

Midweek Prayer Time – Week 3

*We offer this liturgy for a time of personal prayer,
hoping it will be a time of enrichment and encouragement in challenging times.
May God's peace and blessing be upon you today and each day to come.*

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness:
come into his presence with singing.

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.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.



The Good Shepherd

Prayer

We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.

O God, who like a diligent shepherd has shown us the way,
we confess that, even so, we stray.

O God, who like a loving mother ewe has taught us how to keep to the fields,
we know that, even so, we wander.

O God, who came among us like a sacrificial lamb,
we long now to find you and to be found.

O God, who celebrates the return of the lost
and who sets even the most determined stray back on the path of life,
we want to come home and to feed in the pastures of your love, forever.

Amen.

Scripture reading from the Gospel of John 10.11 – 18 (NRSV)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Hold a period of silent reflection following the reading – use the picture to help reflect.

Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.
Good Shepherd,
be with us to strengthen us, go before us to lead us,
go behind us to protect us, be beneath us to uphold us,
be above us to uplift us,
that with you we may have courage to adventure
and be brought to the fullness of life eternal. Amen.

Prayer from the World Church - prepared by African women, for their children

Jesus, we want to grow in knowledge.
Help us to grow in body, mind and spirit.
Jesus, we want to grow in faith.
We thank you for the people of faith in biblical times and in our own times
whose lives are an example to us.
Jesus, we want to grow in hope.
We pray for all who are helping to bring freedom,
peace and justice to our world.
Jesus, we want to grow in love.
Help us to love one another as you have loved us,
and given yourself for us.
We pray for those who, today,
are giving their lives for others. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A time to offer prayers of concern, for local, national or world issues, for thanks or for whatever is on your heart....

Gracious God,
Day after day, we hear stories of poverty,
sickness, sorrow and suffering;
some from far afield,
some on our own doorstep.
All around us there seems to be so much injustice and oppression,
hatred and evil.
We try to trust in your purpose,
but the reality of this world seems to belie your will and contradict the gospel.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Time for silent prayer, after a period of 2 or 3 minutes silence conclude

Loving shepherd,
reach out we pray, wherever there is need,
and grant that your love, good shepherd,
may not only reach us but all your sheep.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, in the name of Christ.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer...

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
shepherd of the sheep, Lamb of God.
Equip us now to show our gratitude
by following you more closely,
trusting you more completely
and obeying you more faithfully,
so that our lives as well as our words
may give honour to you, now and always.
Amen.