THOUGHTS

- Sunday** May I portray your goodness so that those I meet may see the wonder of your power as your love shines through me.
- Monday** May we use times of darkness to grow as bulbs do underground.
- Tuesday** I pray for holy courtesy – for the virtue of treating others as I would like to be treated. I pray for an all-inclusive respect for other creatures that is the seedbed of a human and global community.
- Wednesday** When we have failed to love you with our whole heart – Lord have mercy. When we fail to love others as you love us – Lord have mercy.
- Thursday** Loving, caring Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts and the burdens which we carry. You are never too busy to hear our prayers. Be with us and comfort us all through our times of trial.
- Friday** Loving God, deliver me from all pretence. Deliver me from all pettiness. Deliver me from all foolish pride. Let no opportunity surprise me, and pass, untaken. Let no one live in loneliness that I can relieve. Let no one find it hard to carry on, because of my criticism. *Amen*
- Saturday** **A Prayer for Discovery in a Garden**
God of seed and flower, in the risen Christ you met Mary in a garden; yet in the creation story we read how we turn the garden of your abundance into the prison of our scarcity. Kneel with those who find themselves in the Gethsemane of doubt, turmoil and fear. Bless any who have known how that garden can change into one of betrayal, flight, and denial. And lift our hearts to enjoy the garden of your glory, where the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations. In Christ and through the joy of your Spirit. *Amen.*

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

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