



Fruit of the Spirit

Ordinary Time — Week 2

Prayer Services based on the Fruit of the Spirit

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 14th of the first month.

Days of Unleavened Bread — From the 15th through the 21st 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 1st 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. 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

Fruit of the Spirit

Week 2

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 Second Week — Fruit of the Spirit

For the second week, we selected the scripture at Galatians 5:22 and have developed a prayer service or two based on each of the fruit of the Spirit. There are many common elements carried throughout the week in these services. The morning and evening Canticles remain the same throughout the week, so their messages can be deeply rooted in our minds.

Scripture readings span both the Old and the New Testament, drawing the message of each theme into sharper focus, tying it all together as a complete message for Spiritual Israel on how to live and develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. The fruit is given to us by the Holy Spirit of God when we repent and turn to God. The gift is freely given. It is our job to maintain it until the great day when Christ returns.

ORDINARY TIME — Week 2

The Fruit of the Spirit

LOVE

First Day of the Week (Sunday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

The fruit of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

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

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

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

God First Loved Us

[Hosea 11:1-9 ESV](#)

- 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.
- 2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.
- 3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

- 4 I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.
- 5 They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me.
- 6 The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them because of their own counsels.
- 7 My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all.
- 8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.
- 9 I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works! Amen.

Song

#80 (Burgundy)

Give Thanks and Offer Praise

Psalm 50

Dwight Armstrong

Hear, O my people, and I'll speak, O Israel by name.

Against you I will testify, for God your God I am.

The fowls are all to me well known, that mountains high do yield;

I also claim as all my own The wild beasts of the field.

Pay all your vows to God most high; Give thanks and offer praise,
And when the day of trouble comes I'll hear and answer you.
Think you that I would eat of flesh or ask for sacrifice?
But rather unto Me your God, give thanks and offer praise.

But to the wicked man God says, Why mention my commands?
Why take my compact on your lips and cast my words behind?
Mark this, you who forget your God, and my instruction hate;
Therefore shall none deliver you, for this is my reproof.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Jesus said, Let anyone with ears to hear listen.

***You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.***

Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Love Forgives — The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32 ESV

- 11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons.
- 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.
- 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.
- 14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.
- 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.
- 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

- 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!
- 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.
- 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'"'
- 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.
- 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.
- 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.
- 25 "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.
- 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'
- 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,
- 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.
- 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'
- 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
- 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Fulfilling the Law Through Love

Romans 13:8-10 ESV

- 8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other

commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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 the Fruit

There is an orchard whose fruit is lush.

Love is the definition of God.

Joy is the response of those who brush the sleeve of love.

Peace is the result of having all our conflicts washed in love.

Patience is the art that never hurries love.
Kindness is love's application.
Goodness is the life grown moral by seeking love's pleasure.
Faithfulness is love's servant.
Gentleness is love's method.
Self-control is love's submission to integrity.
***Grace is the tree on which such fruit hangs.
Its nutrition is eternal life.***

We Respond to Him

Intercessary 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.

It is so like poor mortals
to love only those who are most like themselves.
God never loved so narrowly.
Pirates, potentates, primitives, pagans,
priests and put-ons —
God has the most eclectic taste in friends.
O that we could love as freely as our Father. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Now may our God
make you increase in love
to one another and to all people
and establish your hearts unblamable
in holiness. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

LOVE

First Day of the Week (Sunday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, you are very great!
*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment,
and stretching out the heavens like a tent.*

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

Love Forgives

[Psalms 32:1-2 ESV](#)

- 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times. Amen.

Song

#26 (Burgundy)

Who Shall Dwell on Thy Holy Hill?

Psalm 15

Dwight Armstrong

O Eternal, who shall dwell in the temple of Thy grace?
Who shall on Thy Holy hill have a fixed abiding place?
He who walks in righteousness, all his actions just and clear;
He whose words the truth express, spoken from a heart sincere.

He who ne'er with slandering tongue utters malice and deceit;
Who will ne'er his neighbor wrong, nor a sland'rous tale repeat.
Who will claim no usury, nor with bribes pollute his hand;
He who thus shall frame his life, shall unmoved forever stand.

Confession

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 ...

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.

(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

Jesus said, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit
he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

God's Love for Us

Romans 5:5-8 ESV

- 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—
- 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Return to the Lord

Joel 2:12-13 ESV

- 12 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
- 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Reconciliation Produces Love

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 ESV

- 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

- 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
- 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#212 (Burgundy)

God Speaks To Us

John 14

George W. Warren

God speaks to us; by his great pow'r we're led;
Let not your hearts become disquieted.
You trust in God, believe and trust in Me;
You trust in God, believe and trust in Me.

In God's vast realm are many offices;
Were it not so I surely would have said;
For I must go, a place for you prepare;
For I must go, a place for you prepare.

And when this place has been prepared for you,
I will return; with me you shall be too;
So that where I am you may also be;
So that where I am you may also be.

Canticle

A Song of Christ's Glory

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

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

- 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.

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 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.

Love is the only meal that will
satisfy those hungry for eternal things.
When this appetite obsesses us,
the pangs of lower appetites are overlooked.
With a single glimpse of crystal thrones
and gold pavilions, we lose our
fascination with potatoes.
Lord, teach us to seek a full meal of love. Amen.

Charge 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 2

The Fruit of the Spirit

PATIENCE

Third Day of the Week (Tuesday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

The fruit of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

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

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

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

The Lord is not Slow

[2 Peter 3:8-9 ESV](#)

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

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

Song

#136 (Blue)

There's a Great Day Coming

Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

There's a great day coming, A Great day coming,
There's a great day coming by and by
When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left;
Are you ready for that day to come?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?

There's a bright day coming, A bright day coming,
There's a bright day coming by and by,
But its brightness shall only come to them that love the Lord;
Are you ready for that day to come?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?

There's a sad day coming, A sad day coming,
There's a sad day coming by and by
when the sinner shall hear his doom, "Depart, I know ye not."
Are you ready for that day to come?

Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Jesus said, Let anyone with ears to hear listen.

***You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.***

Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Waiting for What God Promises

[Luke 2:25-32 ESV](#)

- 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
- 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
- 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,
- 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,
- 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;
- 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation
- 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Patience is the Key to the Final Blessing

[Hebrews 11:24-40 ESV](#)

- 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

- 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
- 26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
- 27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.
- 28 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.
- 29 By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.
- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.
- 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.
- 32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—
- 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
- 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
- 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.
- 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.
- 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—
- 38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.
- 39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,
- 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#63 (Burgundy)

Wait and Hope and Look for God

Psalm 37

Dwight Armstrong

Envy not nor fret yourself over evil lawless men;
They like grass soon fade away and wither like a flow'r.
Trust in the Eternal God, do the right and loyal be;
So will you dwell peacefully and truly shall be fed.

Put your confidence in god, and your way to Him commit;
He shall give you your desires; the petitions of your heart.
Rest in the Eternal God, patiently upon Him wait;
Envy not nor fret yourself because of evil men.

Cease from anger, cease from wrath, for all such shall be cut off;
Wait and hope and look for God; be still and trust in Him.
Soon the wicked shall not be, and his place shall not be found;
So shall you delight yourself in peace abundantly.

Canticle

A Song of the Fruit

There is an orchard whose fruit is lush.
Love is the definition of God.
Joy is the response of those who brush the sleeve of love.
Peace is the result of having all our conflicts washed in love.
Patience is the art that never hurries love.
Kindness is love's application.
Goodness is the life grown moral by seeking love's pleasure.
Faithfulness is love's servant.
Gentleness is love's method.
Self-control is love's submission to integrity.
Grace is the tree on which such fruit hangs.
Its nutrition is eternal life.

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.

Jesus promised Pentecost
but ordered his twelve eager friends
to wait for its arrival.
Pentecost is not just wind and flame.
It is waiting, wind and flame.
Without the waiting, the flame will never burn,
for the fire is snuffed by the whirl of air
around our foolish, busy lives.
Father, teach us the patience to wait for you
to fulfill your promises to mankind. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

And now to the God
who by the power at work within us
is able to do far more abundantly than all
that we ask or think, be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

PEACE

Second Day of the Week (Monday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are very great!

*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment,
and stretching out the heavens like a tent.*

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

You Keep Him in Perfect Peace

[Isaiah 26:2-4, 12-13 ESV](#)

2 Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

12 O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for you have indeed done for us all our works.

13 O LORD our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone we bring to remembrance.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times. Amen.

Song

#103 (Burgundy)

God Is My Rock, My Salvation

Psalm 61

Dwight Armstrong

God is my rock, my salvation, my hope My soul in silence waits for my
God alone;
He is my fort, I shall not be removed; He is my refuge, my high tower of
strength.
How long will men take pleasure in sin? They plot and threaten the life
of the king.

Vain men are they, delighting in craft; Their lips they bless with, but
they curse inwardly;
Low men or high, both are less than a breath; Trust and rely not on
extortion and gain.
Rescue shall come from my God alone, and I shall never be greatly
removed.

Still, O my soul, wait in silence for God; My hope and refuge is in my
God alone;
He is my Rock, my salvation and strength; With God alone shall my
deliverance be.
Kindness and pow'r belong to our God; He shall reward ev'ry man for
his works.

Confession

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 ...

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.

(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

Jesus said, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit
he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Peace in the Storm

[Acts 27:27-37 ESV](#)

27 When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven
across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that
they were nearing land.

28 So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther
on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms.

- 29 And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.
- 30 And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow,
- 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."
- 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.
- 33 As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing.
- 34 Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you."
- 35 And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.
- 36 Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves.
- 37 (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.)

The God of Peace

Philippians 4:4-9 ESV

- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;
- 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#233 (Burgundy)

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Anonymous

I am weak but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thru this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but
Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.
Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Canticle

A Song of Christ's Glory

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

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

- 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.

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.

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.

A sea of gravestones marked the exodus.
The Israelites ate the manna and
boasted regularly of miracles,
but they ultimately died and rotted in the sand.
Manna made life possible—
one starving day at a time.
Jesus, “the true bread from heaven,”
is the only bread that leaves
no tombstones—not even his own.
Give us your peace, O God, that we may
expect and know your promised eternity. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May your love abound more and more,
with knowledge and all understanding,
so that you may approve what is excellent,
and pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
filled with the fruits of righteousness

which come through Jesus Christ,
to the glory and praise of God. 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 2

The Fruit of the Spirit

PATIENCE

Third Day of the Week (Tuesday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

The fruit of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

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

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

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

The Lord is not Slow

[2 Peter 3:8-9 ESV](#)

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

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Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon his name;
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(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

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Song

#136 (Blue)

There's a Great Day Coming

Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

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When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left;
Are you ready for that day to come?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?

There's a bright day coming, A bright day coming,
There's a bright day coming by and by,
But its brightness shall only come to them that love the Lord;
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when the sinner shall hear his doom, "Depart, I know ye not."
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Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Waiting for What God Promises

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- 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
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Patience is the Key to the Final Blessing

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- 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#63 (Burgundy)

Wait and Hope and Look for God

Psalm 37

Dwight Armstrong

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They like grass soon fade away and wither like a flow'r.
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He shall give you your desires; the petitions of your heart.
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A Song of the Fruit

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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)

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Lord, hear our prayers.

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

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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.

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You offer the fullness of peace to the humble. We pray for the world,
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but ordered his twelve eager friends
to wait for its arrival.
Pentecost is not just wind and flame.
It is waiting, wind and flame.
Without the waiting, the flame will never burn,
for the fire is snuffed by the whirl of air
around our foolish, busy lives.
Father, teach us the patience to wait for you
to fulfill your promises to mankind. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

And now to the God
who by the power at work within us
is able to do far more abundantly than all
that we ask or think, be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

PATIENCE

Third Day of the Week (Tuesday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are very great!

*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment,
and stretching out the heavens like a tent.*

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

Living by God's Timetable

[Job 7:1-6 ESV](#)

- 1 "Has not man a hard service on earth, and are not his days like the days of a hired hand?
- 2 Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like a hired hand who looks for his wages,
- 3 so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me.
- 4 When I lie down I say, 'When shall I arise?' But the night is long, and I am full of tossing till the dawn.

- 5 My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt; my skin hardens, then
breaks out afresh.
- 6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle and come to their end
without hope.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times. Amen.

Song

#206 (Burgundy)

Behold, The Day Will Come
Zechariah 14
Dwight Armstrong

Behold, the day will come, the day of the Lord our God!
He shall bring all nations in that day against Jerusalem,
They shall take the city and share the spoil, in the very midst of them
Then our God Eternal shall go forth, and shall fight against our foes!

In that great day of God, our Lord shall stand on earth!
On the Mount of Olives He shall stand, and the mount shall cleave in
two!
There shall be a valley of mammoth size; by the valley you shall flee;
For our God Eternal shall be King, And shall rule over all the earth!

In that great day of God, t'will be neither day nor night;
But at even time it shall be light; it shall be one day to God.
Out from Zion shall living waters flow to the east and to the west;
Then our God Eternal shall be King; in that day shall there be one God!

Behold that day shall come, when all nations shall obey!
Those of all the nations that are left, to Jerusalem shall go;

They shall even go there from year to year, and shall keep the Feast of Booths;
There shall be one God, the Eternal, Who is King over all the earth!

Confession

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 ...

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.

(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

Jesus said, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit
he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

A Time For Every Season

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ESV](#)

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

The Rich Fool

Luke 12:16-21 ESV

- 16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,
- 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'
- 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.
- 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'
- 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'
- 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#88 (Blue)

Because I Knew Not When

Words: Sarah Williams, 1868, alt

Music: George W. Chadwick, 1893

Because I knew not when my life was good
And when there was a light upon my path

But turned my soul perversely to the dark,
O Lord, I do repent.

Because I held upon my selfish road
And left my brother wounded by the way
And called ambition duty and pressed on,
O Lord, I do repent.

Because I spent the strength Thou gavest me
In struggle which Thou never didst ordain
And have imperfect life to offer Thee,
O Lord, I do repent.

Because I was impatient, would not wait,
And thrust my willful hand across Thy threads
And marred the pattern drawn out for my life,
O Lord, I do repent.

Canticle

A Song of Christ's Glory

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

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

- 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.

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, 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.

There's a cry that comes but once.
Be ready lest that great shout
catch you unprepared.
Keep your lamps trimmed;
supply yourself with extra oil.
Wait,
for only those with ready light
shall follow him in.
Lord, we pray that we will be
ready when you call the bride
to the marriage supper of the lamb. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

If anyone is in Christ,
that person is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.
Walk in the newness of life.
God is with you. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

KINDNESS

Fourth Day of the Week (Wednesday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

The fruit of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

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

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

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

Love the Stranger Among You

[Deuteronomy 10:17-19 ESV](#)

17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

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

Song

#83 (Burgundy)

In Thy Loving Kindness, Lord

Psalm 51

Dwight Armstrong

In thy loving kindness Lord, be merciful to me;
In compassion great blot out all iniquity.
Wash me thoroughly from sin, from all guilt cleanse Thou me;
For transgressions I confess; sins I ever see.

'Gainst Thee only have I sinned, done evil in Thy sight,
That Thou speaking may be just, and in judging right.
My iniquities blot out, my sin hide from Thy view,
And in me a clean heart make, spirit right renew.

From Thy gracious presence, Lord, O cast me not away,
And Thy Holy Spirit take not from me I pray.
Joy which Thy salvation brings again to me restore;
With Thy Spirit free do Thou keep me evermore.

Sacrifice dost thou not want, else would I give it Thee,
And with offering shalt Thou not delighted be.
For a broken spirit is to God a sacrifice,
And a broken, contrite heart, Thou wilt not despise.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Jesus said, Let anyone with ears to hear listen.

***You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.***

Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37 ESV

- 25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
- 26 He said to him, "**What is written in the Law? How do you read it?**"
- 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."
- 28 And he said to him, "**You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.**"
- 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
- 30 Jesus replied, "**A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.**
- 31 **Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.**
- 32 **So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.**
- 33 **But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.**
- 34 **He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.**
- 35 **And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'**

- 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"
- 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Be Ready for Every Good Work

Titus 3:1-5 ESV

- 1 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,
- 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.
- 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.
- 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,
- 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#118 (Burgundy)

Unto God I Lift My Voice

Psalm 77

Dwight Armstrong

Unto God I lift my voice; Unto Him I cry.
In the day my trouble comes, Then I seek my God.
In the night I do not cease, I am overwhelmed;
I remember God and moan; Never close my eyes.

I consider days of old; Years of ancient times.
I commune with mine own heart; Search and meditate.
Will the Lord cast off His love, And no more be kind?
Is this now my lot and trial; Will His kindness fail?

Has the Most High strength no more; Has His promise failed?
Then I think of His great works; Muse on wonders old.

I will talk of His great deeds; Who is great like God?
God's true way is holiness; Far removed from sin.

By God's mighty arm and strength, Israel was saved.
Then the waters of the seas Saw and did obey.
Clouds poured forth and lightnings flashed; Thunders rent the skies;
Whirlwinds shook the earth below; God so led His flock.

Canticle

A Song of the Fruit

There is an orchard whose fruit is lush.
Love is the definition of God.
Joy is the response of those who brush the sleeve of love.
Peace is the result of having all our conflicts washed in love.
Patience is the art that never hurries love.
Kindness is love's application.
Goodness is the life grown moral by seeking love's pleasure.
Faithfulness is love's servant.
Gentleness is love's method.
Self-control is love's submission to integrity.
***Grace is the tree on which such fruit hangs.
Its nutrition is eternal life.***

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.

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.

Kindness pays dividends here in this life.
It smiles to reassure the frightened.
It holds out bread to the starving.
It is an oasis in the desert of
"everybody's got to make a living."
It is a banquet in the famine of
"God helps those who help themselves."
Teach us, O God, to always be kind to all
whom we may meet along life's way. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Now to the one who is able to
strengthen you according to the gospel
and the preaching of Jesus Christ ...
to the only wise God, be glory
forevermore through Jesus Christ. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

GOODNESS

Fourth Day of the Week (Wednesday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are very great!

*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment,
and stretching out the heavens like a tent.*

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

Good Trees Bear Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45 ESV

43 "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,

44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times. Amen.

Song

#85 (Burgundy)

God is Most Gracious, Kind and Good

Psalm 52

Dwight Armstrong

O mighty man, why boast you of evil,
Scheming and devising subtle mischief and lies?
Like a sharp razor does your tongue speak;
Planning destruction against godly men.
You despise good and evil do you love;
Falsehood do you prefer to speaking the truth.

Why do you boast when God is most gracious,
Kind and merciful and ever loving and good?
Since you trust in falsehood and your great wealth;
God will remove you, uproot you from life.
Those who trust God shall see and be in awe;
They shall laugh at you for all your folly and pride.

O see the man who made not God his strength.
For he sought refuge in abundance of wealth.
But in God's mercy, in His steadfast love,
And His great kindness, in these do I trust.
And in God's house, like an olive green am I;
I will praise Him and proclaim His great name!

Confession

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 ...

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.

(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

Jesus said, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit
he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Goodness Accomplishes God's Will

[2 Timothy 2:14-21 ESV](#)

- 14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.
- 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
- 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,

- 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are
Hymenaeus and Philetus,
18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has
already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.
19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord
knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name
of the Lord depart from iniquity."
20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver
but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for
dishonorable.
21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he
will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the
master of the house, ready for every good work.

Faith Without Works is Useless

James 2:20-24 ESV

- 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from
works is useless?
21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up
his son Isaac on the altar?
22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was
completed by his works;
23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God,
and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a
friend of God.
24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#61 (Burgundy)

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.

Canticle

A Song of Christ's Glory

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

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

- 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.

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.

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.

We are saved by a holiness we did not perfect,
dressed in goodness we did not achieve.
Still we have put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
heaven's uniform of the day. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

FAITHFULNESS

Fifth Day of the Week (Thursday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

The fruit of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

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

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

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

God Blesses Faithfulness

Genesis 12:1-5 ESV

- 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
- 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
- 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.
Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.
- 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan.
When they came to the land of Canaan,

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

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

Song

#227 (Burgundy)

Faith of Our Fathers

Words, Frederick W. Faber, 1849

Tune, Henri F. Hemy, 1864

Arranged, James G. Walton, 1874

Faith of our fathers, living still, In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy, Whenever we hear that glorious
word!

Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will strive To win all nations unto Thee;
And through the truth that comes from God, We all shall then be truly
free.

Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will love Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how By kindly words and virtuous
life.

Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Jesus said, Let anyone with ears to hear listen.

*You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.*

Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

The Sheep and the Goats

Matthew 25:31-40 ESV

- 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.
- 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
- 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.
- 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
- 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
- 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'
- 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?
- 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?
- 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'
- 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Faithfulness to the End

Matthew 24:9-13 ESV

- 9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

- 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.
- 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.
- 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.
- 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#44 (Burgundy)

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

Ray Palmer, 1830, alt.

Lowell Mason, 1832

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire.
As Thou has died for me, O may my love to Thee
pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide.
Bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove.
O bear me safe in love, a ransomed soul!

Canticle

A Song of the Fruit

There is an orchard whose fruit is lush.
Love is the definition of God.
Joy is the response of those who brush the sleeve of love.
Peace is the result of having all our conflicts washed in love.
Patience is the art that never hurries love.
Kindness is love's application.
Goodness is the life grown moral by seeking love's pleasure.
Faithfulness is love's servant.
Gentleness is love's method.
Self-control is love's submission to integrity.
***Grace is the tree on which such fruit hangs.
Its nutrition is eternal life.***

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.

There is a kind of bread not baked on earth.
It is not made from grain and is never toasted.
It never grows stale in human larders.
Seek this better bread.
Eat and never die. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people,
that you may declare the wonderful deeds of God
who called you out of darkness into marvelous light.
Go into the world; live as God's people,
through the grace of Jesus Christ
and the power of God's Spirit. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

FAITHFULNESS

Fifth Day of the Week (Thursday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, you are very great!
*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment,
and stretching out the heavens like a tent.*

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

Trust in God

[Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV](#)

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
- 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times. Amen.

Song

#181 (Burgundy)

His Mercy Never Fails

Psalm 136

Dwight Armstrong

O give thanks, unto the Lord; Give thanks unto the Lord of Lords;
He performs wonderful works; He stretch'd the earth above the sea!
Give thanks to God for He is good; He who alone doeth great works!
His kindness shall always endure, His mercy never fails!

O give thanks, unto the Lord; For it was He who made great lights;
For the day He made the sun; And for the night the moon and stars!
Give thanks to God for He is good; He who alone doeth great works!
His kindness shall always endure, His mercy never fails!

O give thanks, unto the Lord; He struck at Egypt's stubborn pride;
Their first born He took in wrath; He led His people through the sea!
Give thanks to God for He is good; He who alone doeth great works!
His kindness shall always endure, His mercy never fails!

O give thanks, unto the Lord; For mighty kings of mighty names,
He destroyed and put to shame; Isr'el was saved from all their foes!
Give thanks to God for He is good; He who alone doeth great works!
His kindness shall always endure, His mercy never fails!

Confession

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 ...

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.

(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

Jesus said, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit
he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

The Faith of Abraham

[Hebrews 11:8-13 ESV](#)

- 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.
- 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.
- 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

- 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.
- 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Unswerving Faithfulness

2 Chronicles 27:1-6 ESV

- 1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok.
- 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD according to all that his father Uzziah had done, except he did not enter the temple of the LORD. But the people still followed corrupt practices.
- 3 He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD and did much building on the wall of Ophel.
- 4 Moreover, he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and forts and towers on the wooded hills.
- 5 He fought with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed against them. And the Ammonites gave him that year 100 talents of silver, and 10,000 cors of wheat and 10,000 of barley. The Ammonites paid him the same amount in the second and the third years.
- 6 So Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before the LORD his God.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#70 (Burgundy)

Amazing Grace

John Newton, 1779

Edwin O. Excell (1851-1921)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Canticle

A Song of Christ's Glory

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

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

- 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.

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.

To be faithful requires but one great motivation.
Think of what Christ paid to purchase you,
and then endeavor to be worth the purchase price. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant us to live in such harmony
with one another, in accord with Jesus Christ,
that together we may glorify God now
and forever. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

GENTLENESS

Sixth Day of the Week (Friday) — Morning Prayers

Opening

The fruit of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

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

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

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

Become Like Little Children

Matthew 18:1-4 ESV

- 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
- 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them
- 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

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

Song

#41 (Burgundy)

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Ascribed to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836
William B. Bradbury, 1859

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Thy tender care.
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us; For our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us; Thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us; Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us; Be the Guardian of our way.
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us; Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear the children when they pray.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear the children when they pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; Early let us do Thy will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Jesus said, Let anyone with ears to hear listen.

*You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.*

Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

The Good Shepherd

John 10:7-15 ESV

- 7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
- 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
- 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.
- 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.
- 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

A Gentle Life

Ruth 2:19-22 ESV

- 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

- 20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers."
- 21 And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"
- 22 And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted."

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#13 (Burgundy)

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.

Canticle

A Song of the Fruit

There is an orchard whose fruit is lush.
Love is the definition of God.
Joy is the response of those who brush the sleeve of love.
Peace is the result of having all our conflicts washed in love.
Patience is the art that never hurries love.
Kindness is love's application.
Goodness is the life grown moral by seeking love's pleasure.
Faithfulness is love's servant.
Gentleness is love's method.
Self-control is love's submission to integrity.
***Grace is the tree on which such fruit hangs.
Its nutrition is eternal life.***

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, 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.

Children trust because it is not in their nature to toy with falsehood or play with unbelief. No one is readied for the kingdom by "growing up." Rather, we prepare ourselves by gently growing down to childlikeness. Lord, help us to grow down, to put

away our grown-up arrogance, and
to become like little children.
We ask through Christ Jesus, for whom
be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Now may the God of peace,
who brought again from the dead
Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the everlasting covenant,
equip you with everything good,
that you may do what is pleasing in God's sight,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory
forever and ever. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

GENTLENESS

Sixth Day of the Week (Friday) — Evening Prayers

Opening

O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, you are very great!
*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment,
and stretching out the heavens like a tent.*

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

Living Together in Unity

[Psalms 133:1-3 ESV](#)

- 1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times. Amen.

Song

#45 (Burgundy)

Our God is Good and Upright

Psalm 25

Dwight Armstrong

Our God is good and upright; the way He'll sinners show.
The meek in judgment He will guide, and make His paths to know.
The whole paths of the Lord are truth and mercy sure
To those that keep His covenant and testimonies pure.

Now, for Thine own name's sake, O Lord, I Thee entreat
To pardon mine iniquity, for it is very great.
What man is he that fears the Lord and doth Him serve?
Him shall He teach of His own way; the way that he should choose.

His soul shall dwell at ease; and his posterity
Shall flourish still and of the earth inheritors shall be.
With those that fear Him is the secret of the Lord;
The knowledge of His covenant He will to them afford.

Confession

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 ...

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.

(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

Jesus said, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit
he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Gentleness Loves Others

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 ESV

- 1 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.
- 2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.
- 3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive,
- 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.
- 5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness.
- 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.

- 7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.
- 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.
- 9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.
- 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.
- 11 For you know how, like a father with his children,
- 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Two Kinds of Wisdom

James 3:13-18 ESV

- 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.
- 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.
- 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
- 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.
- 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.
- 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#58 (Burgundy)

In The Garden

C. Austin Miles

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;

And the voice I hear, Falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet, the birds hush their singing;
And the melody That he gave to me,
Within my heart is ringing.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; Through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Canticle

A Song of Christ's Glory

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

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

- 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.

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, 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.

Consider the rainbow.
Its simple colors reveal God's
truce of gentleness with humankind.
He used mere sun and mist
to sign his name across the skies.
Father of all, lead us to the same
gentleness with which you remind
us of your greatness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

God gives life. God renews life.
God is life. Celebrate the life within you
and let it overflow to enliven the world. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

SELF-CONTROL

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

Opening

The fruit of the Spirit are these:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

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

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

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

Live with Self-Control

[Titus 2:11-12 ESV](#)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

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

Song

#121 (Blue)

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Attributed to George Croly, 1866

Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
and make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no op'ning skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always right;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh.
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love:
one holy passion filling all my frame,
the baptism of the heav'n descended Dove,
My heart an altar and Thy love the flame.

We Listen to His Voice

Call to Discipleship

Jesus said, Let anyone with ears to hear listen.

***You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.***

Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Self-Control Overcomes Temptation

Matthew 4:8-11 ESV

- 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"
11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Self-Control Seeks God

Romans 1:18-32 ESV

- 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.
20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

- 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.
- 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,
- 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
- 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;
- 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.
- 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.
- 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,
- 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
- 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.
- 32 Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#32 (Blue)

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Isaac Watts, 1719

Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne, 1623

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land, in ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In ev'ry land begin the son, To ev'ry land the strains belong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy word.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no
more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Canticle

A Song of the Fruit

There is an orchard whose fruit is lush.
Love is the definition of God.
Joy is the response of those who brush the sleeve of love.
Peace is the result of having all our conflicts washed in love.
Patience is the art that never hurries love.
Kindness is love's application.
Goodness is the life grown moral by seeking love's pleasure.
Faithfulness is love's servant.
Gentleness is love's method.
Self-control is love's submission to integrity.
Grace is the tree on which such fruit hangs.
Its nutrition is eternal life.

We Respond to Him

Intercessary 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.

Jesus is our mentor in the life of discipline.
He denied himself in the wilderness
and so made himself believable later
when he spoke of self-denial.
He modeled what he would teach
before he taught it.
Lord, grant us the wisdom to see
and heed his great example.
We ask through the Lord Jesus, for whom
be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May your love abound more and more,
with knowledge and all understanding,
so that you may approve what is excellent,
and pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
filled with the fruits of righteousness
which come through Jesus Christ,
to the glory and praise of God. 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 2

Fruit of the Spirit

SELF-CONTROL

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

Opening

O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

We Offer Him Praise

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are very great!

*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering yourself with light as with a garment,
and stretching out the heavens like a tent.*

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

Walk Worthy of Your Calling

[Ephesians 4:1-5 ESV](#)

- 1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
- 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
- 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—
- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

(add free prayers of thanksgiving)

Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times. Amen.

Song

#137 (Burgundy)

Holy, Mighty Majesty!

Psalm 99

Dwight Armstrong

The Eternal reigneth high above; He is mighty, He is great!
There between the cherubim He sits; let the people praise His name!
He is King and He maintains the right; He restoreth equity;
Worship and exalt the Eternal One! Holy, Mighty Majesty!

The Eternal One is God and King, and He spoke unto His priests;
In the pillar of the cloud He spoke, unto them who kept His law.
Moses is among them, Aaron too; they extolled the Lord their God.
Samuel also called upon His name; God did hear, and answered them.

O Eternal, You did answer them; You forgave and you avenged;
So, exalt the One Eternal God, Who in Zion is most great!
He is King and He maintains the right; He restoreth equity;
Worship and exalt the Eternal One! Holy, Mighty Majesty!

Confession

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 ...

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.

(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

Jesus said, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit
he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

The Ten Bridesmaids

Matthew 25:1-13 ESV

- 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
- 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
- 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
- 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.
- 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'
- 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.

- 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
- 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'
- 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.
- 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'
- 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'
- 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Run the Race to Win the Prize

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ESV

- 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.
- 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
- 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.
- 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Silent reflection on the readings

Song

#39 (Burgundy)

Wonderful Words of Life

P.P. Bliss, 19th cent.

Sing them over again to me. Wonderful words of Life;
Let me more of their beauty see. Wonderful words of Life.
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty;
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of Life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of Life.

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all Wonderful words of Life;
Sinner, list to the loving call; Wonderful words of Life.
All so freely given, Given without leaven;

Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of Life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of Life.

Sweetly echo the gospel call. Wonderful words of Life;
Offer pardon and peace to all. Wonderful words of Life.
Jesus only Savior, Sanctify for ever.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of Life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of Life.

Canticle

A Song of Christ's Glory

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

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

- 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.

We Respond to Him

Intercessary 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.

Following God is not just a matter
of doing what he says, but
doing what he says when he says
to do it. Does the foul weather
prevent your obedience?
Is it difficult to see the column of smoke?
Follow it, regardless.
Father, lead us always in the right way
and give us the faith to follow your
lead even when it isn't completely clear.
We ask in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

And now to the God
who by the power at work within us
is able to do far more abundantly
than all that we ask or think,
be glory in the church and
in Jesus Christ to all generations,
for ever and ever. 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