

CELEBRATION



**FORMED**







**August 1, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Morning Short Reading:**

Joy is the greatest cleanser, and it is the greatest testimony to our faith. “Toil with happiness,” my Lord once said to me.  
St Francis of Assisi, “A Kind Face”

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 1:1-18**

In the beginning the Word already existed.  
The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He existed in the beginning with God.  
God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.  
The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.  
God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’”

## Celebration – A Joyful Life

From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:57-64**

Heth

Lord, you are mine!  
I promise to obey your words!  
With all my heart I want your blessings.  
Be merciful as you promised.  
I pondered the direction of my life,  
and I turned to follow your laws.  
I will hurry, without delay,  
to obey your commands.  
Evil people try to drag me into sin,  
but I am firmly anchored to your instructions.  
I rise at midnight to thank you  
for your just regulations.  
I am a friend to anyone who fears you—  
anyone who obeys your commandments.  
O Lord, your unfailing love fills the earth; teach me your decrees.

### **Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen."

### **Evening**

Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea."

**Evening Short Reading:**

With passion pray. With passion work. With passion make love. With passion eat and drink and dance and play. Why look like a dead fish in this ocean of God?  
Rumi, "With Passion"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 1:19-34**

This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

"Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

"No," he replied.

"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"

"No."

"Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
'Clear the way for the Lord's coming!'"

Then the Pharisees who had been sent asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?"

John told them, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal."

This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 119:65-72**

Teth

You have done many good things for me, Lord,  
just as you promised.  
I believe in your commands;  
now teach me good judgment and knowledge.  
I used to wander off until you disciplined me;  
but now I closely follow your word.  
You are good and do only good;  
teach me your decrees.  
Arrogant people smear me with lies,  
but in truth I obey your commandments with all my heart.  
Their hearts are dull and stupid,  
but I delight in your instructions.  
My suffering was good for me,  
for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.  
Your instructions are more valuable to me  
than millions in gold and silver.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 2, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Morning Short Reading:**

I like when the music happens like this: Something in His eye grabs hold of a tambourine in me, then I turn and lift a violin in someone else, and they turn, and this turning continues; it has reached you now. Isn't that something?  
Rumi, “Isn't that Something?”

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 1:35-51**

The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them.

They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

“Come and see,” he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”).

Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown.

Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

“Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.

As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.”

“How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:73-80**

Yodh

You made me; you created me.  
Now give me the sense to follow your commands.  
May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy,  
for I have put my hope in your word.  
I know, O Lord, that your regulations are fair;  
you disciplined me because I needed it.  
Now let your unfailing love comfort me,  
just as you promised me, your servant.  
Surround me with your tender mercies so I may live,  
for your instructions are my delight.  
Bring disgrace upon the arrogant people who lied about me;  
meanwhile, I will concentrate on your commandments.  
Let me be united with all who fear you,  
with those who know your laws.  
May I be blameless in keeping your decrees;  
then I will never be ashamed.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea."

### **Evening Short Reading:**

An interesting characteristic of celebration is that it tends toward more celebration. Joy begets joy. Laughter begets laughter. It is one of those few things in life that we multiply by giving.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 2:1-12**

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 119:81-88**

Kaph

I am worn out waiting for your rescue,  
but I have put my hope in your word.  
My eyes are straining to see your promises come true.  
When will you comfort me?  
I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke,  
but I have not forgotten to obey your decrees.  
How long must I wait?  
When will you punish those who persecute me?  
These arrogant people who hate your instructions  
have dug deep pits to trap me.  
All your commands are trustworthy.  
Protect me from those who hunt me down without cause.  
They almost finished me off,  
but I refused to abandon your commandments.  
In your unfailing love, spare my life;  
then I can continue to obey your laws.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 3, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Morning Short Reading:**

A way to encourage celebration is to accent the creative gifts of fantasy and imagination. Harvey Cox observes that “man's celebrative and imaginative faculties have atrophied.” In another place he writes, “There was a time when visionaries were canonized and mystics were admired. Now they are studied, smiled at, perhaps even committed. All in all, fantasy is viewed with distrust in our time. We who follow Christ can risk going against the cultural tide. Let's with abandon relish the fantasy games of children. Let's see vision and dream dreams. Let's play, sing, laugh.”

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 2:13-24**

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, “Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!”

Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God's house will consume me.”

But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.”

“All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

“What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew human nature.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:89-96**

Lamedh

Your eternal word, O Lord,  
stands firm in heaven.  
Your faithfulness extends to every generation,  
as enduring as the earth you created.  
Your regulations remain true to this day,  
for everything serves your plans.  
If your instructions hadn't sustained me with joy,  
I would have died in my misery.  
I will never forget your commandments,  
for by them you give me life.  
I am yours; rescue me!  
For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments.  
Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me,  
I will quietly keep my mind on your laws.  
Even perfection has its limits,  
but your commands have no limit.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Evening Short Reading:**

Celebration is not noise. It is not a spinning head. It is not just individual kicks. It is the creation of a common identity, a common consciousness. Celebration is everybody making joy. Not as a duty (you can't manufacture joy out of the duty to have fun). Celebration is when we let joy make itself out of our love. We like to be together. We like to dance together. Thomas Merton, *Love and Living*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 3:1-21**

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

“How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go

near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 119:97-104**

Mem

Oh, how I love your instructions!  
I think about them all day long.  
Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,  
for they are my constant guide.  
Yes, I have more insight than my teachers,  
for I am always thinking of your laws.  
I am even wiser than my elders,  
for I have kept your commandments.  
I have refused to walk on any evil path,  
so that I may remain obedient to your word.  
I haven’t turned away from your regulations,  
for you have taught me well.  
How sweet your words taste to me;  
they are sweeter than honey.  
Your commandments give me understanding;  
no wonder I hate every false way of life.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 4, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Morning Short Reading:**

The reward of choosing joy is joy itself. There is so much rejection, pain, and woundedness among us, but once you choose to claim the joy hidden in the midst of all suffering, life becomes celebration. Joy never denies the sadness, but transforms it to a fertile soil for more joy.

Lisa Graham McMinn, *The Contented Soul*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 3:22-36**

Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people.

At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism. (This was before John was thrown into prison.) A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. So John's disciples came to him and said, “Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.”

John replied, “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’ It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

“He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else. He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them! Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands. And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment.”

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:105-112**

Nun

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet  
and a light for my path.  
I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again:  
I will obey your righteous regulations.  
I have suffered much, O Lord;  
restore my life again as you promised.  
Lord, accept my offering of praise,  
and teach me your regulations.  
My life constantly hangs in the balance,  
but I will not stop obeying your instructions.  
The wicked have set their traps for me,  
but I will not turn from your commandments.  
Your laws are my treasure;  
they are my heart's delight.  
I am determined to keep your decrees  
to the very end.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Evening Short Reading:**

Celebration is a shout of love, and of openness, not a feeling of power and superiority. Very often these days we have joy without God, or God without joy. That is the result of a certain tradition of God as all-powerful and severe, a tradition which separated joy from the divine. But celebration is joy with God. Each culture and each tradition expresses this joy in a different way, with more or less restraint. At l'Arche, we can celebrate with a burst of laughter and song...True belly laughs are important in community life. When a group laughs in this way, many pains are swept away.

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 4:1-15**

Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

“But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?”

Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

“Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water.”

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.

Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 119:113-120**

Samekh

I hate those with divided loyalties,  
but I love your instructions.

You are my refuge and my shield;  
your word is my source of hope.

Get out of my life, you evil-minded people,  
for I intend to obey the commands of my God.

Lord, sustain me as you promised, that I may live!

Do not let my hope be crushed.

Sustain me, and I will be rescued;  
then I will meditate continually on your decrees.

But you have rejected all who stray from your decrees.

They are only fooling themselves.

You skim off the wicked of the earth like scum;  
no wonder I love to obey your laws!

I tremble in fear of you;

I stand in awe of your regulations.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 5, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea."

**Morning Short Reading:**

God created pleasure and gave humans the intentional ability to celebrate with body, soul, and spirit. Sensuality is God's gift, and Christians above all people should be able to celebrate as they utilize all of their five senses....Sensual celebrations and the ability to party are not about simple indulgence. Celebration is about sharing with others and gathers momentum with the connection of souls. It is centered in tuning in to God's heart. Douglas Rosenau, The Celebration of Sex

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 4:16-38**

"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

"I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

"Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus told her, "I Am the Messiah!"

Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But Jesus replied, “I have a kind of food you know nothing about.”

“Did someone bring him food while we were gone?” the disciples asked each other.

Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, ‘One plants and another harvests.’ And it’s true. I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:121-128**

Ayin

Don’t leave me to the mercy of my enemies,  
for I have done what is just and right.  
Please guarantee a blessing for me.  
Don’t let the arrogant oppress me!  
My eyes strain to see your rescue,  
to see the truth of your promise fulfilled.  
I am your servant; deal with me in unfailing love,  
and teach me your decrees.  
Give discernment to me, your servant;  
then I will understand your laws.  
Lord, it is time for you to act,  
for these evil people have violated your instructions.  
Truly, I love your commands  
more than gold, even the finest gold.  
Each of your commandments is right.  
That is why I hate every false way.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

### **Evening Short Reading:**

In the Christian tradition, the more deeply we enter the mystery of Christ, the thinner the line becomes between joy and suffering, between tears of happiness and tears of sadness...It is a paradox of our faith that we feel joy when we can meaningfully suffer for or with others, not when we avoid it. And we feel sadness when we turn away from the pain of others, not when we unite with it.

Richard Rohr, On the Threshold of Transformation

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 4:39-54**

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”

At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee. He himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.

As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

Jesus asked, “Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?”

The official pleaded, “Lord, please come now before my little boy dies.”

Then Jesus told him, “Go back home. Your son will live!” And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, “Yesterday afternoon at one o’clock his fever suddenly disappeared!” Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136**

Pe  
Your laws are wonderful.  
No wonder I obey them!  
The teaching of your word gives light,  
so even the simple can understand.  
I pant with expectation,  
longing for your commands.  
Come and show me your mercy,  
as you do for all who love your name.  
Guide my steps by your word,  
so I will not be overcome by evil.  
Ransom me from the oppression of evil people;  
then I can obey your commandments.  
Look upon me with love;  
teach me your decrees.  
Rivers of tears gush from my eyes  
because people disobey your instructions.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 6, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Morning Short Reading:**

It seems in the spiritual world, we do not really find something until we first lose it, ignore it, miss it, long for it, choose it, and personally find it again – but now on a new level. Three of the parables of Jesus are about losing something, searching for it anew with some effort, finding it, and in each case throwing a big party afterwards. A sheep, a coin, a son are all lost and found in Luke 15, followed by the kind of inner celebration that comes with any new realization.

Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 5:1-18**

Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

“I can't, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can't work on the Sabbath! The law doesn't allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

“Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.

The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.” Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.” So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:137-144**

Tsadhe

O Lord, you are righteous,  
and your regulations are fair.  
Your laws are perfect  
and completely trustworthy.  
I am overwhelmed with indignation,  
for my enemies have disregarded your words.  
Your promises have been thoroughly tested;  
that is why I love them so much.  
I am insignificant and despised,  
but I don’t forget your commandments.  
Your justice is eternal,  
and your instructions are perfectly true.  
As pressure and stress bear down on me,  
I find joy in your commands.  
Your laws are always right;  
help me to understand them so I may live.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we’ll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

## **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Concepts create idols; only wonder comprehends anything. People kill one another over idols.  
Wonder makes us fall to our knees.  
St. Gregory of Nyssa

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 5:19-30**

So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants. In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

“And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it's here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live. The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man. Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment. I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Evening Psalm: Psalm 145-152**

Qoph

I pray with all my heart; answer me, Lord!  
I will obey your decrees.  
I cry out to you; rescue me,  
that I may obey your laws.  
I rise early, before the sun is up;  
I cry out for help and put my hope in your words.  
I stay awake through the night,  
thinking about your promise.  
In your faithful love, O Lord, hear my cry;  
let me be revived by following your regulations.  
Lawless people are coming to attack me;  
they live far from your instructions.  
But you are near, O Lord,  
and all your commands are true.  
I have known from my earliest days  
that your laws will last forever.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 7, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

**Morning Short Reading:**

To celebrate is to share in a greater joy, to participate in an eternal drama. In acts of consumption the intention is to please our own selves; in acts of celebration the intention is to extol God, the spirit, the source of blessing.

Abraham Joshua Heschel

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 5:31-47**

“If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid. But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true. In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true. Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved. John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message. But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me. And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you.

“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

“Your approval means nothing to me, because I know you don't have God's love within you. For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.

“Yet it isn't I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes. If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. But since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:153-160**

Resh

Look upon my suffering and rescue me,  
for I have not forgotten your instructions.  
Argue my case; take my side!  
Protect my life as you promised.  
The wicked are far from rescue,  
for they do not bother with your decrees.  
Lord, how great is your mercy;  
let me be revived by following your regulations.  
Many persecute and trouble me,  
yet I have not swerved from your laws.  
Seeing these traitors makes me sick at heart,  
because they care nothing for your word.  
See how I love your commandments, Lord.  
Give back my life because of your unfailing love.  
The very essence of your words is truth;  
all your just regulations will stand forever.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 15:19-21**

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
he has hurled into the sea.”

### Evening Short Reading:

God rejoices. Not because the problems of the world have been solved, not because all human pain and suffering have come to an end, nor because thousands of people have been converted and are now praising him for his goodness. No, God rejoices because *one* of his children who was lost has been found. What I am called to is to enter into that joy. It is God's joy, not the joy that the world offers.

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 6:1-15

After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?” He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!”

Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. “There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?”

“Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!” When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

### Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 119:161-168

Shin

Powerful people harass me without cause,  
but my heart trembles only at your word.

I rejoice in your word  
like one who discovers a great treasure.  
I hate and abhor all falsehood,  
but I love your instructions.  
I will praise you seven times a day  
because all your regulations are just.  
Those who love your instructions have great peace  
and do not stumble.  
I long for your rescue, Lord,  
so I have obeyed your commands.  
I have obeyed your laws,  
for I love them very much.  
Yes, I obey your commandments and laws  
because you know everything I do.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 8, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

O Triune God, with heart and voice adoring,  
Praise we the goodness that doth crown our days;  
Pray we that Thou wilt hear us, still imploring  
Thy love and favor kept to us always.  
William C. Doane, "Ancient of Days"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 6:16-34**

That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!" Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!  
Jesus, the Bread of Life

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them. Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him. They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, Moses didn’t give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “give us that bread every day.”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 119:169-176**

Taw

O Lord, listen to my cry;  
    give me the discerning mind you promised.  
Listen to my prayer;  
    rescue me as you promised.  
Let praise flow from my lips,  
    for you have taught me your decrees.  
Let my tongue sing about your word,  
    for all your commands are right.  
Give me a helping hand,  
    for I have chosen to follow your commandments.  
O Lord, I have longed for your rescue,  
    and your instructions are my delight.  
Let me live so I can praise you,  
    and may your regulations help me.  
I have wandered away like a lost sheep;  
    come and find me,  
    for I have not forgotten your commands.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we’ll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Evening Short Reading:**

This is a real discipline. It requires choosing for the light even when there is much darkness to frighten me, choosing for life even when the forces of death are so visible, and choosing for the truth even when I am surrounded with lies. I am tempted to be so impressed by the obvious sadness of the human condition that I no longer claim the joy manifesting itself in many small but very real ways. The reward of choosing joy is joy itself.  
Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 6:35-59**

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me. However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

But Jesus replied, "Stop complaining about what I said. For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. As it is written in the Scriptures, 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. Yes, I am the bread of life! Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked.

So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. I am the true bread that came down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever.”

He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 120**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

I took my troubles to the Lord;  
I cried out to him, and he answered my prayer.  
Rescue me, O Lord, from liars  
and from all deceitful people.  
O deceptive tongue, what will God do to you?  
How will he increase your punishment?  
You will be pierced with sharp arrows  
and burned with glowing coals.

How I suffer in far-off Meshech.  
It pains me to live in distant Kedar.  
I am tired of living  
among people who hate peace.  
I search for peace;  
but when I speak of peace, they want war!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 9, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

"Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail Him! hail Him! highest archangels in glory;  
Strength and honor give to His holy Name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,  
In His arms He carries them all day long:

Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Tell of His excellent greatness.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Ever in joyful song!"  
Fanny Crosby, "Praise Him, Praise Him"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 6:60-71**

Many of his disciples said, "This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.) Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me."

At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?"

Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

Then Jesus said, "I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil." He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 121**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

I look up to the mountains—  
does my help come from there?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth!

He will not let you stumble;  
the one who watches over you will not slumber.  
Indeed, he who watches over Israel  
never slumbers or sleeps.

The Lord himself watches over you!  
The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.  
The sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon at night.

The Lord keeps you from all harm  
and watches over your life.  
The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,  
both now and forever.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Evening Short Reading:**

There is so much rejection, pain, and woundedness among us, but once you choose to claim the joy hidden in the midst of all suffering, life becomes celebration. Joy never denies the sadness, but transforms it to fertile soil for more joy."  
Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 7:1-19**

After this, Jesus traveled around Galilee. He wanted to stay out of Judea, where the Jewish leaders were plotting his death. But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime. The world can't hate you, but it does hate me because I accuse it of doing evil. You go on. I'm not going to this festival, because my time has not yet come." After saying these things, Jesus remained in Galilee.

But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view. The Jewish leaders tried to find him at the festival and kept asking if anyone had seen him. There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some argued, "He's a good man," but others said, "He's nothing but a fraud who deceives the people." But no one had the courage to speak favorably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders.

Then, midway through the festival, Jesus went up to the Temple and began to teach. The people were surprised when they heard him. "How does he know so much when he hasn't been trained?" they asked.

So Jesus told them, "My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me. Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own. Those who speak for themselves want glory only for themselves, but a person who seeks to honor the one who sent him speaks truth, not lies. Moses gave you the law, but none of you obeys it! In fact, you are trying to kill me."

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 122**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

And now here we are,

standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is a well-built city;

its seamless walls cannot be breached.

All the tribes of Israel—the Lord’s people—

make their pilgrimage here.

They come to give thanks to the name of the Lord,

as the law requires of Israel.

Here stand the thrones where judgment is given,

the thrones of the dynasty of David.

Pray for peace in Jerusalem.

May all who love this city prosper.

O Jerusalem, may there be peace within your walls

and prosperity in your palaces.

For the sake of my family and friends, I will say,

“May you have peace.”

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek what is best for you, O Jerusalem.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 10, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

My God, my King, Thy praise I sing,  
My heart is all Thine own;  
My highest powers, my choicest hours,  
I yield to Thee alone.

My voice awake, thy part to take;  
My soul, the concert join;  
Till all around shall catch the sound,  
And mix their hymns with mine."  
Henry F. Lyte, *Poems Chiefly Religious*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 7:20-36**

The crowd replied, "You're demon possessed! Who's trying to kill you?"

Jesus replied, "I did one miracle on the Sabbath, and you were amazed. But you work on the Sabbath, too, when you obey Moses' law of circumcision. (Actually, this tradition of circumcision began with the patriarchs, long before the law of Moses.) For if the correct time for circumcising your son falls on the Sabbath, you go ahead and do it so as not to break the law of Moses. So why should you be angry with me for healing a man on the Sabbath? Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly."

Some of the people who lived in Jerusalem started to ask each other, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? But here he is, speaking in public, and they say nothing to him. Could our leaders possibly believe that he is the Messiah? But how could he be? For we know where this man comes from. When the Messiah comes, he will simply appear; no one will know where he comes from."

While Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he called out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I come from. But I'm not here on my own. The one who sent me is true, and you don't know him. But I know him because I come from him, and he sent me to you." Then the leaders tried to arrest him; but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.

Many among the crowds at the Temple believed in him. "After all," they said, "would you expect the Messiah to do more miraculous signs than this man has done?"

When the Pharisees heard that the crowds were whispering such things, they and the leading priests sent Temple guards to arrest Jesus. But Jesus told them, “I will be with you only a little longer. Then I will return to the one who sent me. You will search for me but not find me. And you cannot go where I am going.”

The Jewish leaders were puzzled by this statement. “Where is he planning to go?” they asked. “Is he thinking of leaving the country and going to the Jews in other lands? Maybe he will even teach the Greeks! What does he mean when he says, ‘You will search for me but not find me,’ and ‘You cannot go where I am going?’”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 123**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.  
I lift my eyes to you,  
    O God, enthroned in heaven.  
We keep looking to the Lord our God for his mercy,  
    just as servants keep their eyes on their master,  
    as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.  
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy,  
    for we have had our fill of contempt.  
We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the proud  
    and the contempt of the arrogant

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we’ll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Evening Short Reading:**

Every word I speak can be cynical or joyful. Every action can be cynical or joyful. Increasingly I am aware of all these possible choices, and increasingly I discover that every choice for joy in turn reveals more joy and offers more reason to make life a true celebration in the house of the Father.

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 7:37-53**

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)  
Division and Unbelief

When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, "Surely this man is the Prophet we've been expecting." Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others said, "But he can't be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born." So the crowd was divided about him. Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him.

When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

"We have never heard anyone speak like this!" the guards responded.

"Have you been led astray, too?" the Pharisees mocked. "Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him? This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God's curse is on them!"

Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. "Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?" he asked.

They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!"

Then the meeting broke up, and everybody went home.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 124**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.

What if the Lord had not been on our side?

Let all Israel repeat:

What if the Lord had not been on our side  
when people attacked us?

They would have swallowed us alive  
in their burning anger.

The waters would have engulfed us;  
a torrent would have overwhelmed us.

Yes, the raging waters of their fury  
would have overwhelmed our very lives.

Praise the Lord,

who did not let their teeth tear us apart!

We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap.

The trap is broken, and we are free!

Our help is from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 11, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

In the Godhead I play the game of bliss,  
Such joy the angels find in this,  
That unto them a thousand years  
But as one little hour appears.  
Happy is he who, in joyous security,  
Shall take Me by My beautiful hand,  
And join in My sweet diversions,  
And dance forever the dance of joy,  
Amid the ravishing delights,  
Of the kingdom of heaven.  
Heinrich Suso, *The Little Book of Eternal Wisdom*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 8:1-11**

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?”

“No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 125**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.  
Those who trust in the Lord are as secure as Mount Zion;  
they will not be defeated but will endure forever.  
Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the Lord surrounds his people, both now and forever.  
The wicked will not rule the land of the godly,  
for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong.  
O Lord, do good to those who are good,  
whose hearts are in tune with you.  
But banish those who turn to crooked ways, O Lord.  
Take them away with those who do evil.

May Israel have peace!

### **Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is

nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Evening Short Reading:**

A community is only being created when its members accept that they are not going to achieve great things, that they are not going to be heroes, but simply live each day with new hope, like children, in wonderment as the sun rises and in thanksgiving as it sets. Community is only being created when they have recognized that the greatness of man is to accept his insignificance, his human condition and his earth, and to thank God for having put in a finite body the seeds of eternity which are visible in small and daily gestures of love and forgiveness. The beauty of man is in this fidelity to the wonder of each day.  
Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 8:12-30**

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

The Pharisees replied, “You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid.”

Jesus told them, “These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don’t know this about me. You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone. And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me. Your own law says that if two people agree about something, their witness is accepted as fact. I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other.”

“Where is your father?” they asked.

Jesus answered, “Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father.” Jesus made these statements while he was teaching in the section of the Temple known as the Treasury. But he was not arrested, because his time had not yet come.

Later Jesus said to them again, “I am going away. You will search for me but will die in your sin. You cannot come where I am going.”

The people asked, “Is he planning to commit suicide? What does he mean, ‘You cannot come where I am going’?”

Jesus continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not. That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I Am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.”

“Who are you?” they demanded.

Jesus replied, “The one I have always claimed to be. I have much to say about you and much to condemn, but I won’t. For I say only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he is completely truthful.” But they still didn’t understand that he was talking about his Father.

So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I Am he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.” Then many who heard him say these things believed in him.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 126**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.  
When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem,  
it was like a dream!  
We were filled with laughter,  
and we sang for joy.  
And the other nations said,  
"What amazing things the Lord has done for them."  
Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us!  
What joy!

Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
as streams renew the desert.  
Those who plant in tears  
will harvest with shouts of joy.  
They weep as they go to plant their seed,  
but they sing as they return with the harvest.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 12, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!  
Henry J. van Dyke, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 8:31-59**

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

"But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?"

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father."

"Our father is Abraham!" they declared.

"No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. No, you are imitating your real father."

They replied, "We aren't illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father."

Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me! Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth,

why don't you believe me? Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

The people retorted, "You Samaritan devil! Didn't we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?"

"No," Jesus said, "I have no demon in me. For I honor my Father—and you dishonor me. And though I have no wish to glorify myself, God is going to glorify me. He is the true judge. I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!"

The people said, "Now we know you are possessed by a demon. Even Abraham and the prophets died, but you say, 'Anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!' Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

Jesus answered, "If I want glory for myself, it doesn't count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, 'He is our God,' but you don't even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad."

The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!" At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

#### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

#### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 127**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of Solomon.

Unless the Lord builds a house,  
the work of the builders is wasted.  
Unless the Lord protects a city,  
guarding it with sentries will do no good.  
It is useless for you to work so hard  
from early morning until late at night,  
anxiously working for food to eat;  
for God gives rest to his loved ones.

Children are a gift from the Lord;  
they are a reward from him.  
Children born to a young man  
are like arrows in a warrior's hands.  
How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!  
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

#### **Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be

overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

At the heart of the celebration, there are the poor. If [they] are excluded, it is no longer a celebration. [...] A celebration must always be a festival of the poor.  
Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 9:1-15**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?"

"It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."

Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!

His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said he was, and others said, "No, he just looks like him!"

But the beggar kept saying, "Yes, I am the same one!"

They asked, “Who healed you? What happened?”

He told them, “The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.’ So I went and washed, and now I can see!”

“Where is he now?” they asked.

“I don’t know,” he replied.

Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 128**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.  
How joyful are those who fear the Lord—  
all who follow his ways!  
You will enjoy the fruit of your labor.  
How joyful and prosperous you will be!  
Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine,  
flourishing within your home.  
Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees  
as they sit around your table.  
That is the Lord’s blessing  
for those who fear him.

May the Lord continually bless you from Zion.  
May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live.  
May you live to enjoy your grandchildren.  
May Israel have peace!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 13, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

Life eternal! O what wonders  
crowd on faith; what joy unknown,  
when, amidst earth's closing thunders,  
saints shall stand before the throne!  
O to enter that bright portal,  
see that glowing firmament;  
know, with thee, O God Immortal,  
"Jesus Christ whom thou has sent!"  
William J. Irons, "Sing with All the Saints in Glory"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 9:16-34**

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath." Others said, "But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?" So there was a deep division of opinion among them.

Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, "What's your opinion about this man who healed you?"

The man replied, "I think he must be a prophet."

The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. They asked them, "Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?"

His parents replied, "We know this is our son and that he was born blind, but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That's why they said, "He is old enough. Ask him."

So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner."

"I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

“But what did he do?” they asked. “How did he heal you?”

“Look!” the man exclaimed. “I told you once. Didn’t you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?”

Then they cursed him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! We know God spoke to Moses, but we don’t even know where this man comes from.”

“Why, that’s very strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know where he comes from? We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn’t have done it.”

“You were born a total sinner!” they answered. “Are you trying to teach us?” And they threw him out of the synagogue.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 129, 130**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

From my earliest youth my enemies have persecuted me.

Let all Israel repeat this:

From my earliest youth my enemies have persecuted me,  
but they have never defeated me.

My back is covered with cuts,  
as if a farmer had plowed long furrows.

But the Lord is good;  
he has cut me free from the ropes of the ungodly.

May all who hate Jerusalem  
be turned back in shameful defeat.

May they be as useless as grass on a rooftop,  
turning yellow when only half grown,  
ignored by the harvester,  
despised by the binder.

And may those who pass by  
refuse to give them this blessing:  
“The Lord bless you;  
we bless you in the Lord’s name.”

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

From the depths of despair, O Lord,

I call for your help.

Hear my cry, O Lord.

Pay attention to my prayer.

Lord, if you kept a record of our sins,  
who, O Lord, could ever survive?

But you offer forgiveness,  
that we might learn to fear you.

I am counting on the Lord;

yes, I am counting on him.  
I have put my hope in his word.  
I long for the Lord  
more than sentries long for the dawn,  
yes, more than sentries long for the dawn.

O Israel, hope in the Lord;  
for with the Lord there is unfailing love.  
His redemption overflows.  
He himself will redeem Israel  
from every kind of sin.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Evening Short Reading:**

People of our time are losing the power of celebration. Instead of celebrating we seek to be amused or entertained. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation. To be entertained is a passive state--it is to receive pleasure afforded by an amusing act or a spectacle.... Celebration is a confrontation, giving attention to the

transcendent meaning of one's actions.  
Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Wisdom of Heschel*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 9:35-41**

When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.”

“You have seen him,” Jesus said, “and he is speaking to you!”

“Yes, Lord, I believe!” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, “Are you saying we're blind?”

“If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.”

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 131**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.  
Lord, my heart is not proud;  
my eyes are not haughty.  
I don't concern myself with matters too great  
or too awesome for me to grasp.  
Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself,  
like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk.  
Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.  
  
O Israel, put your hope in the Lord—  
now and always.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 14, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

The spiral of materialism is eternal and never ends.... The materialist is never satisfied. For the heart is not made full or satisfied by any, or even all, of the things that the religion of materialism and its preachers of advertising want so desperately to sell us. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be," warned Jesus. And the treasures that lead to compassionate living are not buyable because they are less objects than they are experiences.... Greed never asks when is enough, enough? It knows nothing of limits. Therefore, it knows nothing of the true pleasures that life is about. It is utterly ignorant of celebration.

Matthew Fox, *A Spirituality Named Compassion*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 10:1-21**

"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

“The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

When he said these things, the people were again divided in their opinions about him. Some said, “He’s demon possessed and out of his mind. Why listen to a man like that?” Others said, “This doesn’t sound like a man possessed by a demon! Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 132:1 -10**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.  
Lord, remember David  
and all that he suffered.  
He made a solemn promise to the Lord.  
He vowed to the Mighty One of Israel,  
“I will not go home;  
I will not let myself rest.  
I will not let my eyes sleep  
nor close my eyelids in slumber  
until I find a place to build a house for the Lord,  
a sanctuary for the Mighty One of Israel.”

We heard that the Ark was in Ephrathah;  
then we found it in the distant countryside of Jaar.  
Let us go to the sanctuary of the Lord;  
let us worship at the footstool of his throne.  
Arise, O Lord, and enter your resting place,  
along with the Ark, the symbol of your power.  
May your priests be clothed in godliness;  
may your loyal servants sing for joy.  
For the sake of your servant David,  
do not reject the king you have anointed.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

## **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Forgiveness and celebration are the heart of community. These are the two faces of love. Celebration is a communal experience of joy, a song of thanksgiving.  
Jean Vanier, Community and Growth

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 10:22-42**

It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's Colonnade. The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name. But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?"

They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God."

Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods!' And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people who received God's message were called 'gods,' why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. He went beyond the Jordan River near the place where John was first baptizing and stayed there awhile. And many followed him. “John didn’t perform miraculous signs,” they remarked to one another, “but everything he said about this man has come true.” And many who were there believed in Jesus.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 132:11-18**

The Lord swore an oath to David  
with a promise he will never take back:  
“I will place one of your descendants  
on your throne.  
If your descendants obey the terms of my covenant  
and the laws that I teach them,  
then your royal line  
will continue forever and ever.”

For the Lord has chosen Jerusalem;  
he has desired it for his home.  
“This is my resting place forever,” he said.  
“I will live here, for this is the home I desired.  
I will bless this city and make it prosperous;  
I will satisfy its poor with food.  
I will clothe its priests with godliness;  
its faithful servants will sing for joy.  
Here I will increase the power of David;  
my anointed one will be a light for my people.  
I will clothe his enemies with shame,  
but he will be a glorious king.”

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 15, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Morning Short Reading:**

They cut me down and I leapt up high  
I am the life that will never, never die  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he

Dance, dance, wherever you may be  
I am the lord of the dance, said he  
And I lead you all, wherever you may be  
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

**Sydney Carter, "Lord of the Dance"**

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 11:1-22**

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where he was for the next two days. Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light." Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go, too—and die with Jesus.”

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 133**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.  
How wonderful and pleasant it is  
when brothers live together in harmony!  
For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil  
that was poured over Aaron’s head,  
that ran down his beard  
and onto the border of his robe.  
Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon  
that falls on the mountains of Zion.  
And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing,  
even life everlasting.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we’ll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

## Evening

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### Scripture Related to the Vow: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

### Evening Short Reading:

Celebration is nourishment and resource. It makes present the goals of the community in symbolic form and so brings hope and a new strength to take up again everyday life with more love. Celebration is a sign of the resurrection which gives us strength to carry the cross of each day. There is an intimate bond between celebration and the cross.  
Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 11:23-37

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

"Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

"Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you." So Mary immediately went to him.

Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. "Where have you put him?" he asked them.

They told him, "Lord, come and see." Then Jesus wept. The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

### Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 134**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

Oh, praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you who serve at night in the house of the Lord.  
Lift up holy hands in prayer,  
and praise the Lord.

May the Lord, who made heaven and earth,  
bless you from Jerusalem.

Intercession:

Concluding Prayer: Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 16, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

This is one of the rewards  
of being human:  
quiet exaltation,  
capability for celebration.

It is expressed in a phrase  
which Rabbi Akiba offered to his disciples:

A song every day,

A song every day.  
Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Wisdom of Heschel*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 11:38-44**

Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 135:1-10**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the name of the Lord!  
Praise him, you who serve the Lord,  
you who serve in the house of the Lord,  
in the courts of the house of our God.

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
celebrate his lovely name with music.  
For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,  
Israel for his own special treasure.

I know the greatness of the Lord—  
that our Lord is greater than any other god.  
The Lord does whatever pleases him  
throughout all heaven and earth,  
and on the seas and in their depths.  
He causes the clouds to rise over the whole earth.  
He sends the lightning with the rain  
and releases the wind from his storehouses.

He destroyed the firstborn in each Egyptian home,  
both people and animals.  
He performed miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt  
against Pharaoh and all his people.  
He struck down great nations  
and slaughtered mighty kings.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.”

Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”

**Evening Short Reading:**

Meals are daily celebrations where we meet each other around the same table to be nourished and share in joy. They are a particular delight for the body and the senses. So we shouldn’t bolt our food under the pretext of having more important or more spiritual things to do than sit at table. A meal is an important community event which has to be well prepared and fully lived. It is a time when the joy of eating and drinking well merge with the joy of meeting -- a marvelous human moment.

Jean Vanier, Community and Growth

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 11:45-57**

Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation.”

Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, “You don’t know what you’re talking about! You don’t realize that it’s better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.”

He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.

So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus’ death. As a result, Jesus stopped his public ministry among the people and left Jerusalem. He went to a place near the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and stayed there with his disciples.

It was now almost time for the Jewish Passover celebration, and many people from all over the country arrived in Jerusalem several days early so they could go through the purification ceremony before Passover began. They kept looking for Jesus, but as they stood around in the Temple, they said to each other, “What do you think? He won’t come for Passover, will he?” Meanwhile, the leading priests and Pharisees had publicly ordered that anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 135:10-21**

He struck down many nations  
and killed mighty kings—  
Sihon king of the Amorites,

## Celebration – A Joyful Life

Og king of Bashan,  
and all the kings of Canaan.  
He gave their land as an inheritance,  
a special possession to his people Israel.

Your name, O Lord, endures forever;  
your fame, O Lord, is known to every generation.  
For the Lord will give justice to his people  
and have compassion on his servants.

The idols of the nations are merely things of silver and gold,  
shaped by human hands.  
They have mouths but cannot speak,  
and eyes but cannot see.  
They have ears but cannot hear,  
and noses but cannot smell.  
And those who make idols are just like them,  
as are all who trust in them.

O Israel, praise the Lord!  
O priests—descendants of Aaron—praise the Lord!  
O Levites, praise the Lord!  
All you who fear the Lord, praise the Lord!  
The Lord be praised from Zion,  
for he lives here in Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

### **Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 17, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

The name of Jesus is honey in the mouth, music to the ear, a cry of gladness in the heart.

St. Bernard

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 12:1-19**

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.

Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,

"Praise God!  
Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hail to the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

"Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem.  
Look, your King is coming,

riding on a donkey's colt.”

His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!”

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 136:1-9**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the God of gods.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the Lord of lords.  
His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights—  
His faithful love endures forever.  
the sun to rule the day,  
His faithful love endures forever.  
and the moon and stars to rule the night.  
His faithful love endures forever.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

## **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Our communities should be signs of joy and celebration. If they are, people will commit themselves with us. Communities which are sad are sterile; they are places of death. Of course our joy on earth is far from complete. But our celebrations are small signs of the eternal celebration, of the wedding feast to which we are all invited.  
Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 12:20-36**

Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus." Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

"Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came! Father, bring glory to your name."

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again." When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

The crowd responded, “We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?”

Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.”

After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 136:10-16**

Give thanks to him who killed the firstborn of Egypt.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
He brought Israel out of Egypt.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
He acted with a strong hand and powerful arm.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to him who parted the Red Sea.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
He led Israel safely through,  
His faithful love endures forever.  
but he hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to him who led his people through the wilderness.  
His faithful love endures forever.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 18, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

Joy is the echo of God's life in us.  
Dom Joseph Marmion

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 12:37-50**

But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

"Lord, who has believed our message?  
To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?"

But the people couldn't believe, for as Isaiah also said,

"The Lord has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their hearts—  
so that their eyes cannot see,  
and their hearts cannot understand,  
and they cannot turn to me  
and have me heal them."

Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he said this, because he saw the future and spoke of the Messiah's glory. Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

Jesus shouted to the crowds, "If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark. I will not judge those who hear me but don't obey me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. But all who reject me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken. I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say."

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 136:17-26**

Give thanks to him who struck down mighty kings.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
He killed powerful kings—  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Sihon king of the Amorites,  
His faithful love endures forever.  
and Og king of Bashan.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
God gave the land of these kings as an inheritance—  
His faithful love endures forever.  
a special possession to his servant Israel.  
His faithful love endures forever.

He remembered us in our weakness.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
He saved us from our enemies.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
He gives food to every living thing.  
His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the God of heaven.  
His faithful love endures forever.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

## **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

### **Evening Short Reading:**

There will be very little celebration and transcendence and lifting of another's burdens when we're hoping to change them and "clean them up." I have discovered through the years that it is very heavy work to get another cleaned up. And it's even heavier to get a community cleaned up.

The task, I think, is to enjoy the other more. To experience the wonder of the person, to be more open, more attentive, to learn from the person or the community, and to revel in the surprises that are given. If the person or community changes, good. If not, you've celebrated who they are. You've lived in the Now.  
Gordon Cosby, Sermon (March 20, 1988)

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 13:1-17**

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 137**

Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept  
as we thought of Jerusalem.  
We put away our harps,  
hanging them on the branches of poplar trees.  
For our captors demanded a song from us.  
Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn:  
“Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!”  
But how can we sing the songs of the Lord  
while in a pagan land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
let my right hand forget how to play the harp.  
May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth  
if I fail to remember you,  
if I don't make Jerusalem my greatest joy.

O Lord, remember what the Edomites did  
on the day the armies of Babylon captured Jerusalem.  
“Destroy it!” they yelled.  
“Level it to the ground!”  
O Babylon, you will be destroyed.  
Happy is the one who pays you back  
for what you have done to us.  
Happy is the one who takes your babies  
and smashes them against the rocks!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 19, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

Our only business was to love and delight ourselves in God.  
Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 13:18-30**

"I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, 'The one who eats my food has turned against me.' I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I Am the Messiah. I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me."

Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!"

The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, "Who's he talking about?" So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus responded, "It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl." And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry and do what you're going to do." None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. So Judas left at once, going out into the night.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 138**

A psalm of David.  
I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart;

## Celebration – A Joyful Life

I will sing your praises before the gods.  
I bow before your holy Temple as I worship.  
I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;  
for your promises are backed  
by all the honor of your name.  
As soon as I pray, you answer me;  
you encourage me by giving me strength.

Every king in all the earth will thank you, Lord,  
for all of them will hear your words.  
Yes, they will sing about the Lord's ways,  
for the glory of the Lord is very great.  
Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble,  
but he keeps his distance from the proud.

Though I am surrounded by troubles,  
you will protect me from the anger of my enemies.  
You reach out your hand,  
and the power of your right hand saves me.  
The Lord will work out his plans for my life—  
for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.  
Don't abandon me, for you made me.

### **Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.”

Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”

**Evening Short Reading:**

Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed.

Jean Vanier *Becoming Human*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 13:31-38**

As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, “The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will soon give glory to the Son. Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can’t come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?”

And Jesus replied, “You can’t go with me now, but you will follow me later.”

“But why can’t I come now, Lord?” he asked. “I’m ready to die for you.”

Jesus answered, “Die for me? I tell you the truth, Peter—before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6**

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.  
You know when I sit down or stand up.  
You know my thoughts even when I’m far away.  
You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.  
You know everything I do.  
You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, Lord.  
You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 20, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

The Christian should be an alleluia from head to foot!  
Augustine of Hippo

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy.  
Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 14:1-14**

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going."

"No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!"

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.

Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 136:7-12**

I can never escape from your Spirit!  
I can never get away from your presence!  
If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I go down to the grave, you are there.  
If I ride the wings of the morning,  
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
and your strength will support me.  
I could ask the darkness to hide me  
and the light around me to become night—  
but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.  
To you the night shines as bright as day.  
Darkness and light are the same to you.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Evening Short Reading:**

You know you have a real friend when the two of you can pass time quietly doing nothing and saying nothing clever. It's enough to be together. Having a friendship with God means we can relax with him and enjoy his company in the in-between moments all day long.

Jan Johnson, *Enjoying the Presence of God: Discovering Intimacy with God in the Daily Rhythms of Life*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 14:15-31

“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?”

Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

“I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going.

### Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 136:13-18

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.  
Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.  
You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.  
You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!  
I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!  
And when I wake up,  
you are still with me!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 21, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

The true expression of Christianity is not a sigh, but a song.  
Rev. Robert E. Harris

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 15:1-17**

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 136:19-24**

O God, if only you would destroy the wicked!  
Get out of my life, you murderers!  
They blaspheme you;  
your enemies misuse your name.  
O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate you?  
Shouldn't I despise those who oppose you?  
Yes, I hate them with total hatred,  
for your enemies are my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Evening Short Reading:**

Jesus Christ and all the writers of the New Testament call us to break free of mammon lust and live in joyous trust...They point us toward a way of living in which everything we have we receive as a gift, and everything we have is cared for by God, and everything we have is available to others when it is right and good. This reality frames the heart of Christian simplicity. It is the means of liberation and power to do what is right and to overcome the forces of fear and avarice.

Richard J. Foster, *Freedom of Simplicity: Finding Harmony in a Complex World*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 15:18-27

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the One who sent me. They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. Anyone who hates me also hates my Father. If I hadn’t done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: ‘They hated me without cause.’

“But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

### Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 140

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

O Lord, rescue me from evil people.  
Protect me from those who are violent,  
those who plot evil in their hearts  
and stir up trouble all day long.  
Their tongues sting like a snake;  
the venom of a viper drips from their lips.  
Interlude

O Lord, keep me out of the hands of the wicked.  
Protect me from those who are violent,  
for they are plotting against me.  
The proud have set a trap to catch me;  
they have stretched out a net;  
they have placed traps all along the way.  
Interlude

I said to the Lord, “You are my God!”  
Listen, O Lord, to my cries for mercy!  
O Sovereign Lord, the strong one who rescued me,  
you protected me on the day of battle.  
Lord, do not let evil people have their way.  
Do not let their evil schemes succeed,

or they will become proud.  
Interlude

Let my enemies be destroyed  
by the very evil they have planned for me.  
Let burning coals fall down on their heads.  
Let them be thrown into the fire  
or into watery pits from which they can't escape.  
Don't let liars prosper here in our land.  
Cause great disasters to fall on the violent.

But I know the Lord will help those they persecute;  
he will give justice to the poor.  
Surely righteous people are praising your name;  
the godly will live in your presence.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 22, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

In our day heaven and earth are on tiptoe waiting for the emerging of the Spirit-led, Spirit-intoxicated, Spirit-empowered people. All of creation watches expectantly for the springing up of a disciplined, freely gathered, martyr people who know in this life the life and power of the Kingdom of God. It happened before, it can happen again.

Richard Foster

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy.  
Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 16:1-15**

"I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. This is because they have never known the Father or me. Yes, I'm telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn't tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer.

"But now I am going away to the One who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

"There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Morning Psalm: Psalm 141

A psalm of David.

O Lord, I am calling to you. Please hurry!  
Listen when I cry to you for help!  
Accept my prayer as incense offered to you,  
and my upraised hands as an evening offering.

Take control of what I say, O Lord,  
and guard my lips.  
Don't let me drift toward evil  
or take part in acts of wickedness.  
Don't let me share in the delicacies  
of those who do wrong.

Let the godly strike me!  
It will be a kindness!  
If they correct me, it is soothing medicine.  
Don't let me refuse it.

But I pray constantly  
against the wicked and their deeds.  
When their leaders are thrown down from a cliff,  
the wicked will listen to my words and find them true.  
Like rocks brought up by a plow,  
the bones of the wicked will lie scattered without burial.

I look to you for help, O Sovereign Lord.  
You are my refuge; don't let them kill me.  
Keep me from the traps they have set for me,  
from the snares of those who do wrong.  
Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
but let me escape.

### Intercession:

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Evening Short Reading:**

Joy is the serious business of heaven.  
C.S. Lewis

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 16:16-33**

"In a little while you won't see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again."

Some of the disciples asked each other, "What does he mean when he says, 'In a little while you won't see me, but then you will see me,' and 'I am going to the Father'?" And what does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand."

Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, "Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won't see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

"I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father. Then you will ask in my name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God. Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father."

Then his disciples said, "At last you are speaking plainly and not figuratively. Now we understand that you know everything, and there's no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God."

Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe? But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 142

A psalm of David, regarding his experience in the cave. A prayer.

I cry out to the Lord;  
I plead for the Lord's mercy.  
I pour out my complaints before him  
and tell him all my troubles.  
When I am overwhelmed,  
you alone know the way I should turn.  
Wherever I go,  
my enemies have set traps for me.  
I look for someone to come and help me,  
but no one gives me a passing thought!  
No one will help me;  
no one cares a bit what happens to me.  
Then I pray to you, O Lord.  
I say, "You are my place of refuge.  
You are all I really want in life.  
Hear my cry,  
for I am very low.  
Rescue me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me.  
Bring me out of prison  
so I can thank you.  
The godly will crowd around me,  
for you are good to me."

### Intercession:

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.



**August 23, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

**Morning Short Reading:**

We can hear God better as we allow Him to satisfy the inner hunger for ego gratification. Our relationships are more satisfying because we surrender people to God instead of trying to control them. When we feel the urge to acquire bigger and better things, we drop deeper and listen more carefully to what's going on inside. There we find restlessness and hunger that can be satisfied only by intimacy with God. We choose to enjoy God's presence and become satisfied with this creative, loving, liberating communion with Him.

Jan Johnson, *Enjoying the Presence of God: Discovering Intimacy with God in the Daily Rhythms of Life*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 17:1-12**

After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

"I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

"My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Morning Psalm: Psalm 143

A psalm of David.

Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
listen to my plea!

Answer me because you are faithful and righteous.

Don't put your servant on trial,  
for no one is innocent before you.

My enemy has chased me.

He has knocked me to the ground  
and forces me to live in darkness like those in the grave.

I am losing all hope;

I am paralyzed with fear.

I remember the days of old.

I ponder all your great works  
and think about what you have done.

I lift my hands to you in prayer.

I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain.

Interlude

Come quickly, Lord, and answer me,  
for my depression deepens.

Don't turn away from me,  
or I will die.

Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning,  
for I am trusting you.

Show me where to walk,  
for I give myself to you.

Rescue me from my enemies, Lord;

I run to you to hide me.

Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.

May your gracious Spirit lead me forward  
on a firm footing.

For the glory of your name, O Lord, preserve my life.

Because of your faithfulness, bring me out of this distress.

In your unfailing love, silence all my enemies

and destroy all my foes,  
for I am your servant.

### Intercession:

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 5:33-35**

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."  
Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Unless you become like a child, Jesus said, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and maybe part of what that means is that in the long run what is good about religion is playing the way a child plays at being grown up until he finds that being grown up is just another way of playing and thereby starts to grow up himself. Maybe what is good about religion is playing that the Kingdom will come, until—in the joy of your playing, the hope and rhythm and comradeship and poignance and mystery of it—you start to see that the playing is itself the first-fruits of the Kingdom's coming and of God's presence within us and among us.  
Frederick Buechner

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 17:13-26**

"Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

"I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

"O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 144:1-8**

A psalm of David.

Praise the Lord, who is my rock.  
He trains my hands for war  
and gives my fingers skill for battle.  
He is my loving ally and my fortress,  
my tower of safety, my rescuer.  
He is my shield, and I take refuge in him.  
He makes the nations submit to me.

O Lord, what are human beings that you should notice them,  
mere mortals that you should think about them?  
For they are like a breath of air;  
their days are like a passing shadow.

Open the heavens, Lord, and come down.  
Touch the mountains so they billow smoke.  
Hurl your lightning bolts and scatter your enemies!  
Shoot your arrows and confuse them!  
Reach down from heaven and rescue me;  
rescue me from deep waters,  
from the power of my enemies.  
Their mouths are full of lies;  
they swear to tell the truth, but they lie instead.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 24, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

It is only right, with all the powers of our heart and mind, to praise you, Father and your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Father, by your wondrous condescension of lovingkindness toward us, your servants, you gave up your Son. Dear Jesus, you paid the debt of Adam for us to the eternal Father by your blood poured forth in lovingkindness. You cleared away the darkness of sin by your magnificent and radiant resurrection. You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a conqueror. You reconciled heaven and earth. Our life had no hope of eternal happiness before you redeemed us. Your resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence, and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of your love! We pray you, Lord, to preserve your servants in the peaceful enjoyment of this Easter happiness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.  
Gregory the Great

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 18:1-11**

After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.

Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. "Who are you looking for?" he asked.

"Jesus the Nazarene," they replied.

"I Am he," Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) As Jesus said "I Am he," they all drew back and fell to the ground! Once more he asked them, "Who are you looking for?"

And again they replied, "Jesus the Nazarene."

“I told you that I Am he,” Jesus said. “And since I am the one you want, let these others go.” He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.”

Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave. But Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 144:9-15**

I will sing a new song to you, O God!  
I will sing your praises with a ten-stringed harp.  
For you grant victory to kings!  
You rescued your servant David from the fatal sword.  
Save me!  
Rescue me from the power of my enemies.  
Their mouths are full of lies;  
they swear to tell the truth, but they lie instead.

May our sons flourish in their youth  
like well-nurtured plants.  
May our daughters be like graceful pillars,  
carved to beautify a palace.  
May our barns be filled  
with crops of every kind.  
May the flocks in our fields multiply by the thousands,  
even tens of thousands,  
and may our oxen be loaded down with produce.  
May there be no enemy breaking through our walls,  
no going into captivity,  
no cries of alarm in our town squares.  
Yes, joyful are those who live like this!  
Joyful indeed are those whose God is the Lord.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we’ll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

“Let there *be*” the Word comes, and then there *is*, Creation *is*. Something *is* where before there was nothing and the morning stars sing together and all the Sons of God shout for Joy because sequence has begun, time has begun, a story has begun.  
Frederick Buechner

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 18:12-18**

So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, “It’s better that one man should die for the people.”

Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another of the disciples. That other disciple was acquainted with the high priest, so he was allowed to enter the high priest’s courtyard with Jesus. Peter had to stay outside the gate. Then the disciple who knew the high priest spoke to the woman watching at the gate, and she let Peter in. The woman asked Peter, “You’re not one of that man’s disciples, are you?”

“No,” he said, “I am not.”

Because it was cold, the household servants and the guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself.

### **Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Evening Psalm: Psalm 145:1-7**

A psalm of praise of David.

I will exalt you, my God and King,  
and praise your name forever and ever.

I will praise you every day;  
yes, I will praise you forever.

Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!  
No one can measure his greatness.

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;  
let them proclaim your power.

I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor  
and your wonderful miracles.

Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;  
I will proclaim your greatness.

Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;  
they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 25, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

What is Christ's joy in us, but that He deigns to rejoice on our account? And what is our Joy, which He says shall be full, but to have fellowship with Him? He had perfect joy on our account, when He rejoiced in foreknowing and predestinating us; but that joy was not in us, because we did not then exist; it began to be in us, when He called us. And this joy we rightly call our own, this joy wherewith we shall be blessed; which is begun in the faith of them who are born again, and shall be fulfilled in the reward of them who rise again.  
St. Augustine of Hippo

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 18:19-27**

Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. Jesus replied, "Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said."

Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?" he demanded.

Jesus replied, "If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I'm speaking the truth, why are you beating me?"

Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, "You're not one of his disciples, are you?"

He denied it, saying, "No, I am not."

But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9**

The Lord is merciful and compassionate,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.  
The Lord is good to everyone.  
He showers compassion on all his creation.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Evening Short Reading:**

Ye holy angels bright,

Who wait at God's right hand,  
Or through the realms of light  
Fly at your Lord's command,  
    Assist our song;  
    For else the theme  
    Too high doth seem  
    For mortal tongue.

Ye blessed souls at rest,  
Who ran this earthly race,  
And now, from sin released,  
Behold the Saviour's face,  
    God's praises sound,  
    As in his sight  
    With sweet delight  
    Ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,  
Adore your heavenly King,  
And onward as ye go  
Some joyful anthem sing;  
    Take what he gives  
    And praise him still,  
    Through good or ill,  
    Who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,  
Triumph in God above,  
And with a well-tuned heart  
Sing thou the songs of love.  
    Let all thy days  
    Till life shall end,  
    Whate'er he send,  
    Be filled with praise.

Richard Baxter, "Ye Holy Angels Bright"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 18:28-40

Jesus' trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn't go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn't be allowed to celebrate the Passover. So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, "What is your charge against this man?"

"We wouldn't have handed him over to you if he weren't a criminal!" they retorted.

"Then take him away and judge him by your own law," Pilate told them.

"Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone," the Jewish leaders replied. (This fulfilled Jesus' prediction about the way he would die.)

Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him.

Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

Pilate said, “So you are a king?”

Jesus responded, “You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

“What is truth?” Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, “He is not guilty of any crime. But you have a custom of asking me to release one prisoner each year at Passover. Would you like me to release this ‘King of the Jews’?”

But they shouted back, “No! Not this man. We want Barabbas!” (Barabbas was a revolutionary.)

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 145:10-14**

All of your works will thank you, Lord,  
and your faithful followers will praise you.  
They will speak of the glory of your kingdom;  
they will give examples of your power.  
They will tell about your mighty deeds  
and about the majesty and glory of your reign.  
For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.  
You rule throughout all generations.

The Lord always keeps his promises;  
he is gracious in all he does.  
The Lord helps the fallen  
and lifts those bent beneath their loads.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 26, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

The very nature of Joy makes nonsense of our common distinction between having and wanting.

C.S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 19:1-16**

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

Pilate went outside again and said to the people, "I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty." Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, "Look, here is the man!"

When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

"Take him yourselves and crucify him," Pilate said. "I find him not guilty."

The Jewish leaders replied, "By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever. He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. "Why don't you talk to me?" Pilate demanded. "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?"

Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, "If you release this man, you are no 'friend of Caesar.' Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar."

When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, "Look, here is your king!"

"Away with him," they yelled. "Away with him! Crucify him!"

"What? Crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the leading priests shouted back.

Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus away.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 145:15-21**

The eyes of all look to you in hope;  
you give them their food as they need it.  
When you open your hand,  
you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.  
The Lord is righteous in everything he does;  
he is filled with kindness.  
The Lord is close to all who call on him,  
yes, to all who call on him in truth.  
He grants the desires of those who fear him;  
he hears their cries for help and rescues them.  
The Lord protects all those who love him,  
but he destroys the wicked.

I will praise the Lord,  
and may everyone on earth bless his holy name  
forever and ever.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

We lift our hands in the sanctuary.  
We lift our hands to give You the glory.  
We lift our hands to give You the praise,  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days, yes,  
We will praise You for the rest of our days.  
Kurt Carr, "We Lift Our Hands in the Sanctuary"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 19:17-27**

Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha). There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. And Pilate posted a sign over him that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read it.

Then the leading priests objected and said to Pilate, "Change it from 'The King of the Jews' to 'He said, I am King of the Jews.'"

Pilate replied, "No, what I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it." This fulfilled the Scripture that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing." So that is what they did.

Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple

he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son.” And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 146**

Praise the Lord!

Let all that I am praise the Lord.  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live.  
I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.

Don’t put your confidence in powerful people;  
there is no help for you there.  
When they breathe their last, they return to the earth,  
and all their plans die with them.  
But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God.  
He made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them.  
He keeps every promise forever.  
He gives justice to the oppressed  
and food to the hungry.  
The Lord frees the prisoners.  
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.  
The Lord loves the godly.  
The Lord protects the foreigners among us.  
He cares for the orphans and widows,  
but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.

The Lord will reign forever.  
He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations.

Praise the Lord!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 27, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

Every joy is beyond all others. The fruit we are eating is always the best fruit of all.  
C.S. Lewis, *Perelandra*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 19:28-37**

Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.

It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was the Passover). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.) These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken," and "They will look on the one they pierced."

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 147:1-6**

Praise the Lord!

## Celebration – A Joyful Life

How good to sing praises to our God!  
How delightful and how fitting!  
The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem  
and bringing the exiles back to Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted  
and bandages their wounds.  
He counts the stars  
and calls them all by name.  
How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!  
His understanding is beyond comprehension!  
The Lord supports the humble,  
but he brings the wicked down into the dust.

### Intercession:

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

The spirit of celebration will not be in us until we have learned to be “careful for nothing.” And we will never have a carefree indifference to things until we trust God. This is why the Jubilee

was such a crucial celebration in the Old Testament. No one would dare celebrate the Jubilee unless they had a deep trust in God's ability to provide for their needs.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 19:38-42**

Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 147:7-11**

Sing out your thanks to the Lord;  
sing praises to our God with a harp.  
He covers the heavens with clouds,  
provides rain for the earth,  
and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures.  
He gives food to the wild animals  
and feeds the young ravens when they cry.  
He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse  
or in human might.  
No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him,  
those who put their hope in his unfailing love.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 28, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you; if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a man is united to God, how could he not live for ever?

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 20:1-10**

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20**

Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and blessed your children within your walls.  
He sends peace across your nation  
and satisfies your hunger with the finest wheat.  
He sends his orders to the world—  
how swiftly his word flies!  
He sends the snow like white wool;  
he scatters frost upon the ground like ashes.  
He hurls the hail like stones.  
Who can stand against his freezing cold?  
Then, at his command, it all melts.  
He sends his winds, and the ice thaws.  
He has revealed his words to Jacob,  
his decrees and regulations to Israel.  
He has not done this for any other nation;  
they do not know his regulations.

Praise the Lord!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think

about such things Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me— put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Evening Short Reading:**

A popular teaching today instructs us to praise God for the various difficulties that come into our lives, asserting that there is great transforming power in thus praising God. In its best form such teaching is a way of encouraging us to look up the road a bit through the eye of faith and see what will be. It affirms in our hearts the joyful assurance that God takes all things and works them for the good of those who love him. In its worst form this teaching denies the vileness of evil and baptizes the most horrible tragedies as the will of God. Scripture commands us to live in a spirit of thanksgiving in the midst of all situations; it does not command us to celebrate the presence of evil.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: John 20:11-23**

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her.

“Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

“Mary!” Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 148:1 -6**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise him from the skies!

Praise him, all his angels!

Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

Praise him, sun and moon!

Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

Praise him, skies above!

Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

Let every created thing give praise to the Lord,  
for he issued his command, and they came into being.

He set them in place forever and ever.

His decree will never be revoked.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

August 29, 2011

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

As I stood beside a flowering currant bush on a summer day there suddenly arose in me without warning, and as if from a depth not of years but of centuries, the memory of that earlier morning at the Old House when my brother had brought his toy garden into the nursery. It is difficult to find words strong enough for the sensation which came over me; Milton's "enormous bliss" of Eden (giving the full, ancient meaning of "enormous") comes somewhere near it. It was a sensation, of course, of desire, but desire for what?...Before I knew what I desired, the desire itself was gone, the whole glimpse...withdrawn, the world turned commonplace again, or only stirred by a longing for the longing that had just ceased...In a sense the central story of my life is about nothing else...The quality...is that of an unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction. I call it Joy, which is here a technical term and must be sharply distinguished both from Happiness and Pleasure. Joy (in my sense) has indeed one characteristic, and one only, in common with them; the fact that anyone who has experienced it will want it again...I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world. But then Joy is never in our power and Pleasure often is.

C.S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 20:24-31**

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 148:7-14**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you creatures of the ocean depths,  
fire and hail, snow and clouds,  
wind and weather that obey him,  
mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,  
wild animals and all livestock,  
small scurrying animals and birds,  
kings of the earth and all people,  
rulers and judges of the earth,  
young men and young women,  
old men and children.

Let them all praise the name of the Lord.

For his name is very great;  
his glory towers over the earth and heaven!  
He has made his people strong,  
honoring his faithful ones—  
the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

## **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

To elicit genuine celebration, obedience must work itself into the ordinary fabric of our daily lives. Without that our celebrating carries a hollow sound. For example, some people live in such a way that it is impossible to have any kind of happiness in their home, but then they go to church and sing songs and pray “in the Spirit,” hoping that God will somehow give them an infusion of joy to make it through the day. They are looking for some kind of heavenly transfusion that will bypass the misery of their daily lives and give them joy. But God's desire is to transform the misery, not bypass it.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 21:1-14**

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

Simon Peter said, “I'm going fishing.”

“We'll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?”

“No,” they replied.

Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!” So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It's the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

“Bring some of the fish you've just caught,” Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn.

“Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 149**

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song.  
Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful.

O Israel, rejoice in your Maker.  
O people of Jerusalem, exult in your King.  
Praise his name with dancing,  
accompanied by tambourine and harp.  
For the Lord delights in his people;  
he crowns the humble with victory.  
Let the faithful rejoice that he honors them.  
Let them sing for joy as they lie on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their mouths,  
and a sharp sword in their hands—  
to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,  
to bind their kings with shackles  
and their leaders with iron chains,  
to execute the judgment written against them.  
This is the glorious privilege of his faithful ones.

Praise the Lord!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 30, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express that same delight in God which made David dance. I am not saying that this is pure or so profound a thing as the love of God reached by the greatest Christian saints and mystics...I am comparing it with the merely dutiful "churchgoing" and laborious "saying our prayers"...Against that it stands out as something astonishingly robust, virile and spontaneous; something we may regard with an innocent envy and may hope to be infected by as we read.

C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: John 21:15-23**

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you."

"Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.

Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you."

"Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said.

A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep.

"I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."

Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”

Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that isn’t what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

**Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Morning Psalm: Psalm 150**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
    praise him in his mighty heaven!  
Praise him for his mighty works;  
    praise his unequalled greatness!  
Praise him with a blast of the ram’s horn;  
    praise him with the lyre and harp!  
Praise him with the tambourine and dancing;  
    praise him with strings and flutes!  
Praise him with a clash of cymbals;  
    praise him with loud clanging cymbals.  
Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we’ll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

## **Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

We need to understand that God does at times give us an infusion of joy even in our bitterness and hard-heartedness. But that is the abnormal situation. God's normal means of bringing his joy is by redeeming and sanctifying the ordinary junctures of human life. When the members of a family are filled with love and compassion and a spirit of service to one another, that family has reason to celebrate.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 21:24-25**

This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate.

Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Evening Psalm: Psalm 150**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
    praise him in his mighty heaven!  
Praise him for his mighty works;  
    praise his unequalled greatness!  
Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn;  
    praise him with the lyre and harp!  
Praise him with the tambourine and dancing;  
    praise him with strings and flutes!

## Celebration – A Joyful Life

Praise him with a clash of cymbals;  
praise him with loud clanging cymbals.  
Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

### **Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

**August 31, 2011**

**Morning**

**Call To Prayer:** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice,\* In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Morning Short Reading:**

Joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Often I am inclined to think that joy is the motor, the thing that keeps everything else going. Without joyous celebration to infuse the other Disciplines, we will sooner or later abandon them. Joy produces energy. Joy makes us strong.

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Morning New Testament Reading: Acts 1**

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying.

Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James). They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.”

(Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means “Field of Blood.”)

Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’

“So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.”

So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

### **Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed  
Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Morning Reading From Isaiah: Is 38:9-20**

When King Hezekiah was well again, he wrote this poem:

I said, “In the prime of my life,  
must I now enter the place of the dead?  
Am I to be robbed of the rest of my years?”  
I said, “Never again will I see the Lord God  
while still in the land of the living.  
Never again will I see my friends  
or be with those who live in this world.  
My life has been blown away  
like a shepherd’s tent in a storm.  
It has been cut short,  
as when a weaver cuts cloth from a loom.  
Suddenly, my life was over.  
I waited patiently all night,  
but I was torn apart as though by lions.  
Suddenly, my life was over.  
Delirious, I chattered like a swallow or a crane,  
and then I moaned like a mourning dove.  
My eyes grew tired of looking to heaven for help.  
I am in trouble, Lord. Help me!”

But what could I say?  
For he himself sent this sickness.  
Now I will walk humbly throughout my years  
because of this anguish I have felt.  
Lord, your discipline is good,  
for it leads to life and health.  
You restore my health  
and allow me to live!  
Yes, this anguish was good for me,  
for you have rescued me from death  
and forgiven all my sins.  
For the dead cannot praise you;  
they cannot raise their voices in praise.  
Those who go down to the grave  
can no longer hope in your faithfulness.  
Only the living can praise you as I do today.  
Each generation tells of your faithfulness to the next.  
Think of it—the Lord is ready to heal me!  
I will sing his praises with instruments  
every day of my life  
in the Temple of the Lord.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, Almighty and Everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Midday**

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

**Evening**

**Call To Prayer:** Our help is in the name of the Lord\* The Maker of heaven and earth

**Vow:** In a world plagued by apathy and anxiety we'll regularly and joyfully celebrate all that is good, true and beautiful.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Phillipians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition,

with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### Evening Short Reading:

But already my desire and my will  
were being turned like a wheel, all at one speed,  
by the Love which moves the sun and the other stars.  
Dante, *Paradiso*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, you have given us all that is good. Open our eyes to your goodness, fill our hearts with laughter, and inspire us to sing songs of joy. Amen.

### Evening New Testament Reading: Acts 2

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days,’ God says,

‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions,

and your old men will dream dreams.

In those days I will pour out my Spirit

even on my servants—men and women alike—

and they will prophesy.

And I will cause wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below—

blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

The sun will become dark,

and the moon will turn blood red

before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives.

But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved.’

“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. King David said this about him:

‘I see that the Lord is always with me.  
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.  
No wonder my heart is glad,  
and my tongue shouts his praises!  
My body rests in hope.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead  
or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.  
You have shown me the way of life,  
and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’

“Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.

“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit in the place of honor at my right hand  
until I humble your enemies,  
making them a footstool under your feet.”’

“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

### **Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.  
Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.  
For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Evening Reading from Isaiah: Is 40:6-11**

A voice said, "Shout!"  
I asked, "What should I shout?"

"Shout that people are like the grass.  
Their beauty fades as quickly  
as the flowers in a field.  
The grass withers and the flowers fade  
beneath the breath of the Lord.  
And so it is with people.  
The grass withers and the flowers fade,  
but the word of our God stands forever."

O Zion, messenger of good news,  
shout from the mountaintops!  
Shout it louder, O Jerusalem.  
Shout, and do not be afraid.  
Tell the towns of Judah,  
"Your God is coming!"  
Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power.  
He will rule with a powerful arm.  
See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd.  
He will carry the lambs in his arms,  
holding them close to his heart.  
He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

**Intercession:**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.