

➤ ***Don't be afraid***

Call to Worship

When you find yourself lost or confused – may you hear Christ calling your name. As you venture on uncertain pathways – may you recognize Christ with you on the journey. In times of wondering and doubt – may you feel Christ's patient reassurance. As we gather in worship – in all times and in various places – may we praise God. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Prayer

On this day we step boldly – humbly – into your presence O God, praying with our suffering Saviour as he taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

With voices around the world, we call: *Forgive!*

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Put aside from us our wicked ways, as we put aside the deeds of all who do us wrong.

O God, we confess our trespasses with shame: We have remained deaf to the cries of those who hurt. We have remained dumb in the face of evil. We have allowed the shadow of death to hover over the innocently condemned. We have failed to proclaim with conviction your liberation for the oppressed.

We repent.

Forgive our selfishness and greed, our unfaithfulness and pride, and give us the grace to forgive.

Help us, through forgiving others, to experience your forgiveness.

Give us the insight to know which boundaries to respect, and which to overcome.

Give us the strength to take down the barbs that keep us from each other and from you.

Give us the understanding to know that we have all trespassed, that we have been forgiven. **Amen**

Words of Hope

You change our lives, O Lord, and shatter our complacency. You take away the quietness of a clear conscience and guide us to forgiveness. You forgive every debt, every trespass and crossed boundary. We cross the boundary into forgiveness! All thanks be to God!

➤ ***And on this path***

Scripture **Deuteronomy 15: 1-11**

Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. And this is the manner of the remission: every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it of a neighbor who is a member of the community, because the Lord's remission has been proclaimed. Of a foreigner you may exact it, but you must remit your claim on whatever any member of your community owes you.

There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy, if only you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today.

When the Lord your God has blessed you, as he promised you, you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

Matthew 6: 9-15

Pray then in this way: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from evil.*

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message *(sent as a separate file)*

➤ ***Forgive our sins as we forgive***

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† Prayer

Most generous God, we thank you that we are a people who have inherited a remarkable story. We thank you for the spiritual discernment of the Hebrew People, and for their zealous attempt at faithfulness through times of cruel trial and grievous temptation.

We rejoice in the souls who have glorified your name; not just the famous ones like Moses and his sister Miriam, but the long forgotten, ordinary people who have lovingly kept the faith.

We thank you for the inspiration of the Old Testament – for its revealing stories and its poetry, its lofty laws and prophetic calls for justice and mercy.

We thank you for the many ancient events that prepared the way for Jesus – for his inspired life, his enlightened teaching, his inclusive compassion, his redemptive suffering, death, and resurrection that is our salvation.

We thank you for the succession of witnesses through the centuries who have preached Christ crucified and risen and have made his love real by their practical faith and love.

We want to continue that witness through our faith and our love as we gather our prayers for others...

Lord, hear our prayer for those who are neglected and despised as well as for those cherished and honoured...

Lord, hear our prayer for the meek and the merciful – encourage the poor, recover the bruised and the lost – bring peace to those who thirst for righteousness.

Lord, hear our prayer for the hungry in body or spirit, and for those who are dis-eased in body or mind. Comfort the suffering and the grieving.

Lord, hear our prayer for the strong and the weak in our society, and for the spiritual health of all who gather in faithful communities.

Today we celebrate and give thanks for mothers who come in many different forms. We remember those women who have died and whom we miss dearly here on earth. We lift in prayer every woman who is working hard to raise her children. We think of all the women who are expecting, but are not quite mothers yet, and those who are mothers through adoption or foster care. We thank you O God for the strength of our own mothers and offer prayers of compassion for those women who have lost a child to death. We thank you for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways and pray that we will honour them in all we do.

Holy One, hear also our prayer for which we have no words...

...and in your mercy help us to know you have answered. **Amen**

➤ ***Amigos de Cristo / Friends of the Lord*** **476**

Blessing

Remember your debt to God, for each gift in your life. Forgive the debts of others and mend what is broken. Come to God seeking new hearts. And may God's will be done as the grace of the risen Christ – the love of God – and the nurturing community of the Spirit embrace us all. **Amen**

➤ ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow*** **306**