



# PARISHES BY THE WALL

*Living Faith on the Frontier*



**Psalms and Readings  
for Morning and Evening Prayer  
from Ascension Day  
to Pentecost**



These Psalms and readings are designed to be used with our normal pattern of Morning and Evening Prayer from Ascension Day till Pentecost.

Through this time we will be praying, with the Church throughout the world, “Thy Kingdom Come”; that the gifts of the Spirit would enliven and lift the life of the whole world at this testing and uncertain time.

As we do this you might like to pray this prayer each day as well:

***Almighty God,  
your ascended Son has sent us into the world  
to preach the good news of your kingdom:  
inspire us with your Spirit  
and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,  
that all who hear your Word  
may be drawn to you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.***

### Psalm 110

- 1 The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool.'
- 2 May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power;  
rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies.
- 3 'Noble are you on this day of your birth;  
on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn  
the dew of your new birth is upon you.'
- 4 The Lord has sworn and will not retract:  
'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'
- 5 The king at your right hand, O Lord,  
shall smite down kings in the day of his wrath.
- 6 In all his majesty, he shall judge among the nations,  
smiting heads over all the wide earth.
- 7 He shall drink from the brook beside the way;  
therefore shall he lift high his head.

### Isaiah 52:7-end

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see

the salvation of our God.  
Depart, depart, go out from there!  
Touch no unclean thing;  
go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves,  
you who carry the vessels of the Lord.  
For you shall not go out in haste,  
and you shall not go in flight;  
for the Lord will go before you,  
and the God of Israel will be your rearguard.  
See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.  
Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—  
so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

### **Luke 24: 44-end**

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

### Psalm 8

- 1 O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!
- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised  
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
- 3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes,  
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
- 5 What is man, that you should be mindful of him;  
the son of man, that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him little lower than the angels  
and crown him with glory and honour.
- 7 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands  
and put all things under his feet,
- 8 All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea  
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!

### Revelation 5

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the

twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

‘You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,  
and they will reign on earth.’

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honour and glory and blessing!’

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honour and glory and might  
for ever and ever!’

And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped.

## **Friday after Ascension**

## **Morning Prayer**

### **Psalm 81**

- 1 Sing merrily to God our strength,  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
- 2 Take up the song and sound the timbrel,  
the tuneful lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon,  
as at the full moon, upon our solemn feast day.
- 4 For this is a statute for Israel,  
a law of the God of Jacob,
- 5 The charge he laid on the people of Joseph,  
when they came out of the land of Egypt.
- 6 I heard a voice I did not know, that said:

- 'I eased their shoulder from the burden;  
their hands were set free from bearing the load.
- 7 'You called upon me in trouble and I delivered you;  
I answered you from the secret place of thunder  
and proved you at the waters of Meribah.
- 8 'Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:  
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- 9 'There shall be no strange god among you;  
you shall not worship a foreign god.
- 10 'I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you up from the land of Egypt;  
open your mouth wide and I shall fill it.'
- 11 But my people would not hear my voice  
and Israel would not obey me.
- 12 So I sent them away in the stubbornness of their hearts,  
and let them walk after their own counsels.
- 13 O that my people would listen to me,  
that Israel would walk in my ways!
- 14 Then I should soon put down their enemies  
and turn my hand against their adversaries.
- 15 Those who hate the Lord would be humbled before him,  
and their punishment would last for ever.
- 16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat  
and with honey from the rock would I satisfy them.

### **Exodus 35:30 - 36:1**

Then Moses said to the Israelites: See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; he has filled him with divine spirit, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. He has filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of artisan or skilled designer. Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone skilful to whom the LORD has given skill and understanding to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.

### Psalm 145

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King,  
and bless your name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;  
his greatness is beyond all searching out.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another  
and declare your mighty acts.
- 5 They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,  
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,  
and I will also tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
long-suffering and of great goodness.
- 9 The Lord is loving to everyone  
and his mercy is over all his creatures.
- 10 All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you.
- 11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your mighty power,
- 12 To make known to all peoples your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- 14 The Lord is sure in all his words  
and faithful in all his deeds.
- 15 The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.
- 16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,  
and you give them their food in due season.
- 17 You open wide your hand  
and fill all things living with plenty.



- 18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and loving in all his works.
- 19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him faithfully.
- 20 He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;  
he hears their cry and saves them.
- 21 The Lord watches over those who love him,  
but all the wicked shall he destroy.
- 22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

### **Galatians 5:13-end**

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

## **Saturday after Ascension**

### **Morning Prayer**

#### **Psalm 21**

- 1 The king shall rejoice in your strength, O Lord;  
how greatly shall he rejoice in your salvation!

- 2 You have given him his heart's desire  
and have not denied the request of his lips.
- 3 For you come to meet him with blessings of goodness  
and set a crown of pure gold upon his head.
- 4 He asked of you life and you gave it him,  
length of days, for ever and ever.
- 5 His honour is great because of your salvation;  
glory and majesty have you laid upon him.
- 6 You have granted him everlasting felicity  
and will make him glad with joy in your presence.
- 7 For the king puts his trust in the Lord;  
because of the loving-kindness of the Most High,  
he shall not be overthrown.
- 8 Your hand shall mark down all your enemies;  
your right hand will find out those who hate you.
- 9 You will make them like a fiery oven  
in the time of your wrath;  
the Lord will swallow them up in his anger  
and the fire will consume them.
- 10 Their fruit you will root out of the land  
and their seed from among its inhabitants.
- 11 Because they intend evil against you  
and devise wicked schemes  
which they cannot perform,
- 12 You will put them to flight  
when you aim your bow at their faces.
- 13 Be exalted, O Lord, in your own might;  
we will make music and sing of your power.

### **Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29**

So the LORD said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in

the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!'

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 85

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the offence of your people  
and covered all their sins.
- 3 You laid aside all your fury  
and turned from your wrathful indignation.
- 4 Restore us again, O God our Saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us.
- 5 Will you be displeased with us for ever?  
Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?
- 6 Will you not give us life again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say,  
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together,  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth  
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good,

and our land will yield its increase.  
13 Righteousness shall go before him  
and direct his steps in the way.

## **I Corinthians 2**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him’—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

‘For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?’

But we have the mind of Christ.

## Sunday after Ascension

### Morning Prayer

#### Psalm 104: 26-35

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide,  
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan  
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it;  
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles;  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

#### Isaiah 65: 17-end

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall not labour in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the LORD.

### **John 17: 1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words

that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 47

- 1 Clap your hands together, all you peoples;  
O sing to God with shouts of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared;  
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued the peoples under us  
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He has chosen our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a merry noise,  
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
- 6 O sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations;  
God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples are gathered together  
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 For the powers of the earth belong to God  
and he is very highly exalted.

### Ephesians 1: 15-end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so

that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## **Monday before Pentecost**

### **Morning Prayer**

#### **Psalm 93**

- 1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel;  
the Lord has put on his glory  
and girded himself with strength.
- 2 He has made the whole world so sure  
that it cannot be moved.
- 3 Your throne has been established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.
- 4 The floods have lifted up, O Lord,  
the floods have lifted up their voice;  
the floods lift up their pounding waves.
- 5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea,  
the Lord on high is mightier.
- 6 Your testimonies are very sure;  
holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

#### **Numbers 27:15-end**

Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, 'Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint someone over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep without a shepherd.' So the LORD said to Moses, 'Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit,



and lay your hand upon him; have him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. You shall give him some of your authority, so that all the congregation of the Israelites may obey. But he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the decision of the Urim before the LORD; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the Israelites with him, the whole congregation.’ So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation; he laid his hands on him and commissioned him—as the LORD had directed through Moses.

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 18: 31-end

- 31 As for God, his way is perfect;  
the word of the Lord is tried in the fire;  
he is a shield to all who trust in him.
- 32 For who is God but the Lord,  
and who is the rock except our God?
- 33 It is God who girds me about with strength  
and makes my way perfect.
- 34 He makes my feet like hinds’ feet  
so that I tread surely on the heights.
- 35 He teaches my hands to fight  
and my arms to bend a bow of bronze.
- 36 You have given me the shield of your salvation;  
your right hand upholds me  
and your grace has made me great.
- 37 You enlarge my strides beneath me,  
yet my feet do not slide.
- 38 I will pursue my enemies and overtake them,  
nor turn again until I have destroyed them.
- 39 I will smite them down so they cannot rise;  
they shall fall beneath my feet.
- 40 You have girded me with strength for the battle;  
you will cast down my enemies under me;
- 41 You will make my foes turn their backs upon me  
and I shall destroy them that hate me.

42 They will cry out, but there shall be none to help them;  
they will cry to the Lord, but he will not answer.  
43 I shall beat them as small as the dust on the wind;  
I will cast them out as the mire in the streets.  
44 You will deliver me from the strife of the peoples;  
you will make me the head of the nations.  
45 A people I have not known shall serve me;  
as soon as they hear me, they shall obey me;  
strangers will humble themselves before me.  
46 The foreign peoples will lose heart  
and come trembling out of their strongholds.  
47 The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock!  
Praised be the God of my salvation,  
48 Even the God who vindicates me  
and subdues the peoples under me!  
49 You that deliver me from my enemies,  
you will set me up above my foes;  
from the violent you will deliver me;  
50 Therefore will I give you thanks, O Lord, among the nations  
and sing praises to your name,  
51 To the one who gives great victory to his king  
and shows faithful love to his anointed,  
to David and his seed for ever.

### **I Corinthians 3**

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. According to

the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

“He catches the wise in their craftiness,”

and again,

“The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,  
that they are futile.”

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

## **Tuesday before Pentecost**

### **Morning Prayer**

#### **Psalm 99**

- 1 The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble;  
he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion  
and high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome;  
the Lord our God is holy.
- 4 Mighty king, who loves justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- 5 Exalt the Lord our God;

- bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests  
and Samuel among those who call upon his name;  
they called upon the Lord and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them.
- 8 You answered them, O Lord our God;  
you were a God who forgave them  
and pardoned them for their offences.
- 9 Exalt the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill,  
for the Lord our God is holy.

### **I Samuel 10:1-10**

Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, "The LORD has anointed you ruler over his people Israel. You shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around. Now this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you ruler over his heritage: When you depart from me today you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has stopped worrying about them and is worrying about you, saying: What shall I do about my son?' Then you shall go on from there further and come to the oak of Tabor; three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three kids, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. They will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from them. After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, at the place where the Philistine garrison is; there, as you come to the town, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the shrine with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre playing in front of them; they will be in a prophetic frenzy. Then the spirit of the LORD will possess you, and you will be in a prophetic frenzy along with them and be turned into a different person. Now when these signs meet you, do whatever you see fit to do, for God is with you. And you shall go down to Gilgal ahead of me; then I will come down to you to present burnt offerings and offer sacrifices of well-being. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do." As he turned away to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When they were going from there to Gibeah, a band of prophets met

him; and the spirit of God possessed him, and he fell into a prophetic frenzy along with them.

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 68: 27-end

- 27 Send forth your strength, O God;  
establish, O God, what you have wrought in us.
- 28 For your temple's sake in Jerusalem  
kings shall bring their gifts to you.
- 29 Drive back with your word the wild beast of the reeds,  
the herd of the bull-like, the brutish hordes.
- 30 Trample down those who lust after silver;  
scatter the peoples that delight in war.
- 31 Vessels of bronze shall be brought from Egypt;  
Ethiopia will stretch out her hands to God.
- 32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;  
make music in praise of the Lord;
- 33 He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens  
and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice.
- 34 Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is over Israel,  
whose power is above the clouds.
- 35 How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary,  
the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to his people!  
Blessed be God.

### I Corinthians 12:1-13

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another

the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

## **Wednesday before Pentecost**

### **Morning Prayer**

#### **Psalm 29**

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare;  
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength to his people;  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

#### **1 Kings 19:1-18**

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the

gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble;
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters rage and swell,  
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her;  
therefore shall she not be removed;  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 6 The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,  
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 8 Come and behold the works of the Lord,  
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.
- 9 He makes wars to cease in all the world;  
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear  
and burns the chariots in the fire.
- 10 'Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Matthew 3: 13-end**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



## Thursday before Pentecost

## Morning Prayer

### Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,  
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,  
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,  
nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,  
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him,  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 'Who is the King of glory?'  
'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 'Who is this King of glory?'  
'The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.'

### Ezekiel 11:14-20

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, your kinsfolk, your own kin, your fellow exiles, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, "They have gone far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession." Therefore say: Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far away among the nations, and though I scattered

them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a little while in the countries where they have gone. Therefore say: Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples, and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. When they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 139: 1-11

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me,  
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me  
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;  
the night is as clear as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

## **Matthew 9:35-10:20**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. “See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

### Psalm 28

- 1 To you I call, O Lord my rock;  
be not deaf to my cry,  
lest, if you do not hear me,  
I become like those who go down to the Pit.
- 2 Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you,  
when I lift up my hands to your holy of holies.
- 3 Do not snatch me away with the wicked,  
with the evildoers,  
who speak peaceably with their neighbours,  
while malice is in their hearts.
- 4 Repay them according to their deeds  
and according to the wickedness of their devices.
- 5 Reward them according to the work of their hands  
and pay them their just deserts.
- 6 They take no heed of the Lord's doings,  
nor of the works of his hands;  
therefore shall he break them down  
and not build them up.
- 7 Blessed be the Lord,  
for he has heard the voice of my prayer.
- 8 The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
my heart has trusted in him and I am helped;
- 9 Therefore my heart dances for joy  
and in my song will I praise him.
- 10 The Lord is the strength of his people,  
a safe refuge for his anointed.
- 11 Save your people and bless your inheritance;  
shepherd them and carry them for ever.

### Ezekiel 36:22-28

Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. I will

sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 147

1 Alleluia.

How good it is to make music for our God,  
how joyful to honour him with praise.

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up all their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his wisdom is beyond all telling.

6 The Lord lifts up the poor,  
but casts down the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the lyre;

8 Who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 Who makes grass to grow upon the mountains  
and green plants to serve our needs.

10 He gives the beasts their food  
and the young ravens when they cry.

11 He takes no pleasure in the power of a horse,  
no delight in human strength;

- 12 But the Lord delights in those who fear him,  
who put their trust in his steadfast love.
- 13 Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blest your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace in your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends forth his command to the earth  
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool  
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread;  
who can endure his frost?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them;  
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and judgements to Israel.
- 21 He has not dealt so with any other nation;  
they do not know his laws.  
Alleluia.

### **Matthew 12:22-32**

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons." He knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his property, without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be plundered. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be

forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

## **Saturday before Pentecost**

### **Morning Prayer**

#### **Psalm 43**

- 1 Give judgement for me, O God,  
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;  
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 For you are the God of my refuge;  
why have you cast me from you,  
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,  
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God,  
to the God of my joy and gladness;  
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,  
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 O put your trust in God;  
for I will yet give him thanks,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

#### **Micah 3:1-8**

Listen, you heads of Jacob  
and rulers of the house of Israel!  
Should you not know justice?—  
you who hate the good and love the evil,  
who tear the skin off my people,  
and the flesh off their bones;  
who eat the flesh of my people,  
flay their skin off them,  
break their bones in pieces,  
and chop them up like meat in a kettle,  
like flesh in a caldron.

Then they will cry to the LORD,  
but he will not answer them;  
he will hide his face from them at that time,  
because they have acted wickedly.  
Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets  
who lead my people astray,  
who cry "Peace"  
when they have something to eat,  
but declare war against those  
who put nothing into their mouths.  
Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,  
and darkness to you, without revelation.  
The sun shall go down upon the prophets,  
and the day shall be black over them;  
the seers shall be disgraced,  
and the diviners put to shame;  
they shall all cover their lips,  
for there is no answer from God.  
But as for me, I am filled with power,  
with the spirit of the LORD,  
and with justice and might,  
to declare to Jacob his transgression  
and to Israel his sin.

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 48

- 1 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised,  
in the city of our God.
- 2 His holy mountain is fair and lifted high,  
the joy of all the earth.
- 3 On Mount Zion, the divine dwelling place,  
stands the city of the great king.
- 4 In her palaces God has shown himself  
to be a sure refuge.
- 5 For behold, the kings of the earth assembled  
and swept forward together.
- 6 They saw, and were dumbfounded;



- dismayed, they fled in terror.
- 7 Trembling seized them there;  
they writhed like a woman in labour,  
as when the east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.
- 8 As we had heard, so have we seen  
in the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God:  
God has established her for ever.
- 9 We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God,  
in the midst of your temple.
- 10 As with your name, O God,  
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is full of justice.
- 11 Let Mount Zion rejoice and the daughters of Judah be glad,  
because of your judgements, O Lord.
- 12 Walk about Zion and go round about her;  
count all her towers;  
consider well her bulwarks; pass through her citadels,
- 13 That you may tell those who come after  
that such is our God for ever and ever.  
It is he that shall be our guide for evermore.

### **John 7:37-39**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

## **Pentecost**

### **Morning Prayer**

### **Psalm 87**

- 1 His foundation is on the holy mountains.  
The Lord loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
- 2 Glorious things are spoken of you,

Zion, city of our God.

- 3 I record Egypt and Babylon as those who know me;  
behold Philistia, Tyre and Ethiopia:  
in Zion were they born.
- 4 And of Zion it shall be said, 'Each one was born in her,  
and the Most High himself has established her.'
- 5 The Lord will record as he writes up the peoples,  
'This one also was born there.'
- 6 And as they dance they shall sing,  
'All my fresh springs are in you.'

### **Genesis 11:1-9**

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

### **Acts 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because

each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

## Evening Prayer

### Psalm 67

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,  
and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

### **Acts 10:34-48**

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.