

Bible Readings and Prayers

6th – 17th September 2021

Bible readings:

The suggested daily Bible readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary. It may bring you encouragement to know that all over the world today other people will be praying with these readings, just as you are. At the moment, the readings are mostly from Mark's gospel. (Of course, if you are already reading other parts of the Bible, or using other resources, just keep doing what you are already doing!)

You might find it helpful to read the Bible passage through slowly twice. Notice what strikes you most - it might be just one word or a phrase. Ponder on that and speak to God about it. Use the accompanying question for the day if it seems helpful.

1. *What does the text (Bible passage) say? What is going on?*
2. *What does the text say to me? What relevance does it have to my daily life?*
3. *What do I want to say to God about this text?*
4. *What difference could this text make in my life?*

Prayer:



Would you like to join with others (virtually!) at 7pm each night to light a candle and pray for others? If that particular time doesn't work for you, just choose another time.

If you are not sure what or how to pray, the Lord's Prayer is always a good place to begin. There are some other prayers included here also, which you might use as a starting point for your own prayer.



The Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against
us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

OR:
*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.*



Prayer for those in authority

“We cast our burden upon you, O Lord, and you sustain us.” – *Psalm 55:22*

We pray for all in authority who face difficult decisions that affect the lives of many; grant them wisdom and courage. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Monday 6th September: Mark 9:38-end

What are the sorts of things I am aware can be “stumbling blocks” for me? I talk with God about these things. As part of my prayer, I could perhaps use these words from the NZ Anglican prayer book.

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.

I will confess my sins to the Lord.

I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

[Silence]

God forgives and heals us.

We need your healing, merciful God:

give us true repentance.

Some sins are plain to us;

some escape us,

some we cannot face.

Forgive us;

set us free to hear your word to us;

set us free to serve you.

[A New Zealand Prayer Book: He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, 458.](#)

Tuesday 7th: Mark 10:1-16

I imagine myself among the people gathering to hear Jesus. I take time to picture the scene. What can I hear, see, smell or feel? Where am I? Who am I – one of the disciples? – one of the Pharisees? – someone in the crowd? – one of the children? – one of the children’s parents? – or someone else? What do I discover?

Wednesday 8th: Mark 10:17-31

Again, I place myself in the scene. What do I notice? How do I respond to Jesus' challenging words?

Thursday 9th: Mark 10:32-34

What stands out for me most from this short reading?



Friday 10th: Mark 10:35-45 [and Philippians 2:5-11]

Saturday 11th: Mark 10:46-end

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asks. I ponder these words.

A prayer in the midst of a pandemic (from Union Presbyterian Seminary)

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
have mercy upon us, and upon all your world, we pray.
In these uncertain times, we look to you for our comfort and strength.
Abide with all who suffer from the illness of this coronavirus pandemic.
Comfort those who have lost their loved ones.
Strengthen those who care for the sick and the lonely.
Inspire us to care for others in need and for ourselves.
Bring healing to our world, we pray.
We humbly ask in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.

<https://www.upsem.edu/about/prayers/a-prayer-in-the-midst-of-a-pandemic/>

Monday 13th: Mark 11:1-11

What must it have been like to be present on this day of celebration? Using my senses, I imagine myself somewhere in the scene, close to Jesus.

Tuesday 14th: John 12:27-36a

I ponder the words of this reading (from John, not Mark today). I might choose to listen to the lovely song, “Christ, be our light,” by Bernadette Farrell, which begins:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Christ+be+our+light&docid=608054832514032137&mid=EC4DF36F53F9638E03FDEC4DF36F53F9638E03FD&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Wednesday 15th: Mark 11:27-end
I bring my questions and concerns to Jesus.

For those who care for the sick

Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick.
When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection.
When they work to heal, give them strength.
When they comfort, give them consolation.
When they are tired, give them rest.
When they are discouraged, bring them your hope.

https://www.catholic.org.au/images/synod/Prayers_for_Time_of_Pandemic.pdf

Thursday 16th: Mark 12:1-12



Friday 17th: Mark 12:13-17
What stands out most for me from this reading? I pray about this.

Saturday 18th: Mark 12:18-27
What do I wonder?

Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
all things will pass away.
God never changes;
patience obtains all things,
whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices. Amen.

Teresa of Avila [1515-1582]

Intercessions

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.



For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Psalm 121

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help?

²My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

³He will not allow your foot to be
moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴Behold, He who keeps Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The Lord is your keeper;
The Lord is your shade at your right
hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
Nor the moon by night.

⁷The Lord shall preserve you from all
evil;
He shall preserve your soul.

⁸The Lord shall preserve your going out
and your coming in
From this time forth, and even
forevermore.