



# In His Footsteps

**Ordinary Time — Week 4**

Prayer Services based on Discipleship



## Why a prayer book for the Church of God?

The modern Church of God has lost all semblance of worship in their assemblies and convocations. With very few exceptions, when they come together for the Sabbath or Holy Days, the format is nearly always the same as that created by Herbert W. Armstrong for the Radio Church of God (later the Worldwide Church of God). Services begin with two or three hymns, then a prayer, followed by the sermonette, another hymn, the sermon itself, a final hymn and ending with a prayer.

The people in attendance participate little in these so-called worship services, other than in the singing of the hymns. There is no biblical precedent for these types of services; and there is nothing in the history of ancient Israel or in ancient Judaism from which to create this model either. Rather, this form of service grows out from the need of the leaders of the church to maintain absolute control and to elevate themselves above the brethren.

They claim to be following the instructions of Paul in the New Testament regarding the deacons and elders of the churches, but it is faulty understanding of the roles of these men that has led to the present day worship model. There is not room in this brief introduction to explore the roles of deacons, deaconesses, elders, or the other offices established by Paul, but suffice it to say, their primary jobs were that of planning, organization, and maintaining order. They were not preachers in the sense that we know that word today; they were servants to the flock.

The Apostolic Church did not assemble together to listen to sermons delivered by a leader or cadre of leaders. When they came together, everyone was free to participate, but Paul admonishes them in Corinthians to do it in an orderly fashion. This is not to say they never listened to a speaker deliver a message. It happened all the time when visiting apostles were in attendance and from among people of their own congregations, including the elders, but usually included a significant amount of time in questions and answers, and a free give and take among those gathered. However, even before the death of all the apostles, men were rising up in the congregations and establishing themselves as leaders, even putting out of the church brethren who didn't comply with their rule (3 John 10).

The history of the Christian Church gives evidence to how far this model for worship services has spread. Every congregation now has an "ordained" minister or pastor over the flock. But it seems the modern Church of God

have been the ones who have taken the model to its extreme, where only the head pastor and his hand-picked deacons and elders can speak in the assemblies. Everyone else must sit, all facing forward, and listen. Their only form of participation has become standing up, singing a song, and sitting down.

This is not how God desires his people to worship him. While it is better than nothing at all, it still fails to engage the people in true worship of their Lord.

## The Tabernacle as Model

God gave detailed instructions in the Old Testament for the construction of the tabernacle, the outfitting of that tabernacle, the clothing of the priests who were to serve in the tabernacle, and the ways they were to live and function. The entire tribe of Levi was set apart to be priests and the family of Aaron was selected as the high priests, the only ones who could enter the holy of holies at that time. But all the priests had jobs and functions in the tabernacle that they performed daily on a rotating schedule.

Until the fall of the temple in 70 AD, one of the major roles of the priesthood was the sacrifice of animals on the altar. These sacrifices were for a variety of different reasons, but nearly all were performed on the behalf of the people. Without a serious study of this subject (which we can't do here for space considerations), it might appear that today's church structure and organization is following this model, minus the animal sacrifices.

But, there is an element missing in today's church, whether we are talking of the mainstream Christian Church or the Churches of God. That element is the fact that God says that ALL of his chosen people will be priests of the most high.

### Revelation 20:6 ESV

6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but **they will be priests of God** and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

This means that we all need to learn to function as priests and offer up our sacrifices (in the form of prayer and worship) to God

daily. That role is not being fulfilled by sitting and listening to a sermon delivered every week by the leaders of the church. As priests ourselves, we need to become engaged in the worship of our God. Now is our time of training in preparation for Christ's return when we will reign with him for a thousand years.

The tabernacle in the wilderness was only the model that served for the time it was needed. The temple was constructed (and re-constructed) on the same model. When the temple period ended, the spiritual temple became constructed within God's chosen people, but on the same model God gave at Mt. Sinai. Only now, the sacrifices are of the lips in the form of prayer and worship (Hosea 14:2).

#### Hosea 14:2 NKJV

2 Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive *us* graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips."

If we are to take WORDS and offer the SACRIFICES of our LIPS, what else could it be but prayer and worship? It certainly does not mean kissing someone's ring, literally or figuratively. It is not something that is left only to the leadership, but something of which each and every one of us is called upon to participate.

The most important thing to remember here is that the tabernacle and all that follows, were modeled on the tabernacle in heaven. That is why God instructed Moses to see that it was done exactly as God said it should be.

#### Hebrews 8:5 ESV

5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

That first physical model was so important, and is why such a large portion of the scripture is devoted to it. It was an image of God's tabernacle in heaven. It set the stage, in a physical world, for all that was to follow and what is yet to come.

## A Model in Heaven

The priests did more than animal sacrifices. They were responsible for the maintenance of the tabernacle, the candlesticks, and the table of showbread. They offered prayers, including the singing and chanting of psalms. Later, when the scriptures were written down, they read from the scriptures. But these things were not done in isolation, away from the eyes of the people.

Every day, for both the morning and evening sacrifices, people came to the tabernacle (or temple) with their sacrifices as well. They sang and prayed to their God before the altar of burnt offerings, evidenced by the high priest offering a blessing on the people at the end of the services each day (Num. 6:24-26).

The Psalms, themselves, are evidence of ancient Israel's worship of their God. The Psalms were recited, sung, and chanted. We only have 150 of the Psalms recorded. It is hard to say how many may have become lost with the passage of time before they were written down.

In the scriptures, God has allowed us few glimpses into the tabernacle in heaven, but from what we have been shown through the visions of Ezekiel and John, praise and worship of God is going on continually. The elders before the throne of God are shown to fall down in worship and adoration, as well as the multitudes and multitudes of angels. *This is the model that we have been given.*

The evidence of the people's participation in worship in past generations is abundant in the pages of scripture, both the Old and the New Testaments. Even the mainstream Christian Church has maintained the daily offerings of prayer throughout its history. It was only with the Reformation and the birth of Protestantism that it became relegated to one day a week.

With the revival of the Church of God in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the liturgical aspects of the service were eliminated, primarily as a way to distance themselves from the apostate church. However, this has robbed the people of an important element of their walk with, and worship of, their God. In today's church the people are encouraged to pray privately every day and, to the church's credit, they are encouraged to study and dig

into the scriptures, but they are not offered any form of public or private worship.

The purpose of this series of prayer services for the Church of God is designed to remedy that lack. Nothing like this has ever been done before in the Church of God and will certainly be met with scorn by some and complete resistance by others. But for those who will accept them, hopefully they will be only a jumping off point for individuals to engage in their own private acts of worship. Some may look upon them as merely “crutches” and not true worship. That may be, but it is better to have a crutch to begin the healing process than to not be able to walk at all.

### **Structure of the Services**

The services are primarily designed for individual or small group use. They are not offered as a new model for a Sabbath-day or Holy Day service. There are two services offered each day, a morning and an evening service, to comply with God’s command for the two daily sacrifices at the tabernacle. Each service is less than a half hour, depending on how long one engages in the intercessory prayers. Each service is composed of basically three parts — ***praise***, ***listening*** and ***speaking***. The first consists of elements of praise to God, the second of reading and studying his word, and the last is the offering of our prayers for ourselves, our loved ones, our communities, the church, and the world at large.

The elements of the services are heavily scripture based. Nearly all statements, words of praise, and lead-ins to the various sections are drawn straight from scripture. Sometimes elements are carried throughout an entire week; at other times, all the elements change to match the time of year.

The series is made up of small booklets, usually consisting of only one or two weeks of services, and they are all designed around God’s calendar. As the series is still being written, we only have booklets for the time between the Holy Days completed at this time. The goal is to complete each section prior to each season throughout this year (2008-2009).

When finished the series will include:

**Passover** — From Nissan 1 (Abib 1), or New Year's Day, through the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month.

**Days of Unleavened Bread** — From the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> of the first month.

**Counting the Omer** — One booklet with seven days of services to be rotated throughout the seven weeks leading into Pentecost.

**Pentecost** — One booklet with two weeks of services, to be used during the weeks following Pentecost.

**Ordinary Time** — Four booklets each containing one week of services, written on a major theme from the Bible. The time between the Holy Days we are calling "ordinary time" and flows from Pentecost until the fall festivals and is repeated again at the end of the year from the Eighth Day (Last Great Day) until New Year's Day comes again the following spring. These booklets are designed to be rotated through that time frame. (Other booklets may be added at a later date).

**Heshuvah** — One booklet with seven days of services to be rotated through the month of Elul, known by some as the month of repentance leading up to the Feast of Trumpets. This booklet is designed for those who observe this time. For others, they would continue with the booklets called "Ordinary Time."

**Fall Festivals** — One booklet with two weeks of services to cover the period from the Feast of Trumpets, through the Day of Atonement and up to the Feast of Tabernacles. The first 10 days are known as the "Days of Awe."

**Feast of Tabernacles** — One booklet with services for eight days to cover the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day (the Last Great Day).

## **How to Use the Booklets**

Some of the booklets are laid out from the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Week through the Sabbath. Others are listed as the actual day, such as

Nissan 1, or Tishri 1. In any given year, depending on when the days fall, it will be easy to move from one set of booklets to another. If the first day of Ordinary Time falls on a Wednesday, you would merely begin your service on the Wednesday of the first booklet. Likewise with the booklets that are laid out with the actual dates. When that day arrives, regardless of your place in another booklet, you would merely move to the appropriate booklet of services for the time.

If holding the services for a small group, assign a leader for the service, preferably a different person each time. Women may serve as leaders in this instance, as these services are not a form of “teaching” or assuming any kind of authority over the brethren or the church. However, if that is too hard for you, then do what your conscience dictates. The leader reads the elements that appear in regular type face and the group responds with the elements that appear in bold face italic. If holding a service alone, the individual reads all the parts, either silently or out loud.

Music is available to accompany all the hymns, either in the form of piano accompaniment or, in some cases, full choral arrangements. All may be found at [www.soundatrumpet.com/sabbathservices.htm](http://www.soundatrumpet.com/sabbathservices.htm). The full blue and the full burgundy hymnals of the Church of God are available in piano accompaniment and many from the purple hymnal are available in choral arrangements.

## **In Conclusion**

To create these prayer services for the Church of God, several prayer books from other organizations were studied for format, nature of the devotion, content, purpose, and style. Included were the four-volume *The Divine Hours* by Phyllis Tickle, a set of Catholic prayerbooks; *The Book of Common Prayer*, the 1979 Anglican edition, the standard from which all other churches seem to begin; the prayer books of the Anabaptist and Mennonite church; the Worship Books of the Methodist, the Presbyterian, and the United Church of Christ churches; and the *Siddur* of the Jewish synagogue services.

Elements from all have influenced the compilations of these prayer books for the Church of God. However, the decision to keep most elements in their original form straight from the scriptures themselves was predicated on the need to avoid all statements or

illusions to doctrinal teachings that are not biblical — such as the Trinity, the reward of a good life being an immediate escort to heaven, Jesus Christ as the object of our worship, and more.

The use of terms that smack of “churchianity” have been avoided wherever possible. Don’t be alarmed by the few that still remain. For example, a *Canticle* is simply scripture that can be read, sung or chanted, and is often an element that may be repeated several days in a row. We have retained the word for lack of a better one. The *Benediction* merely means the blessing at the end of the service. All services end with the same blessing the High Priest gave in the temple in ancient Israel (Num. 6:24-26).

May God bless this project and any of his chosen people who will approach it with open and loving hearts.

# Ordinary Time

## In His Footsteps

### Week 4

*Ordinary Time* is a term most often found in mainstream Christianity and refers to the weeks that fall between the seasons of the year that are celebrated by the church. They begin their year in early December with Advent, leading to Christmas, followed by Epiphany, which flows into Lent and Easter. The Easter season is extended out to Pentecost. From Pentecost to Advent is known as Ordinary Time or the period between the Christian seasons — the “down time,” so to speak.

Those of us who observe God’s Calendar also have periods of time between the Holy Days that could be called the “down times,” or *Ordinary Time*, so we have borrowed the same term for this series of prayer books. The main difference, of course, is that Ordinary Time in God’s calendar occurs twice a year.

God’s calendar revolves around the harvest seasons. It begins in the spring on Abib 1 (Nissan 1) with New Year’s Day (usually in March or April). The Holy Day season begins with preparation for Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, the Wave Sheaf, and encompasses the 50-day count to Pentecost. From Pentecost until the New Moon of Elul (usually in August) is “down time” or Ordinary Time in God’s calendar.

The month of Elul is known by some as the month of repentance (or *Heshuvah*) leading into the Feast of Trumpets. For those who observe these days, we have included a prayer book for Heshuvah. For others who do not, that time period would still be counted as Ordinary Time.

From the Feast of Trumpets, through the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Eighth Day are Holy Days of God. From the Last Great Day (the Eighth Day), time returns to Ordinary or “down” time again throughout the remainder of the year until New Year’s Day comes again the following Spring.

For Ordinary Time we have prepared four weeks of morning and evening prayer services, each week revolving around a major biblical theme. The weeks are alternated through the time frame we are calling Ordinary Time.

The theme for the first week is the *Sermon on the Mount*, the second week is the *Fruits of the Spirit*, the third week addresses *The Ten Commandments*, and the final week is *Following In His Footsteps*.

As with all the other prayer books in this annual cycle series, these prayer services are designed for individual or small group use. There are two services per day offered to coincide with the command of God for the two daily sacrifices in the tabernacle — in the morning and in the evening. It is commonly held that those sacrifices occurred at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The schedule you choose to follow will be dependent on your own personal schedule and lifestyle, however, remember that God marks time from evening to evening, so if your evening service falls after dark, it is already the next day. You might want to adjust your reading and prayers to accommodate that timing, especially on the Sabbath.

### **The Fourth Week — In His Footsteps**

For the fourth week, we will be concentrating on the Messiah and his work. When one is called to be a disciple of the Lord, it literally means turning from life as you have known it and following him where ever he goes. These prayer services are based on what that means — on counting the cost. The scripture readings are drawn primarily from examples of discipleship from the gospel accounts. From the message that God has given us through the scriptures, we see in what ways discipleship would impact our own lives.

Being a disciple is not the same thing as being a believer. There are many believers, but few disciples. A disciple follows and emulates his or her teacher every minute of every day, laying down his or her own life in favor of walking in the shadow of the master continuously. There are very few believers in our world who achieve such a level of commitment. These prayer services only scratch the surface of the true meaning behind the word "disciple."

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

First Day of the Week (Sunday) — Morning Prayers

### Opening

Come let us bow down, and bend the knee  
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

*For he is our God and we are the people  
of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Yours is the day, yours also the night;  
you established the moon and the sun.

*You fixed all the boundaries of the earth;  
you made both summer and winter.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 98:1-6 ESV](#) (A Psalm)

- 1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- 2 The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his  
righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of  
Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous  
song and sing praises!
- 5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of  
melody!

6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

## **T**hanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
*to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night season.*

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
*tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.*

## **S**ong

#1 (Blue)

**All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name**  
*Verses 1-3 Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780*  
*Verse 4 John Rippon, 1787*  
*Oliver Holden, 1793*

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, And hail Him Lord of all;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, And hail Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye who did hear the call,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And hail Him Lord of all;  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And hail Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe, And hail Him Lord of all;  
To Him all majesty ascribe, And hail Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall;  
We'll join the everlasting song, And hail Him Lord of all;  
We'll join the everlasting song, And hail Him Lord of all.

# We Listen to His Voice

## Call to Discipleship

For this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
*leaving you an example,  
so that you might follow in his steps.*

## The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-33 ESV

- 25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,
- 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
- 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
- 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?
- 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,
- 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'
- 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?
- 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.
- 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

## Putting On The New Self

Colossians 3:1-14 ESV

- 1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.
- 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.
- 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
- 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
- 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
- 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
- 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

### **Silent reflection on the readings**

## **S**ong

#31 (Blue)

### **Christ is Made the Sure Foundation**

*Words: Unknown, 7th Century; translated from Latin by John Mason Neale, 1851.*

*Music: "Regent Square" Henry Smart 1867*

Christ is made the sure Foundation,  
Christ the Head and Cornerstone;  
Chosen of the Lord and precious,  
Binding all the church in one;  
Holy Zion's Help forever,  
And her Confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call Thee,  
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today!  
With Thy faithful lovingkindness  
Hear Thy people as they pray.

And Thy fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants  
What they ask of Thee to gain;  
What they gain from Thee forever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in Thy glory  
Evermore with Thee to reign.

## **C**anticle

### **The Pre-eminence of Christ**

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.  
And he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
(Colossians 1:15-17)

## **We Respond to Him**

### **I**ntercessary Prayers

Rejoice in the Lord always.  
***The Lord is near.***  
Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

God of the foolish and the despised, we bring our prayers to you as acts  
of love for you and for our neighbors.  
***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You refresh the spirits of the humble. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You remind us that those who welcome children welcome you. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You revive the hearts of the contrite. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be one.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You choose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. We pray for the world, that your reign may come and your will be done on earth.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Lord, guided by your love and example,  
help us follow in your footsteps.

Wash the dust from our feet and our eyes  
so we can see more clearly and  
follow more deeply the path you lead.  
Fill us with courage to follow you in love  
from the table to the cross  
and beyond the tomb.  
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## **C**harge and Benediction

Looking back, may we be filled with gratitude.  
Looking forward, may we be filled with hope.  
Looking upward, may we be conscious of strength.  
Looking inward, may we find deep peace. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

First Day of the Week (Sunday) — Evening Prayers

### Opening

Serve God with gladness!  
Come before God's presence with singing!  
*Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
and God's courts with praise.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you.  
*They make known the glory of your  
kingdom and speak of your power.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

*Psalms 18:1-6 ESV To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.*

- 1 He said: I love you, O LORD, my strength.
- 2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- 3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
- 4 The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me;

- 5 the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.  
6 In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

## **T**hanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;  
I will sing your praise.

***Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
***and let your glory shine over all the earth. Amen.***

## **S**ong

#6 (Blue)

### **Blessed Be the Name**

*Words: adapted from Charles Wesley, 1739, alt..*

*Music: Arr. B.B. McKinney, 20th century*

O, for a thousand tongues to sing,  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
The glories of my God and King!  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name,  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!

Jesus the name that calms our fears,  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Tis music in the sinner's ears  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!

Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!

He breaks the pow'r of cancelled sin;  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
His blood can make the foulest clean.  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!

I never shall forget that day  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
When Jesus washed my sins away.  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!  
Blessèd be the name, blessèd be the name  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!

## **C**onfession

We acknowledge, Lord, with sorrow  
and true repentance, that we have  
desired that which we should not have;  
we have toyed with what we knew  
was not for us; we have been  
preoccupied with self-interest;  
we have invited unclean thoughts  
into our minds and entertained  
them as honored guests;  
our ears have often been deaf to  
your whisper; our eyes have been  
often blind to the signs of your guidance.  
Make us willing to be changed, even though  
it requires surgery of the soul, and the therapy of discipline.

*(silence)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.*

## **We Listen to His Voice**

### **Call to Discipleship**

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

### **The Cost of Following Jesus**

Luke 9:57-62 ESV

- 57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."  
58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."  
59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."  
60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."  
61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."  
62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

### **Persecution Will Come**

Matthew 10:16-25 ESV

- 16 "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.  
17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,  
18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.  
19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.

- 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
- 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,
- 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
- 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.
- 24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.
- 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

### Silent reflection on the readings

## Song

#104 (Blue)

### Alas and Did My Savior Bleed?

*Words: Isaac Watts*

*Subtitled: "Godly sorrow arising from the sufferings of Christ*

*Music: "Martyrdom," Hugh Wilson, 1800; arranged by Ralph E. Hudson, c 1885*

Alas! and did my Savior bleed  
And did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Savior died,  
For man the creature's sin.

But drops of grief can never repay  
The debt of love I owe:  
Here, Lord, I give my self away  
'Tis all that I can do.

## **C**anticle

### **A Song of Christ's Glory**

***At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.***

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in  
the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming  
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God  
the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

## **We Respond to Him**

### **I**ntercessary Prayers

Ask, and it will be given you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

***The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit  
to those who ask him.***

God of the foolish and the despised, we bring our prayers to you as acts  
of love for you and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You refresh the spirits of the humble. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You remind us that those who welcome children welcome you. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You revive the hearts of the contrite. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be one.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You choose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. We pray for the world, that your reign may come and your will be done on earth.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Write your words on our hearts,  
think your thoughts through our minds,  
live your will through our limbs,  
Lord of history, God of choices.  
Breathe once more upon your people  
that we may do great things in your name.  
You have given us the gifts of your written word,  
your living Spirit, and your chosen people.  
May we choose to accept your grace  
as we seek to follow in the  
footsteps of your living son. Amen.

### **C**harge and Benediction

Now may God who loved us  
and gave us eternal comfort and  
good hope through grace,  
comfort our hearts and establish them  
in every good word and work. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to  
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Second Day of the Week (Monday) — Morning Prayers

### Opening

Come let us sing to the LORD;  
let us rejoice this day in the strength of our salvation.  
*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous deeds!  
*And blessed be his glorious name forever!  
And may all the earth be filled with his glory.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 24:1-6 ESV](#) (A Psalm of David.)

- 1 The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
- 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

## **T**hanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
***to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night season.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
***tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.***

## **S**ong

#176 (Blue)

### **Footsteps of Jesus**

*Mary B.C. Slade, 19th Cent.*

*Asa B. Everett, 19th Cent.*

Sweetly, Lord, have we heard Thee calling, Come, follow me!  
And we see where Thy footprints falling lead us to Thee.  
Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway glow;  
We will follow the steps of Jesus where e'er they go.

Tho' they lead o'er the cold, dark mountains, seeking His sheep,  
Or along by Siloam's fountains, helping the weak,  
Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway glow;  
We will follow the steps of Jesus where e'er they go.

If they lead thro' the temple holy, preaching the word,  
Or in homes of the poor and lowly, serving the Lord,  
Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway glow;  
We will follow the steps of Jesus where e'er they go.

Then at last, when on high He sees us, our journey done,  
We will rest where the steps of Jesus end at His throne.  
Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway glow;  
We will follow the steps of Jesus where e'er they go.

# We Listen to His Voice

## Call to Discipleship

For this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
*leaving you an example,*  
*so that you might follow in his steps.*

## Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

Matthew 16:24-28 ESV

- 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
- 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
- 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?
- 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.
- 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

## Leaving Everything and Following Him

Luke 5:1-11, 27-28 ESV

- 1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,
- 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.
- 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.
- 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
- 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."
- 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.
- 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

- 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying,  
 "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."  
 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish  
 that they had taken,  
 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were  
 partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid;  
 from now on you will be catching men."  
 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything  
 and followed him.  
 (...)  
 27 After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at  
 the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me."  
 28 And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

### Silent reflection on the readings

## Song

#147 (Blue)

### Give Of Your Best To The Master

*Howard B. Grose, 1851-1939*

*Charlotte A. Barnard, 19th cent.*

Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth.  
 Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor Into the battle for truth.  
 Jesus has set the example, Dauntless was He, young and brave.  
 Give Him your loyal devotion; Give Him the best that you have.  
 Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth.  
 Clad in salvation's full armor, Join in the battle for truth.

Give of your best to the Master; Give Him first place in your heart.  
 Give Him first place in your service; Consecrate every part.  
 Give, and to you will be given; God His beloved Son gave.  
 Gratefully seeking to serve Him, Give Him the best that you have.  
 Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth.  
 Clad in salvation's full armor, Join in the battle for truth.

Give of your best to the Master; Naught else is worthy His love.  
 He gave Himself for your ransom, Gave up His glory above.  
 Laid down His life without murmur, You from sin's ruin to save.  
 Give Him your heart's adoration; Give Him the best that you have.

Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth.  
Clad in salvation's full armor, Join in the battle for truth.

## **C**anticle

### **The Pre-eminence of Christ**

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.  
And he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
(Colossians 1:15-17)

## **We Respond to Him**

### **I**ntercessary Prayers

Rejoice in the Lord always.

***The Lord is near.***

Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

God, guide of the humble, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love  
for you and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You call us to confidence and trust in you. We pray for ourselves and  
those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You exalt those who are humbled. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You show the right path to those who revere your name. We pray for the church in all places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You offer the fullness of peace to the humble. We pray for the world, for those who are poor or in need.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

O Lord, in faith we seek to become your visible people,  
to make your glories known through your Word.  
Bless us in our faith and in our doubting.  
Hear our prayers. Grant us comfort in sorrow,  
hope in despair, joy in all seasons,  
healing in sickness, praise in celebration.  
We pray that the seeds planted in our hearts  
will prove to be a harvest of hope for your world,  
this day and every day.  
These things we pray in the name of your son. Amen.

## **Charge and Benediction**

Go in joy and be led forth in peace;  
and all the mountains and hills shall  
break into singing and all the  
trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
God reigns! Amen.

*The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to  
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Second Day of the Week (Monday) — Evening Prayers

### Opening

The Lord is in his holy temple.

*Let all the earth keep silence before him.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Great is the Lord

and greatly to be praised;

*there is no end to his greatness.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 25:1-7 ESV](#) (Of David.)

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

6 Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

## **T**hanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;  
I will sing your praise.

***Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
***and let your glory shine over all the earth. Amen.***

## **S**ong

#73 (Blue)

### **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

*Thomas O. Chisholm*

*William M. Runyan*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth.  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

Blessings, all mine, with ten thousand beside.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

## **C**onfession

Lord, we confess before you that we have had longings  
and nudges from you which we did not translate into action;  
we have made decisions without consulting you,  
then have blamed you when things went wrong.  
We have said that we trusted you,  
yet have not turned our affairs over to you.  
We have been greedy for present delights and pleasures,  
unwilling to wait for those joys which time and  
discipline alone can give.  
We have often sought the easy way,  
have consistently drawn back from the road that is hard.  
Forgive us for all the intentions that were born and  
somehow never lived. These, Lord, are grievous sins in your sight.  
We claim your promise to change us —  
to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.  
Cleanse our hearts, create within us new attitudes and new ideas,  
as only you can create them.  
For these good gifts, we thank you, Lord. Amen.

(Peter Marshall)

*(silence)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
***Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.***

## **We Listen to His Voice**

### **C**all to Discipleship

And we know that for those who love God

all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

***For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.***

### **Acknowledge Christ Before Men**

Luke 12:8-12 ESV

- 8 "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,  
9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.  
10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.  
11 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say,  
12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

### **The Narrow Door**

Luke 13:22-30 ESV

- 22 He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem.  
23 And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them,  
24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.  
25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.'  
26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.'  
27 But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!'  
28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.  
29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

## Silent reflection on the readings

### Song

#112 (Blue)

#### He Lives

*Alfred H. Ackley, 20th cent.*

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.  
I see his hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer  
And, just the time I need Him, He's always near.  
He lives (*He lives*), He lives (*He lives*), Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives (*He lives*), He lives (*He lives*), salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,  
And tho' my heart grows weary, I never will despair.  
I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast;  
The day of His appearing will come at last.  
He lives (*He lives*), He lives (*He lives*), Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives (*He lives*), He lives (*He lives*), salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christians, lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!  
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,  
None other is so loving, so good and kind.  
He lives (*He lives*), He lives (*He lives*), Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives (*He lives*), He lives (*He lives*), salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

## **C**anticle

### **A Song of Christ's Glory**

***At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.***

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in  
the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming  
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God  
the Father.

(Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)

## **We Respond to Him**

### **I**ntercessary Prayers

Ask, and it will be given you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

***The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit  
to those who ask him.***

Comforting God, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you and  
for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

Your favor lasts through all our life. We pray for ourselves and those  
dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You promise that pain will turn to joy. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You guide your people to springs of the water of life. We pray for the church in all places, that we may know the freedom of life in the Spirit.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Your glory will shine over all the earth and sea. We pray for the world and for all who care for creation.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

God of presence, God of patience,  
we dedicate our hands, our feet, our eyes,  
our hearts, our bodies, and our wills  
to the work of your kingdom.  
We open our ears that we may hear  
and respond to your call.

Let your compassion fill our souls,  
so that we may truly become your  
presence in a suffering world.  
We give thanks and praise for your  
many blessings.  
May we, in turn, become blessings to others.  
These things we pray in the name  
of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **C**harge and Benediction

May the great Ruler of all high places,  
God of many names,  
touch you with a wind that keeps you strong,  
for all the days to come. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to  
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Third Day of the Week (Tuesday) — Morning Prayers

### Opening

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
*shout for joy, all who are true of heart.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Your righteousness, O God,  
reaches to the heavens;  
*you have done great things;  
who is like you, O God?*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

#### [Psalms 25:8-15 ESV](#)

- 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- 9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
- 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- 11 For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
- 12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
- 13 His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- 14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

## **T**hanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
***to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night season.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
***tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.***

## **S**ong

#141 (Blue)

**Come, Come, Ye Saints**  
*William Clayton, 19th cent.*  
*English Folk Song*

Come, come, ye saints, no toil nor labor fear; But with joy, wend  
your way.  
Though hard to you this journey may appear, Grace shall be as  
your day.  
'Tis better far for us to strive Our useless cares from us to drive;  
Do this, and joy your hearts will swell All is well! All is well!

Why should we mourn or think our lot is hard? 'Tis not so, all is right.  
Why should we think to earn a great reward, If we now shun the fight?  
Gird up your loins; fresh courage take; Our God will never us forsake,  
And soon we'll have this tale to tell, All is well! All is well!

We'll find the place which God for us prepared, In the day of His rest,  
Where none shall come to hurt or make afraid; There the saints will  
be blessed.  
We'll make the air with music ring, Shout praises to our God and King;  
Above the rest these words we'll tell, All is well! All is well!

# We Listen to His Voice

## Call to Discipleship

For this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
*leaving you an example,  
so that you might follow in his steps.*

## Watch Yourselfs

Luke 21:34-36 ESV

- 34 *"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.*
- 35 *For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*
- 36 *But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

## Peter Denies Jesus

Luke 22:54-62 ESV

- 54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance.
- 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them.
- 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him."
- 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."
- 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not."
- 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean."
- 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.
- 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, *"Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."*
- 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

## Silent reflection on the readings

## Song

#178 (Blue)

### Let Others See Jesus In You

*B.B. McKinney, 1886-1952*

While passing thro' this world of sin, and others your life shall view,  
Be clean and pure without, within; Let others see Jesus in you.  
Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you.  
Keep telling the story, be faithful and true; Let others see Jesus in you.

Your life's a book before their eyes, They're reading it thro' and thro'  
Say, does it point them to the skys, Do others see Jesus in you?  
Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you.  
Keep telling the story, be faithful and true; Let others see Jesus in you.

Then live for Christ both day and night, Be faithful, be brave and true,  
and lead the lost to life and Christ. Let others see Jesus in you.  
Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you.  
Keep telling the story, be faithful and true; Let others see Jesus in you.

## Canticle

### The Pre-eminence of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.  
And he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.

(Colossians 1:15-17)

## We Respond to Him

## Intercessory Prayers

Rejoice in the Lord always.

***The Lord is near.***

Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

God, guide of the humble, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love  
for you and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You call us to confidence and trust in you. We pray for ourselves and  
those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You exalt those who are humbled. We pray for our community and for  
our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You show the right path to those who revere your name. We pray for  
the church in all places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You offer the fullness of peace to the humble. We pray for the world,  
for those who are poor or in need.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Bountiful God, we come to you  
as humbly as we know how,  
thanking you for the many blessings  
you have allowed us to experience.  
We are humbled by your grace, and  
moved by your unconditional love.  
We thank you for the scriptures,  
where we can read about your  
activities in the lives of your people,  
and gain understanding of how you  
move in our daily lives as we strive  
to follow in Christ Jesus' footsteps.  
In his name, Amen.

## **Charge and Benediction**

O God, our refuge every day,  
the rock on which we stand,  
help us to follow in your way  
and in your truth to stand. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Third Day of the Week (Tuesday) — Evening Prayers

### Opening

Give thanks to God, and bless God's name!  
For the Holy One is good;

*God's steadfast love endures forever,  
and God's faithfulness to all generations.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Let all who seek you rejoice  
and be glad in you;

*let those who love your salvation  
say forever, "Great is the LORD!"*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

#### Psalms 33:1-9 ESV

- 1 Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.
- 2 Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
- 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
- 4 For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
- 6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

- 7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.  
8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!  
9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

## **T**hanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;  
I will sing your praise.

***Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
***and let your glory shine over all the earth. Amen.***

## **S**ong

#137 (Blue)

### **A Child of The King**

*Words: Harriet Eugenia Peck Buell, 1877*

*Music: John B. Sumner, 1877*

My Father is rich in houses and lands,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!  
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full, He has riches untold.  
I'm a child of the King, A child of the King:  
With Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the King.

My Father's own Son, the Savior of men,  
Once wandered on earth as the poorest of them;  
But now He is pleading our pardon on high,  
That we may be His when He comes by and by.  
I'm a child of the King, A child of the King:  
With Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the King.

I once was an outcast stranger on earth,  
A sinner by choice, an alien by birth,  
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,  
An heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown.  
I'm a child of the King, A child of the King:  
With Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the King.

A tent or a cottage, why should I care?  
They're building a palace for me over there;  
Though exiled from home, yet still may I sing:  
All glory to God, I'm a child of the King.  
I'm a child of the King, A child of the King:  
With Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the King.

## **C**onfession

Eternal God, from the beginning of time  
you have called your children into communion with you.  
Yet we confess that like all the rest,  
we have turned to our own way and  
refused your love and grace.  
Restore us to the joy of knowing you,  
and of recognizing your reign among us,  
through Jesus Christ, bringer of your good news. Amen.

*(silence)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
***Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.***

## **We Listen to His Voice**

### **C**all to Discipleship

And we know that for those who love God  
all things work together for good, for those  
who are called according to his purpose.  
***For those whom he foreknew he also predestined***

*to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

### **Jesus Calls Disciples**

John 1:43-51 ESV

- 43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, **"Follow me."**
- 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
- 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
- 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
- 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, **"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"**
- 48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, **"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."**
- 49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"
- 50 Jesus answered him, **"Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."**
- 51 And he said to him, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

### **The Authority of Jesus**

John 5:19-29 ESV

- 19 So Jesus said to them, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.**
- 20 **For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.**
- 21 **For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.**
- 22 **The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,**
- 23 **that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.**
- 24 **Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.**

- 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.
- 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.
- 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.
- 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice
- 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

### Silent reflection on the readings

## Song

#63 (Blue)

### Living For Jesus

*Thomas O. Chisholm b. 1866*

*C. Harold Lowden, 19th cent.*

Living for Jesus a life that is true, Striving to please Him in all that I do;  
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, This is the pathway of  
blessing for me.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,  
For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;  
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;  
My life I give henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus who died in my place, Bearing on calv'ry my sin and  
disgrace;  
Such love constrains me to answer His call, Follow His leading and give  
Him my all.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,  
For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;  
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;  
My life I give henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus wherever I am, Doing each duty in His holy name;  
Willing to suffer affliction and loss, Deeming each trial a part of my  
cross.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,  
For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;  
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;  
My life I give henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus through earth's little while, My dearest treasure, the light  
of His smile;  
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem, Bringing the weary to find rest  
in Him.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,  
For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;  
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;  
My life I give henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

## **C**anticle

### **A Song of Christ's Glory**

*At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in  
the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming  
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God  
the Father.

(Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)

## **We Respond to Him**

## **I**ntercessary Prayers

Ask, and it will be given you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

***The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit  
to those who ask him.***

God, guide of the humble, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love  
for you and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You call us to confidence and trust in you. We pray for ourselves and  
those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You exalt those who are humbled. We pray for our community and for  
our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You show the right path to those who revere your name. We pray for  
the church in all places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You offer the fullness of peace to the humble. We pray for the world,  
for those who are poor or in need.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Gracious God, if we would only let your Spirit work in us, how different our lives would be! How different our world would be! As we recall the miracle of the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection and your Spirit appeared in power on history's stage, open our hearts to your Spirit's presence and power. Because of Jesus' example, make us bold to follow your way each day and each hour. Place in our hands Christ's pattern for our lives. Amen.

## **C**harge and Benediction

May you love God so much that  
you love nothing else too much;  
may you fear God enough that you  
need fear nothing else at all.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Fourth Day of the Week (Wednesday) — Morning Prayers

### Opening

This is the day which God has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before God, our Maker.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Hallelujah! Give praise,  
you servants of the LORD;  
*praise the name of the LORD.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

### [Psalms 33:13-22 ESV](#)

- 13 The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man;  
14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth,  
15 he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.  
16 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.  
17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.  
18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.  
21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.  
22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

## **T**hanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
***to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night season.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
***tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.***

## **S**ong

#61 (Blue)

**His Way with Thee**  
*Cyrus S. Nusbaum, 1861-1937*

Would you live for Jesus and be always pure and good?  
Would you walk with Him within the narrow road?  
Would you have Him bear your burden, carry all your load?  
Let Him have His way with thee.  
His pow'r can make you what you ought to be;  
His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free;  
His love can fill your soul, and you will see  
'twas best for Him to have His way with thee.

Would you have Him make you free and follow at His call?  
Would you know the peace that comes by giving all?  
Would you have Him save you so that you can never fall?  
Let Him have His way with thee.  
His pow'r can make you what you ought to be;  
His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free;  
His love can fill your soul, and you will see  
'twas best for Him to have His way with thee.

Would you in His kingdom find a place of constant rest?  
Would you prove Him true in providential test?  
Would you in His service labor always at your best?  
Let Him have His way with thee.  
His pow'r can make you what you ought to be;  
His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free;  
His love can fill your soul, and you will see  
'twas best for Him to have His way with thee.

## We Listen to His Voice

### Call to Discipleship

For this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
*leaving you an example,*  
*so that you might follow in his steps.*

### The Words of Eternal Life

John 6:60-69 ESV

- 60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"
- 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "**Do you take offense at this?**"
- 62 **Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?**
- 63 **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**
- 64 **But there are some of you who do not believe.**" (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)
- 65 And he said, "**This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.**"
- 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.
- 67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "**Do you want to go away as well?**"
- 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,
- 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

## Whoever Believes in Jesus

John 12:44-50 ESV

- 44 And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.
- 45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.
- 46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.
- 47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.
- 48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.
- 49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.
- 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

## Silent reflection on the readings

### Song

#50 (Blue)

#### Loyalty to Christ

*Dr. E. Taylor Cassell, 1849-1930*

*Flora H. Cassell, 1852-1911*

From over hill and plain there comes the signal strain,  
'Tis loyalty, loyalty, loyalty to Christ.  
Its music rolls along; the hills take up the song  
of loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.  
"On to victory! On to victory!"  
Cries our great Commander, On! (*great Commander, On!*)  
We'll move at His command; We'll soon possess the land  
thro' loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.

O hear, ye brave, the sound that moves the earth around;  
'Tis loyalty, loyalty, loyalty to Christ.  
Arise to dare and do; Ring out the watchword true  
of loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.  
"On to victory! On to victory!"

Cries our great Commander, On! (*great Commander, On!*)  
We'll move at His command; We'll soon possess the land  
thro' loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.

Come, join our loyal throng, We'll right the giant wrong;  
'Tis loyalty, loyalty, loyalty to Christ.  
Where Satan's banners float we'll send the bugle note  
of loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.

"On to victory! On to victory!"

Cries our great Commander, On! (*great Commander, On!*)  
We'll move at His command; We'll soon possess the land  
thro' loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.

The strength of youth we lay at Jesus' feet today,  
'Tis loyalty, loyalty, loyalty to Christ.  
His gospel we'll proclaim, thro' out the world's domain,  
of loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.

"On to victory! On to victory!"

Cries our great Commander, On! (*great Commander, On!*)  
We'll move at His command; We'll soon possess the land  
thro' loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.

## **C**anticle

### **The Pre-eminence of Christ**

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.

For by him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.

And he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.

(Colossians 1:15-17)

## **We Respond to Him**

## **I**ntercessary Prayers

Rejoice in the Lord always.

***The Lord is near.***

Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

Righteous God, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you and  
for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You place in us the hunger and thirst for all that is right and good. We  
pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You offer the refuge of your wings to the children of the earth. We pray  
for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You call us to love kindness and to walk humbly before you. We pray  
for the church in all places, that we may bear witness to your reign of  
justice, peace, and joy.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You come to rule the world with justice and truth. We pray for the  
world, for all who are ensnared in greed, violence, and oppression.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

O trustworthy God, we have begun  
the journey of your son's footsteps  
and put ourselves in your care.  
We know there are dangers along the way,  
yet our faith remains in your love and care,  
and we continue to move forward,  
through both the dim and the  
well-lit parts of the trail.  
Guide us to find our joy  
not just at the end of the road,  
but in the journey itself.  
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **C**harge and Benediction

Go gladly into the world.  
Be filled with the love of God and  
dance to the song of his Spirit.  
Show forth the Messiah that you  
follow in each new day. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to  
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Fourth Day of the Week (Wednesday) — Evening Prayers

### Opening

God is our refuge and strength,  
*a very present help in trouble.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
*sing praises to his name, for it is pleasant.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

*Psalms 34:1-7 ESV (Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.)*

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.
- 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

## **T**hanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;  
I will sing your praise.

***Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
***and let your glory shine over all the earth. Amen.***

## **S**ong

#186 (Blue)

### **All the Way My Savior Leads Me**

*Words: Fanny Crosby, 1875*

*Music: Robert Lowry, 1875*

All the way my Savior leads me;  
What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy,  
Who through life has been my Guide?  
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,  
Here by faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well;  
For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me;  
Cheers each winding path I tread,  
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial,  
Feeds me with the living bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter  
And my soul a thirst may be,  
Gushing from the Rock before me,  
Lo! a spring of joy I see;  
Gushing from the Rock before me,  
Lo! a spring of joy I see;

All the way my Savior leads me;  
Oh, the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
In my Father's house in love.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal,  
Wings its flight to realms of day,  
This my song through endless ages;  
Jesus led me all the way;  
This my song through endless ages;  
Jesus led me all the way.

## **C**onfession

Gentle and holy God, we acknowledge to you,  
to one another, and to ourselves that we are not  
what you have called us to be.  
We have stifled our gifts and wasted our time.  
We have avoided opportunities to offer kindness,  
but have been quick to take offense.  
We have pretended that we could make no  
contribution to peace and justice in our world  
and have excused ourselves from risk-taking.  
Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and help us to live our lives differently, we pray  
in the name of Jesus Christ, whose call to  
follow him haunts our every prayer. Amen.

*(silence)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
***Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.***

## **We Listen to His Voice**

### **C**all to Discipleship

And we know that for those who love God  
all things work together for good, for those

who are called according to his purpose.

***For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.***

### **The Hatred of the World**

John 15:18-27 ESV

- 18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.
- 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
- 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.
- 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.
- 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.
- 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also.
- 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.
- 25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'
- 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.
- 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

### **Overcome the World**

John 16:25-33 ESV

- 25 "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.
- 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;
- 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.
- 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

- 29 His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!
- 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God."
- 31 Jesus answered them, "**Do you now believe?**
- 32 **Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.**
- 33 **I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**

### Silent reflection on the readings

## Song

#48 (Blue)

### Make Me a Blessing

*Ira B. Wilson, 20th cent.*

*George S. Schuler, 1924*

Out in the highways and byways of life,  
 many are weary and sad; (*are weary and sad;*)  
 Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,  
 making the sorrowing glad.

Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
 Out of my life (*out of my life*) May Jesus shine;  
 Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray, (*I pray Thee, my Savior,*)  
 Make me a blessing to someone today.

Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love;  
 Tell of His pow'r to forgive: (*His pow'r to forgive.*)  
 Others will trust Him if only you prove  
 true ev'ry moment you live.  
 Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
 Out of my life (*out of my life*) May Jesus shine;  
 Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray, (*I pray Thee, my Savior,*)  
 Make me a blessing to someone today.

Give as 'twas given to you in your need;  
Love as the Master loved you; (*the Master loved you.*)  
Be to the helpless a helper indeed;  
Unto your mission be true.  
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
Out of my life (*out of my life*) May Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray, (*I pray Thee, my Savior,*)  
Make me a blessing to someone today.

## **C**anticle

### **A Song of Christ's Glory**

***At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.***

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in  
the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming  
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God  
the Father.

(Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)

## **We Respond to Him**

### **I**ntercessary Prayers

Ask, and it will be given you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

***The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit  
to those who ask him.***

Righteous God, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You place in us the hunger and thirst for all that is right and good. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You offer the refuge of your wings to the children of the earth. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You call us to love kindness and to walk humbly before you. We pray for the church in all places, that we may bear witness to your reign of justice, peace, and joy.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You come to rule the world with justice and truth. We pray for the world, for all who are ensnared in greed, violence, and oppression.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Loving God, we are grateful for this journey on which we have embarked, and for our traveling companions who make the travels easier just by their presence. When we pray for the poor and hungry, the ill and grieving, the fearful and oppressed, we remember that Jesus the traveler often had no place to lay his head, and so understands the plight of those whose journey is made difficult by life's circumstances. Help us to reach out to all with the love that Christ demonstrated for us. Amen.

## **C**harge and Benediction

God gives life. God renews life. God is life.  
Celebrate the life within you today.  
Let it overflow to enliven the world.  
May the peace of God dwell within you  
today and forevermore. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Fifth Day of the Week (Thursday) — Morning Prayers

### Opening

Your word is a lantern to my feet  
*and a light upon my path.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Be exalted, O Lord, in your might;  
*we will sing and praise your power.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 34:8-14 ESV](#)

- 8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
- 9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!
- 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
- 11 Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

## **T**hanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
***to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night season.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
***tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.***

## **S**ong

#72 (Blue)

### **He Is Able To Deliver Thee**

*William A. Ogden, 19th cent.*

'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung;  
'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue;  
'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung,  
"Our God is able to deliver thee."  
He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee;  
Though, by sin oppressed Go to Him for rest;  
"Our God is able to deliver thee."

'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main;  
'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain;  
'Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again,  
"Our God is able to deliver thee."  
He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee;  
Though, by sin oppressed Go to Him for rest;  
"Our God is able to deliver thee."

'Tis the grandest theme, let the tidings roll  
To the guilty heart, to the sinful soul;  
Look to God in faith, He will make thee whole.  
"Our God is able to deliver thee."  
He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee;

Though, by sin oppressed Go to Him for rest;  
"Our God is able to deliver thee."

## We Listen to His Voice

### Call to Discipleship

For this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
*leaving you an example,*  
*so that you might follow in his steps.*

### Believers Pray for Boldness

Acts 4:23-31 ESV

- 23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.
- 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,
- 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?
- 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—
- 27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
- 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.
- 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,
- 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."
- 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

### Gentiles Hear the Good News

Acts 10:34-48 ESV

- 34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,

- 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),
- 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:
- 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
- 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,
- 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,
- 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
- 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
- 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
- 44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.
- 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.
- 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,
- 47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"
- 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

### **Silent reflection on the readings**

## **S**ong

#90 (Blue)

### **I Am Resolved**

*Palmer Hartsough, 1844-1932*

*James H. Fillmore, 1849-1936*

I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight;  
Things that are higher, things that are nobler, These have allured my  
sight.

I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;  
Jesus, Greatest, Highest, I will come to Thee.

I am resolved to go to the Savior, leaving my sin and strife;  
He is the true one, He is the just one, He hath the words of life.  
I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;  
Jesus, Greatest, Highest, I will come to Thee.

I am resolved to follow the Savior, faithful and true each day,  
Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth, He is the living way.  
I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;  
Jesus, Greatest, Highest, I will come to Thee.

I am resolved to enter the kingdom, leaving the paths of sin;  
Friends may oppose me, foes may beset me; Still will I enter in.  
I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;  
Jesus, Greatest, Highest, I will come to Thee.

I am resolved, and who will go with me? Come, friends, without  
delay,  
Taught by the Bible, led by the Spirit, We'll walk the heav'nly way.  
I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;  
Jesus, Greatest, Highest, I will come to Thee.

## **C**anticle

### **The Pre-eminence of Christ**

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.  
And he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.

(Colossians 1:15-17)

# We Respond to Him

## Intercessory Prayers

Rejoice in the Lord always.

***The Lord is near.***

Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

God, rich in mercy, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you  
and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You have mercy on all who cry to you. We pray for ourselves and those  
dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You reveal yourself to the pure in heart. We pray for our community  
and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We long to stand in your holy place. We pray for the church in all  
places, that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,

***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You rule the earth in all its fullness. We pray for the world, for those in positions of power and authority.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
whose dearly beloved son Jesus Christ  
died that we might live: grant to us,  
your children, grace to follow in his  
most holy steps. Fill us with the  
spirit of reverence and Godly fear;  
make us swift to obey your holy  
will and so turn our weakness into  
strength by the presence of your  
Holy Spirit, that we may fight faithfully  
against selfishness, impurity, and  
pride, and ever be true to your calling  
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Charge and Benediction**

We trust in you, O God, our strength.  
Be now our shield throughout life's length.  
We sing our songs of gratitude,  
blessed by the past, our faith renewed. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Fifth Day of the Week (Thursday) — Evening Prayers

### Opening

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands,  
*lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praise to our God!  
*How pleasant it is to honor him with praise!*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

#### [Psalms 34:15-22 ESV](#)

- 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- 17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- 20 He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.
- 21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

## **T**hanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;  
I will sing your praise.

***Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
***and let your glory shine over all the earth. Amen.***

## **S**ong

#9 (Blue)

### **Crown Him with Many Crowns**

*Matthew Bridges, 1851*

*George J. Elvey, 1868*

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee;  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends His wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save:  
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven! One with the Father known,  
Receive the Spirit through Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne!  
To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died;  
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days, adored and magnified.

## Confession

O God, our God, we celebrate the new life which you have given us. We have experienced broken lives made whole, old wounds of alienation healed over, and tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision. Gracious God, we are so grateful for the purpose and possibilities you have placed before us. Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope, cynicism has replaced dedication, the world's values have captured us more than yours. Forgive us those times, we pray. Help us let go of the past that we might move joyfully into a new future that points to your love and justice. Amen.

*(silence)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
***Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.***

## We Listen to His Voice

### Call to Discipleship

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

***For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.***

### Dead to Sin, Alive to God

[Romans 6:1-14 ESV](#)

- 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
- 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
- 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
- 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.
- 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.
- 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.
- 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
- 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

### **Life in the Spirit**

#### **Romans 8:1-11 ESV**

- 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,
- 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

- 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.
- 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

### **Silent reflection on the readings**

## **S**ong

#85 (Blue)

### **Christ, Our Passover**

*Words and music: Ross Jutsum*

Jesus knew that the time to depart had now arrived  
He must go to the Father up above.  
Having loved His disciples unto the very end,  
Now He showed them the fullness of His love.  
"This bread is my body broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
This cup, the new covenant is my blood, by which you shall all be  
redeemed."  
Now Christ is our Passover sacrificed; eternal life showed us the way,  
We'll take up our cross and deny ourselves as we faithfully follow  
each day.

And while we were still sinners, Christ died for all our sins,  
Gave His life as a sacrifice for all;  
Showing love and compassion for all His family,  
Jesus Christ, He has reconciled us all.  
"This bread is my body broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
This cup, the new covenant is my blood, by which you shall all be  
redeemed."

Now Christ is our Passover sacrificed; eternal life showed us the way,  
We'll take up our cross and deny ourselves as we faithfully follow  
each day.

Let us focus our eyes on our Savior and our King,  
As perfecter and author of our faith.  
For the joy set before Him, our Lord endured the cross  
So that we all would run and win the race.  
"This bread is my body broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
This cup, the new covenant is my blood, by which you shall all be  
redeemed."

Now Christ is our Passover sacrificed; eternal life showed us the way,  
We'll take up our cross and deny ourselves as we faithfully follow  
each day.

He will never forsake us, He'll never leave His sons  
And His daughters will never be alone.  
Interceding for sisters and brothers that He loves;  
Serving all of God's children from His throne.  
"This bread is my body broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
This cup, the new covenant is my blood, by which you shall all be  
redeemed."

Now Christ is our Passover sacrificed; eternal life showed us the way,  
We'll take up our cross and deny ourselves as we faithfully follow  
each day.

## **C**anticle

### **A Song of Christ's Glory**

***At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.***

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in  
the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming  
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)

## We Respond to Him

### Intercessory Prayers

Ask, and it will be given you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

***The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.***

God, rich in mercy, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You have mercy on all who cry to you. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You reveal yourself to the pure in heart. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We long to stand in your holy place. We pray for the church in all places, that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You rule the earth in all its fullness. We pray for the world, for those in positions of power and authority.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Loving God, we are grateful for this journey on which we have embarked, and for our traveling companions who make the travels easier just by their presence. When we pray for the poor and hungry, the ill and grieving, the fearful and oppressed, we remember that Jesus the traveler often had no place to lay his head, and so understands the plight of those whose journey is made difficult by life's circumstances. Help us to reach out to all with the love that Christ demonstrated for us. Amen.

## **C**harge and Benediction

Honor and glory sing we now; God is our ruler true.  
We will rejoice and faith avow, for love will see us through. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Sixth Day of the Week (Friday) — Morning Prayers

### Opening

Come now and look upon the  
works of the Lord,

*What awesome things he has  
done on earth.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

For we are your people and the sheep  
of your pasture;

*we will give you thanks for ever  
and show forth your praise from age to age.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 46:1-7, 10-11 ESV](#) *(To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah.  
According to Alamo. A Song.)*

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

- 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah ( ... )
- 10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

## **T**hanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
***to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night season.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
***tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.***

## **S**ong

#29 (Blue)

### **Never Alone** *Anonymous*

I've seen the lightning flashing and heard the thunder roll;  
I've felt sin's breakers dashing, Trying to conquer my soul;  
I've heard the voice of my Savior telling me still to fight on;  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.  
No, never alone! No, never alone!  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone;  
No never alone! No, never alone!  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

The world's fierce winds are blowing temptations sharp and keen;  
I feel a peace in knowing my Savior stands between;  
He stands to shield me from danger when earthly friends are gone;  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.  
No, never alone! No, never alone!

He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone;  
No never alone! No, never alone!  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

When in affliction's valley I'm treading the road of care,  
My Savior helps me to carry my cross when heavy to bear;  
My feet, entangled with briars ready to cast me down,  
My savior whispers His promise, "I never will leave thee alone."  
No, never alone! No, never alone!  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone;  
No never alone! No, never alone!  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

## We Listen to His Voice

### Call to Discipleship

For this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
*leaving you an example,  
so that you might follow in his steps.*

### Heirs with Christ

Romans 8:12-17 ESV

- 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.
- 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
- 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
- 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
- 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

### The Example of Christ

Romans 15:1-7 ESV

- 1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
- 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.
- 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."
- 4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,
- 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

### **Silent reflection on the readings**

## **S**ong

#156 (Blue)

### **Rescue the Perishing**

*Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915*

*William H. Doane, 1832-1915*

Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;  
Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus the Mighty to save.  
Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Tho' they are slighting Him, still He is waiting,  
waiting the penitent child to receive.  
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;  
He will forgive if they only believe  
Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,  
feelings lie buried that grace can restore.  
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,

chords that are broken will vibrate once more.  
Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it;  
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide.  
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;  
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.  
Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

## **C**anticle

### **The Pre-eminence of Christ**

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.  
And he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
(Colossians 1:15-17)

## **We Respond to Him**

### **I**ntercessary Prayers

Rejoice in the Lord always.

***The Lord is near.***

Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

God, breaker of dividing walls, we bring our prayers to you as acts of  
love for you and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Your generosity is impartial. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You proclaim peace to those who turn to you in their hearts. We pray for the church in all places, that we may speak boldly for Christ.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Your justice will march, and peace will follow the way. We pray for the world, for peacemakers and for all who serve in the name of Christ.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We know, Father, that we must come to you just as we are. But we also know

that we dare not go away just as we came.  
We have confessed our defects to you,  
and you have graciously forgiven us.  
Yet we know, Lord, that merely to forgive  
us will not suffice. For unless we are changed,  
we shall do the same things again.  
At last we know, Lord, that only you can  
correct that within us which makes us do wrong.  
Lord, we acknowledge our total dependence  
upon you. Make us over into the people  
you want us to be. In the name of the one  
who is plenteous in mercy, we ask. Amen.  
*(Peter Marshall)*

## **C**harge and Benediction

Let us greet the world as children of God,  
rejoicing in its wonders,  
sharing its goodness with our sisters and brothers.  
And may the vision and reality of God's  
peace make this world a happy home  
for all the human family. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to  
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Sixth Day of the Week (Friday) — Evening Prayers

### Opening

God is King of all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill.

*God reigns over the nations;  
God sits upon his holy throne.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Righteousness and justice are the  
foundations of your throne;  
*love and truth go before your face.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 47:1-7 ESV](#) *(To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.)*

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

## **T**hanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;  
I will sing your praise.

***Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
***and let your glory shine over all the earth. Amen.***

## **S**ong

#19 (Blue)

### **O Worship the King**

*Robert Grant, 1833*

*J. Michael Haydn, 1737-1806*

O worship the King, all glorious above,  
O gratefully sing His power and His love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

## Confession

O God, our God, we confess that we have not always lived for you. You have invited us into new life, yet we have closed our eyes and our ears and hearts against that invitation. You have shown us the way to love, yet we have chosen too often the path of uncaring. You have called us to the ministry of reconciliation, yet often we find ourselves tempted to turn away from others. You have challenged us to generosity, but many times we would rather keep to ourselves. Enter our lives, God, once again. Release us from the bonds of self-centeredness. Create in us a renewed openness to your love, that we may share your love with others. Amen.

*(silence)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
***Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.***

## We Listen to His Voice

### Call to Discipleship

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

***For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.***

### The Ministry of Apostles

[1 Corinthians 4:1-8a ESV](#)

- 1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

- 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.
- 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.
- 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.
- 6 I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.
- 7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?
- 8 Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! ...

### **The Temple of the Living God**

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ESV

- 14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
- 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,
- 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

### **Silent reflection on the readings**

## **S**ong

#168 (Blue)

### **Take Time To Be Holy**

*W.D. Longstaff*  
*Geo. C Stebbins*

Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in Him always, And feed on His Word.  
Make friends of God's children, Help those who are weak;  
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, The world rushes on;  
Spend much time in secret With Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus, Like him thou shalt be;  
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, Let Him be thy Guide,  
And run not before Him, Whatever betide;  
In joy or in sorrow, Still follow thy Lord,  
And, looking to Jesus, Still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy, Be calm in thy soul;  
Each thought and each motive Beneath His control;  
Thus led by His Spirit To fountains of love,  
Thou soon shalt be fitted For service in love.

## **C**anticle

### **A Song of Christ's Glory**

***At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.***

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in  
the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming  
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God  
the Father.

(Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)

# We Respond to Him

## **I**ntercessory Prayers

Ask, and it will be given you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

***The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit  
to those who ask him.***

God, rich in mercy, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you  
and for our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You have mercy on all who cry to you. We pray for ourselves and those  
dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You reveal yourself to the pure in heart. We pray for our community  
and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We long to stand in your holy place. We pray for the church in all  
places, that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You rule the earth in all its fullness. We pray for the world, for those in positions of power and authority.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Lord, guided by your love and example,  
help us follow in your footsteps.  
Wash the dust from our feet and  
our eyes so we can see more clearly and  
follow more deeply the path you lead.  
Fill us with courage to follow you in love  
from the table to the cross and beyond  
the tomb. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## ***C*harge and Benediction**

Let now our lips be joined in song,  
our praises make a joyful noise.  
Keep us, we pray, in steadfast love,  
that all our energy employs. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Seventh Day of the Week (Sabbath/Saturday) — Morning Prayers

### Opening

Be still and know that God is,  
and God was in the beginning,  
and when all human striving has ceased,

*God will still be.*

*From everlasting to everlasting,*

*God is God and alone is worthy to be worshipped.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

*Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

[Psalms 95:1-7a ESV](#)

- 1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- 3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

- 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. ...

## **T**hanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
***to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night season.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
***tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.***

## **S**ong

#181 (Blue)

**Save Me, O God, By Thy Great Name**  
*Psalm 54*  
*Dwight Armstrong*

Save me, O God, by thy great name, and judge me by thy strength:  
My prayer hear, and to my words O God give ear to me.  
For they that strangers are to me do up against me rise;  
Oppressors do not care for God but seek to take my life.

The mighty God my helper is, lo, therefore I am bold:  
He taketh part with ev'ry one that does my soul uphold.  
To all my watchful foes he will their evil deeds repay:  
O for thy truth's sake cut them off, and take them all away.

A free-will off'ring I to Thee will bring in sacrifice;  
Lord, of thy name, for it is good, thy praises will I sing  
Because he hath delivered me from all adversities;  
And his desire mine eye hath seen upon mine enemies.

# We Listen to His Voice

## Call to Discipleship

For this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
*leaving you an example,*  
*so that you might follow in his steps.*

## The New Life

[Ephesians 4:17-32 ESV](#)

- 17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.
- 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.
- 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.
- 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!—
- 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,
- 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,
- 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,
- 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
- 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
- 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.
- 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
- 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### **Christ's Example of Humility**

Philippians 2:1-11 ESV

- 1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
- 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
- 3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
- 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
- 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
- 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
- 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Silent reflection on the readings**

## **S**ong

#77 (Blue)

### **The Mercy That Never Fails**

*Bonnie French, 20th cent.*

*Audrey Rhodes, 20th cent.*

When my soul cries out with a heavy heart, "Oh God, again I've failed,"  
Then He'll lift me up to the throne of grace with the mercy that never  
fails.

I'll sing Thy praises, Oh, Lord, my God, of the love that doth prevail;  
And I'll look to Thee, on bended knee, for the mercy that never fails.

If a friend is bowed under sin's dark cloud,  
Then take your brother's hand  
And petition Him Who forgives your sin with the mercy that never fails.  
I'll sing Thy praises, Oh, Lord, my God, of the love that doth prevail;  
And I'll look to Thee, on bended knee, for the mercy that never fails.

Though our sins be red as a crimson thread, and with foolish steps  
we've strayed,  
Out of sin's dark night He brings a light, with the mercy that never fails.  
I'll sing Thy praises, Oh, Lord, my God, of the love that doth prevail;  
And I'll look to Thee, on bended knee, for the mercy that never fails.

## **C**anticle

### **The Pre-eminence of Christ**

He is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
all things were created through him and for him.  
And he is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
(Colossians 1:15-17)

## **We Respond to Him**

### **I**ntercessory Prayers

Rejoice in the Lord always.

***The Lord is near.***

Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

God of joy, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you and for  
our neighbors.

***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You call us to take courage and to hope in you. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You show goodness to those who trust you in the sight of all. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You strengthen your people with wisdom. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be faithful in solidarity across generations and geography.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Yours is the Spirit of reconciling love and healing power. We pray for the world, for our enemies and for those who are in conflict.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

Forgive us, Lord, that as we grow to maturity,  
our faith is blighted with doubts, withered with  
worry, tainted with sophistication.  
We pray that you will make us like children again  
in faith — not childish, but childlike in the  
simplicity of a faith that is willing to trust you  
even though we cannot see what tomorrow will bring.  
We ask you to give each of us that childlike faith,  
that simplicity of mind which is willing to  
lay aside all egotism and conceit,  
which recognizes vanity for what it is —  
an empty show, which knows that we are  
incapable of thinking the thoughts of God,  
which is willing to be humble again.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*(Peter Marshall)*

## **C**harge and Benediction

Give us that faith that dares to love and trust you;  
grant energy to follow where you lead.  
Yours is the homeland we would now adjust to,  
yours is the rule of life our spirits need. Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to  
shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26

# ORDINARY TIME — Week 4

## In His Footsteps

Seventh Day of the Week (Sabbath/Saturday) — Evening Prayers

### Opening

Give thanks to God, and bless God's name!  
For the Holy One is good;

*God's steadfast love endures forever,  
and God's faithfulness to all generations.*

## We Offer Him Praise

### Praise

Open my lips, O Lord,  
*and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!**

### Psalm 96:1-9 ESV

- 1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- 2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- 4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.
- 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!
- 9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

## **T**hanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;  
I will sing your praise.

***Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

*(add free prayers of thanksgiving)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
***and let your glory shine over all the earth. Amen.***

## **S**ong

#192 (Blue)

### **Speak to My Heart**

*Gene Routh*

*B.B. McKinney, 1886-1952*

Speak to my heart, Lord Jesus, Speak that my soul may hear;  
Speak to my heart, Lord Jesus, Calm ev'ry doubt and fear.  
Speak to my heart, oh, speak to my heart,  
Speak to my heart, I pray;  
Yielded and still, seeking Thy will,  
Oh, speak to my heart today.

Speak to my heart, Lord Jesus, Purge me from ev'ry sin;  
Speak to my heart, Lord Jesus, Help me the lost to win.  
Speak to my heart, oh, speak to my heart,  
Speak to my heart, I pray;  
Yielded and still, seeking Thy will,  
Oh, speak to my heart today.

Speak to my heart, Lord Jesus, It is no longer mine;  
Speak to my heart, Lord Jesus, I would be wholly Thine.

Speak to my heart, oh, speak to my heart,  
Speak to my heart, I pray;  
Yielded and still, seeking Thy will,  
Oh, speak to my heart today.

## **C**onfession

Eternal God, you love us steadfastly,  
but we have trouble loving in return;  
you call us, but we have wax-filled ears;  
you reveal yourself, but our eyelids are heavy;  
you lead us toward our neighbor,  
but we build walls around ourselves;  
you hate evil, injustice, and alienation,  
but we get used to it.  
O God, we pray, help us to see ourselves  
both as we are and as we might be before you,  
and draw us by your Spirit's tether into your  
forgiving, renewing, and serviceable grace,  
through the mercies of Christ. Amen.

*(silence)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
***Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.***

## **We Listen to His Voice**

### **C**all to Discipleship

And we know that for those who love God  
all things work together for good, for those  
who are called according to his purpose.  
***For those whom he foreknew he also predestined  
to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that  
he might be the firstborn among many brothers.***

## **A Good Soldier of Christ**

### 2 Timothy 2:1-13 ESV

- 1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,
- 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
- 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.
- 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
- 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.
- 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.
- 8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,
- 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!
- 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.
- 11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
- 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;
- 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

## **The Lamb and the 144,000**

### Revelation 14:1-5 ESV

- 1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.
- 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,
- 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.
- 4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,
- 5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

## Silent reflection on the readings

### Song

#89 (Blue)

#### **The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

*Henry W. Baker, 1868*

*Ancient Irish Melody*

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His and He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me  
and on His shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And O what transport of delight from Thy pure chalice floweth.

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever.

### Canticle

#### **A Song of Christ's Glory**

***At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.***

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in  
the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming  
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)

## We Respond to Him

### Intercessory Prayers

Ask, and it will be given you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.  
***The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.***

God of joy, we bring our prayers to you as acts of love for you and for our neighbors.  
***In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.***

You call us to take courage and to hope in you. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You show goodness to those who trust you in the sight of all. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
***Lord, hear our prayers.***

You strengthen your people with wisdom. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be faithful in solidarity across generations and geography.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayers.**

Yours is the Spirit of reconciling love and healing power. We pray for the world, for our enemies and for those who are in conflict.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayers.**

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

*(add open prayers)*

In your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayers.**

Write your words on our hearts,  
think your thoughts through our minds,  
live your will through our limbs,  
Lord of history, God of choices.  
Breathe once more upon your people  
that we may do great things in your name.  
You have given us the gifts of your written word,  
your living Spirit, and your chosen people.  
May we choose to accept your grace  
as we seek to follow in the footsteps  
of your living son. Amen.

## **Charge and Benediction**

Peace and mercy be on all  
who follow Christ.  
The harvest is plentiful,

but the laborers are few.  
May we accept our assignment  
in God's harvest and  
seek to enlist others to labor with us.  
Amen.

***The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.***

Num. 6:24-26