

Prayer Calendar

July 2018

Mark, Psalms, and Epistles

Our focus is on the lectionary texts of Mark, the Psalms and Epistles for each Sunday of July. The scriptures offer a snap shot a teaching of Jesus and taken together, each week we are offered a holistic view of a principal of discipleship.

Sunday, July 1

Read Psalm 130

~ Gracious God, we cry out to you and we wait for your response, but we wait in hope and assurance that our Lord Jesus bore our sins and that we are forgiven.

Monday, July 2

Psalm 130:1-2 | "Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!"

~ Lord God, we are in a mess of our own making and we cry out to you for mercy. Today I confess _____ and I ask for forgiveness.

Tuesday, July 3

Psalm 130: 5-6 | "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning."

~ God, you do not hurry and sometimes I am impatient. Help us in our waiting as we place our hope and trust in you for deliverance.

Wednesday, July 4

2 Corinthians 8:9 | “For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.”

~ Loving God, we so often think that riches and poverty have to do with money and resources; yet true richness is our relationship with you. I offer thanksgiving for my many blessings.

Thursday, July 5

2 Corinthians 8:12 | “For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what does not have”

~ Holy God, you supply us with all our needs and give to us more than we can ever want. Help us be generous in our giving as you are generous in your giving to us.

Friday, July 6

Mark 5:21 | “When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake.”

~ Loving Jesus, you are always “crossing over to the other side.” You cross boundary lines and seas and lakes to be with people of all kinds. Help us remember that as you crossed to the other side, so too, are we as your disciples, to cross over and meet others where they are. Give us courage to do so.

Saturday, July 7

Mark 5: 36 | 'But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.'"

~ Healing Jesus, you encourage us not to be afraid, but to believe always. We come to you for help, setting aside our fears and believe in your power and grace, we too can live again in a new life with you, and be fed.

Sunday, July 8

Read Psalm 48

~ God of Glory, you love Jerusalem and her people, yet the city falls and our human limitations are laid bare. Help us remember that only you are God and we are not.

Monday, July 9

Psalm 48:9-10 | We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

~ God of Glory, as we worship together we praise you and give you thanks for your steadfast love which endures forever. Help us be a witness, a beacon of hope, a light to the nations reflecting your love.

Tuesday, July 10

Psalm 48: 13-14 | "...consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God for ever and ever. He will be our guide forever."

~ God of Hope, I do not know why we sometimes forget your great deeds, your constant presence, your forgiving grace and your healing in our lives. We get so preoccupied with the cares of the moment, we forget. Forgive us and help us remember.

Wednesday, July 11

2 Corinthians 12:7b | "Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated"

~ Holy God, your goodness endures forever. In all circumstances you are good, not just in the happy times – all the time. Help us proclaim your mercy and goodness in the midst of our pain and suffering.

Thursday, July 12

2 Corinthians 12:9 | "...but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

~ Lord, sometimes when things are going well, we think its all about us. But, it is in our weaknesses and when we can only get through by your power and grace that we truly know of your redeeming power.

Friday, July 13

Mark 6:5-6a | "And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief."

~ Jesus, you show us that in our humanness we are all limited. We are surprised that in your humanness you had limitations. Encourage us in our unbelief and renew our faith so that we can join you in your work..

Saturday, July 14

Mark 6:6b-7 | "Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits."

~ Holy God, you teach us that in our witness and service to the world two are better than one. We can encourage and support one another in our sacred tasks. Today, I pray for:
-----.

Sunday, July 15

Read Psalm 24

~ Almighty God, the poetry of this psalm calls us to sing and dance for your glory. We acknowledge your power and your glory and praise you for your mighty and great works!

Monday, July 16

IPsalm 24:1-2 | IThe earth is the LORD'S and that is in it, the world and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

~ Glorious God, we delight in your creation and your gift of this beautiful earth; for the animals and all of humanity. Thank you for this creation.

Tuesday, July 17

Psalm 24:8 | "Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors that the King of glory may come in."

~ Our Lord, we praise you as our King, our one true God. Forgive us for putting other gods, other people, other things before our worship of you. Help us remember that we are not to put our trust and faith in earthly kings, but in you alone.

Wednesday, July 18

Ephesians 1:3-4 | “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.”

~ Gracious God, you bless us continually and we are called to continually bless you in our every breath. Our lives are a gift – help us to continually remember, especially in the difficult times.

Thursday, July 19

Ephesians 1:7-8a | “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.”

~ Loving God, we claim this truth that through Jesus Christ we can be one with you and one with each other through forgiveness and grace. We are grateful for this relationship.

Friday, July 20

Mark 6:14 | “King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, ‘John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.’”

~ Holy God, we can see that even mighty kings are mystified by your works and your glory when they are in your presence; they are powerless. Hear our prayers for our government leaders and for all the leaders of the world.

Saturday, July 21

Mark 6: 26 | "The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her."

~ God, human kings are vulnerable because of their pride and their egos. With you, our true king, we know that your love and care for us is your desire.

Sunday, July 22

Read Psalm 23

~ Loving Shepherd, you give us the gift of presence and of life. In all ways you guide our paths and give us hope before all our fears. Today, as I sit with this psalm, show me how to see how these words of grace are active in my life today.

Monday, July 23

Psalm 23: 4 | "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."

~ Gracious God, we all walk through difficult circumstances and events every day and sometimes we are so frightened. Your promise is that you will walk with us, through the darkness and that your loving presence guards us from fear. Help me hold on to this promise today.

Tuesday, July 24

Psalm 23:5 | “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

~ Father, you bring us to your table of grace heavy laden with food and drink – abundance. Here we meet our fears and here our fears are transformed into companions for you transform fear into friendship. Show me the gifts of these mercies in my everyday life.

Wednesday, July 25

Ephesians 2:14 | “For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.”

~ God of All, we are suspicious and fearful of those who are not like us. We don't want to be this way, but when we are afraid or uncertain, we fall back on what we think we know. Help us today to see beyond what we think to find ways through you, to come together in peace and harmony in your name.

Thursday, July 26

Ephesians 2:15 | “He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.”

~ O God, you are beyond human law and rules that divide us. You bring us together so that we might have unity with each other as children of God and laying aside our hostility towards those whom we judge. Today I offer this prayer of reconciliation and hope.

Friday, July 27

Mark 6: 30-32 | “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.”

~ Dear Jesus, you call us to come away with you and rest awhile for we are so busy and so hurried that we don't even have the time to sit and eat with you. Show us today where and how to make the time to spend with you alone to rest, renew and find new hope.

Saturday, July 28

Mark 6:37| “But he answered them, ‘You give them something to eat.”

~ Gracious God, you invite us to take action for good and in your name, yet we don't believe that we can do it. You equip us as your disciples and still we do not trust in the gifts and graces for good that you have given to us. Help us trust in your provision as your faithful disciples acting in the world for your sake.

Sunday, July 29

Mark 6: 45-46 | Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

~ Faithful Jesus, you teach us that prayer, being alone with God, restores us from our labors and gives us energy for what comes next. Help us realize that without solitude, silence and prayer with our heavenly Father, we are unable to be in your service.

Monday, July 30

Mark 6:49-51 | “But when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’ Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased.”

~ Gracious God, many times we do not understand your ways. We think we understand what we see, think, feel, and hear, but we are confused and frightened. Help us trust you in all your ways and trust that you can calm our fears if we allow you to be with us.

Tuesday, July 31

Mark 6:56 | “And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.”

~ Healing Jesus, we bring our loved ones to you each day, lay them at your feet, and boldly ask for their healing and forgiveness. Keep us faithful to lay the sick before you and in faith to wait for your healing in whatever form it may come.

Read, Reflect and Rest in Scripture

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer.

Read the scripture for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an “ear of the heart” to a word or phrase that strikes you.

Reflect on that word or phrase asking yourself the question: “What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?” Spend time in silence with this scripture mulling it over in your mind and heart.

Allow God to speak to you in the silence. Offer a prayer out of your reflection.

Thank God for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.