

# Prayer Calendar

## September 2018

### Worship

*As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are pursuing Jesus with Holiness of Heart and Holiness of Life. Practices of Jesus inform our living and shape our understanding of who we are and whose we are. Our focus is on the spiritual practice of the worship of God.*

### **Saturday, September 1**

*John 4:24 | God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

~ Holy God, we come to you praising and giving thanks in humility and joy remembering who you are and whose we are. Today we come to you with humble gratitude for our very lives.

### **Sunday, September 2**

*Mark 14:22 | While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."*

~ Christ our Lord, we can imagine that holy moment when you took something ordinary and blessed it and shared it. As we come together to receive this tiny bite of bread, may we sense your presence and your love as it we take it into our own bodies so that we may be one.

### **Monday, September 3**

*Mark 14:23 | Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.*

~ Jesus, you always give thanks for each and every gift and you share freely of all that you have and all that you are, so that we all might join together and become one in you.

## **Tuesday, September 4**

*Mark 14:24 | He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many.*

~ Lord, you poured out your life for us and as we receive these simple elements may we be faithful and loving witnesses shaped and formed into your image.

## **Wednesday, September 5**

*Mark 14:26 | When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

~ Jesus, you sang songs of the psalms! You sang in praise and thanksgiving to your father in your worship. As we sing, help us remember that you sang, too!

## **Thursday, September 6**

*Psalms 99:5 | Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!*

~ Holy One, in the silence of this moment we sit before you reflecting on your majesty and power as our Creator. Keep us faithful and grateful to your grace and steadfast love towards us.

## **Friday, September 7**

*I Chronicles 29:10: Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly, David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever.*

~ Holy God, David blessed you in praise and thanksgiving in community. Slow us down so that we may turn our hearts from busyness to give thanks for your steadfast love and your goodness towards us. As we sit in silence bring to our minds the blessings of being your children..

## **Saturday, September 8**

*Psalm 136:1: O, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.*

~ Loving God, we know that your steadfast love endures forever, yet sometimes we forget. Today help us remember in thanksgiving for your constant presence and your faithful love for us no matter where we go or what we do – you are faithful. Let my prayer for today be: God loves me!

## **Sunday, September 9**

Read: I Corinthians 11:23-25

~ Gracious Lord, here is the heart of our faith and sometimes we take this sacrament of Holy Communion for granted and we rush past it in our haste. Paul, teaches us to remember, to fully participate and to consciously enter the presence of God. Reveal yourself to us in this act of worship.

## **Monday, September 10**

I Corinthians 11:26 | For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

~ Father, in the holy moment of Communion we join with Christians in all places and all times proclaiming your love for us. Thanks be to God!

## **Tuesday, September 11**

*Luke 4:15 | He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

~ Lord Jesus, you did not neglect fully participating in the worship life of your people. Nudge us when we resist the call to weekly worship.

## **Wednesday, September 12**

*Luke 4:16 | When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom.*

~ Gracious Jesus, weekly worship of God and gathering with the people of God is your custom and an example for all us to remember – Rouse us from our beds!

## **Thursday, September 13**

*Exodus 20:3 | ...you shall have no other gods before me.*

~ Father, when we stop to think about all the gods we have created and trusted in, we are overwhelmed. Career, jobs, people, money, sports, self-interests, our own fears, the desire to control all things – the list goes on and on. Forgive us and help us set aside these “gods” who cannot save us, for the one true Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

## **Friday, September 14**

*Exodus 20:4-5 | You shall not make for yourself and idol...you shall not bow down to them or worship them...*

~ Almighty God, we get confused with the idea of idols – we forget that anything or anyone that we value or focus our lives on can be an idol. Forgive us for forgetting that you come before all material things, all careers, all family, all fears.

## **Saturday, September 15**

*Exodus 20:8 | Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.*

~ Lord, you know how busy we are – sometimes we are busy doing your work, too. It's hard to set time apart to slow down, to rest in your presence, to let go of our to do list. Help us remember that there is joy and peace in keeping Sabbath and that is holy.

## **Sunday, September 16**

*Mark 10:13 | ..."Let the little children come to me, do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."*

~ Lord Jesus, there is a special place in your heart for all of your children, especially the little ones. As adults, draw us closer and show us how to set aside our own preferences and to bring our children to worship you in all ways.

## **Monday, September 17**

*Mark 12:30 | "...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."*

~ Holy One, we join with those who worship you in this great commandment to love you Lord, our God, with every fiber of our being because we love you and we are grateful that you loved us first.

## **Tuesday, September 18**

*Mark 12:31| “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself..*

~ God of All, Jesus calls us to this great commandment that to love others is to also love you. When we are afraid, when we are unsure, help us to overcome these fears with a love that is beyond our understanding and gives us hope.

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## **Friday, September 19**

*Acts 2:44-45 | All who believed were together and had all things in common, they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

~ Father, you bring us together in worship where we offer all that we are and all that we have to you. Open our hearts as in this early church, to give from the depths of our soul to those in need, so that no one is in want.

## **Thursday, September 20**

*Acts 2:46 -47a| Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.*

~ God of Love, the early church is a witness to your glory in loving hospitality, fellowship, generosity, praise and goodwill. May our church today echo these qualities of how to worship you with glad and generous hearts.

## **Friday, September 21**

*Acts 2: 47b | And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

~ Lord God, every day and every moment your Holy Spirit adds to the number of those who call you Lord God! Bless and strengthen them as they follow the path of discipleship.

## **Saturday, September 22**

*Acts 16:15 | When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home."*

~ Almighty God, may we have the faith and open hearts of Lydia! She is an example of faith and practice who shows us a way to live out our baptism in community. Thank you for her witness!

## **Sunday, September 23**

*Psalms 100: 1-2 | Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.*

~ Lord God, we are called to worship you with glad hearts and singing. Hear our voices raised in song knowing that it is when we are singing together that we glorify you. Put a song in my heart today!.

## **Monday, September 24**

*Psalm 100:3 | Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

~ Loving God, we are grateful to know that you are ours and we are yours. Remind us moment by moment that as your people when we worship you in spirit and truth we catch a glimpse of your holy love.

## **Tuesday, September 25**

*Psalm 100: 4 | Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

~ God of Grace, it is clear we are to come to you with thanksgiving and praise. We confess that often times we do not do this, for we are absorbed with the trials of this world and we forget your steadfast presence and love. Today I thank you for\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Wednesday, September 26**

*Psalm 100:5| For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

~ Father of all people, keep this prayer on our lips and let it sink into our hearts today. May we carry it within our souls all the days of our lives!

## **Thursday, September 27**

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

~ Christ Jesus, at your table enemies are turned into friends for your table is filled with good things – grace, forgiveness, peace, harmony, truth, gentleness and compassion. There is no end to the good things at your table. Our joy and thanksgiving overflow as we sit with you and face our fears.

## **Friday, September 28**

*Psalm 23:6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.*

~ Lord God, we dwell and walk with you as you hold our hand; we know that you are our own true home and we are grateful. When I am afraid, help me to see the goodness and mercy that surrounds me and remember that you are with me.

## **Saturday, September 29**

*Psalm 42:1-2 | As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?*

~ Holy One, we too have a holy longing to become closer to you, to know you and have us be known. Encourage us to set aside our wants and self-centeredness and worship you with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls and all our strength.

## **Sunday, September 30**

*Hebrews 10:25 | And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

~ God Almighty, love, good deeds and encouraging one another flow from our worshipping you together. Thank you for helping us always to remember that we are called to worship you as we faithfully pursue Jesus through holiness of heart and holiness of life.

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer and all scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. (NRSV)

**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.