

SABBATH KEEPING



FORMED

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Morning Short Reading:

There is a realm of time where the goal is not to have but to be, not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord. Life goes wrong when the control of space, the acquisition of things of space, becomes our sole concern.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 1:1-25

Many people have set out to write accounts about

the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the

right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He

will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years."

Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will

certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary.

When Zechariah's week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children."

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
89:21-32**

I will steady him with my hand;

with my powerful arm I will make him strong.

His enemies will not defeat him,

nor will the wicked overpower him.

I will beat down his adversaries before him

and destroy those who hate him.

My faithfulness and unfailing love will be with him,

and by my authority he will grow in power.

I will extend his rule over
the sea,

his dominion over the
rivers.

And he will call out to
me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock
of my salvation.'

I will make him my
firstborn son,
the mightiest king on
earth.

I will love him and be
kind to him forever;
my covenant with him
will never end.

I will preserve an heir for
him;

his throne will be as
endless as the days of
heaven.

But if his descendants
forsake my instructions
and fail to obey my
regulations,

if they do not obey my
decrees

and fail to keep my
commands,

then I will punish their
sin with the rod,

and their
disobedience with
beating.

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 of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen."

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the

heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Evening Short Reading:

The Sabbath, Jesus said, was made for man. (Mark 2:27) That is, it serves human life in essential ways. Without it, life cannot be what it should be. That is why it is given in the Ten

Commandments, at the heart of the moral law. It is not something we have to do because God has arbitrarily required it of us, a pointless hoop He would have us jump through. It is His gift to us. At the same time it makes clear that our life and our ministry is also His gift to us. Sabbath is a way of life. (Heb. 4:3 & 9-11) It sets us free from bondage to our own efforts. Only in this way can we come to the power and joy of a

radiant life in ministry, a blessing to all we touch. And yet Sabbath is almost totally absent from the existence of contemporary Christians and their ministers.
Dallas Willard

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said,

“Greetings, favored
woman!
The Lord is with you!”

Confused and disturbed,
Mary tried to think what
the angel could mean.

“Don’t be afraid,
Mary,” the angel told her,
“for you have found favor
with God! You will
conceive and give birth to
a son, and you will name
him Jesus. He will be very
great and will be called
the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give
him the throne of his

ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

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 89:
33-43**

But I will never stop
loving him

nor fail to keep my
promise to him.

No, I will not break my
covenant;

I will not take back a
single word I said.

I have sworn an oath to
David,

and in my holiness I
cannot lie:

His dynasty will go on
forever;

his kingdom will
endure as the sun.

It will be as eternal as
the moon,
my faithful witness in
the sky!”

Interlude

But now you have
rejected him and cast him
off.

You are angry with
your anointed king.

You have renounced
your covenant with him;
you have thrown his
crown in the dust.

You have broken down
the walls protecting him

and ruined every fort
defending him.

Everyone who comes
along has robbed him,
and he has become a
joke to his neighbors.

You have strengthened
his enemies
and made them all
rejoice.

You have made his
sword useless
and refused to help
him in battle.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

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Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Morning Short Reading:

In our daily lives we attend primarily to that which the senses are spelling out for us: to what the eyes perceive, to what the fingers touch. Reality to us is thinghood, consisting of substances that occupy space; even God is conceived by most of us as a thing. The result of our thinginess is our blindness to all reality

that fails to identify itself as a thing, as a matter of fact.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary,

“God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”

Mary responded,
“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior!

For he took notice of his
lowly servant girl,
and from now on all
generations will call me
blessed.

For the Mighty One is
holy,

and he has done great
things for me.

He shows mercy from
generation to generation
to all who fear him.

His mighty arm has done
tremendous things!

He has scattered the
proud and haughty ones.

He has brought down
princes from their
thrones
and exalted the humble.
He has filled the hungry
with good things
and sent the rich away
with empty hands.
He has helped his servant
Israel
and remembered to be
merciful.

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: Ps. 89:
44-52**

You have ended his
splendor
and overturned his
throne.

You have made him old
before his time
and publicly
disgraced him.

Interlude

O Lord, how long will this
go on?

Will you hide yourself
forever?

How long will your
anger burn like fire?

Remember how short
my life is,

how empty and futile
this human existence!

No one can live forever;
all will die.

No one can escape
the power of the grave.

Interlude

Lord, where is your
unfailing love?

You promised it to
David with a faithful
pledge.

Consider, Lord, how your
servants are disgraced!

I carry in my heart
the insults of so many
people.

Your enemies have
mocked me, O Lord;
they mock your
anointed king wherever
he goes.

Praise the Lord forever!
Amen and amen!

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

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Vow: Exodus 20:9-11**

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Evening Short Reading:

Those Endless Sabbaths

Oh, what their joy and
their glory must be,
Those endless Sabbaths
the blessed ones see;

 crowns for the valiant,
for weary ones rest:

 God shall be all, and in
all ever blest.

Truly Jerusalem name we
that shore,

Vision of peace that
brings hope evermore;

 wish and fulfillment
shall severed be ne'er,
 nor the thing prayed for
come short of the prayer.

There, where no trouble
distraction can bring,
We the sweet anthems of
Zion shall sing,
 while for thy grace,
Lord, their voices of
praise
 thy blessed people
eternally raise.
Now, in the meantime,
with hearts raised on
high,
We for that country must
yearn and must sigh,
 seeking Jerusalem,
dear native land,
 through the long exile
on Babylon's strand.

Low before him with our
praises we fall,
Of whom, and in whom,
and through whom are
all;

 of whom, the Father;
and in whom, the Son;
 through whom, the
Spirit, with both ever one.

Pierre Abelard,
Translation by John
Mason Neale

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help

us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

When it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced

with her.

When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No! His name is John!"

"What?" they exclaimed. "There is no one in all your family by that name." So they used gestures to ask the baby's father what he wanted to

name him. He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John." Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.

Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills. Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and

asked, “What will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.

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 90

A prayer of Moses, the
man of God.

Lord, through all the
generations
you have been our
home!

Before the mountains
were born,
before you gave birth
to the earth and the
world,

from beginning to
end, you are God.

You turn people back to
dust, saying,

“Return to dust, you
mortals!”

For you, a thousand
years are as a passing
day,

as brief as a few night
hours.

You sweep people away
like dreams that
disappear.

They are like grass
that springs up in the
morning.

In the morning it blooms
and flourishes,

but by evening it is
dry and withered.

We wither beneath your
anger;

we are overwhelmed
by your fury.

You spread out our sins
before you—

our secret sins—and
you see them all.

We live our lives
beneath your wrath,

ending our years with
a groan.

Seventy years are given
to us!

Some even live to
eighty.

But even the best years
are filled with pain and
trouble;

soon they disappear,
and we fly away.

Who can comprehend
the power of your anger?

Your wrath is as
awesome as the fear you
deserve.

Teach us to realize the
brevity of life,

so that we may grow
in wisdom.

O Lord, come back to us!
How long will you
delay?

Take pity on your
servants!

Satisfy us each morning
with your unfailing love,
so we may sing for
joy to the end of our lives.

Give us gladness in
proportion to our former
misery!

Replace the evil years
with good.

Let us, your servants,
see you work again;

let our children see
your glory.

And may the Lord our
God show us his approval
and make our efforts
successful.

Yes, make our efforts
successful!

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the

Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Morning Short Reading:

The higher goal of spiritual living is not to amass a wealth of information, but to face sacred moments.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help

us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 1:67-80

Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:
“Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people.

He has sent us a mighty
Savior
from the royal line of his
servant David,
just as he promised
through his holy prophets
long ago.

Now we will be saved
from our enemies
and from all who hate us.
He has been merciful to
our ancestors
by remembering his
sacred covenant—
the covenant he swore
with an oath
to our ancestor Abraham.

We have been rescued
from our enemies
so we can serve God
without fear,
in holiness and
righteousness
for as long as we live.
“And you, my little son,
will be called the prophet
of the Most High,
because you will prepare
the way for the Lord.
You will tell his people
how to find salvation
through forgiveness of
their sins.
Because of God’s tender
mercy,

the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.”

John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

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 91

Those who live in the
shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the
shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare about the
Lord:

He alone is my refuge,
my place of safety;

he is my God, and I
trust him.

For he will rescue you
from every trap

and protect you from
deadly disease.

He will cover you with his
feathers.

He will shelter you
with his wings.

His faithful promises
are your armor and
protection.

Do not be afraid of the
terrors of the night,
nor the arrow that
flies in the day.

Do not dread the
disease that stalks in
darkness,
nor the disaster that
strikes at midday.

Though a thousand fall
at your side,
though ten thousand
are dying around you,
these evils will not
touch you.

Just open your eyes,
and see how the
wicked are punished.

If you make the Lord
your refuge,
if you make the Most
High your shelter,
no evil will conquer you;
no plague will come
near your home.

For he will order his
angels

to protect you
wherever you go.

They will hold you up
with their hands

so you won't even
hurt your foot on a stone.

You will trample upon
lions and cobras;

you will crush fierce
lions and serpents under
your feet!

The Lord says, "I will
rescue those who love
me.

I will protect those
who trust in my name.

When they call on me, I
will answer;

I will be with them in
trouble.

I will rescue and honor them.

I will reward them with a long life
and give them my salvation.”

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

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Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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The Maker of heaven and
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busyness, we will honor
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Evening Short Reading:

Grant me grace this day
to rest and remember
that there is nothing I
have to do,
nothing I have to buy or
sell,
nothing I have to produce
or consume
in order to become who I
already am:
your beloved creation.

May your
overworked creation
and those who
cannot rest today
come to know
the liberation of your
sabbath.

Sam Hamilton-Poore,
*Earth Gospel: A Guide to
Prayer for God's Creation*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to

go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because

there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great

joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to
those with whom God is
pleased.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

They hurried to the village and found Mary

and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was

just as the angel had told 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 92

A psalm. A song to be sung on the Sabbath Day.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

to sing praises to the Most High.

It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning,

your faithfulness in the evening,

accompanied by the ten-stringed harp

and the melody of the
lyre.

You thrill me, Lord, with
all you have done for me!

I sing for joy because
of what you have done.

O Lord, what great
works you do!

And how deep are
your thoughts.

Only a simpleton would
not know,

and only a fool would
not understand this:

Though the wicked
sprout like weeds

and evildoers flourish,

they will be destroyed
forever.

But you, O Lord, will be
exalted forever.

Your enemies, Lord, will
surely perish;

all evildoers will be
scattered.

But you have made me
as strong as a wild ox.

You have anointed me
with the finest oil.

My eyes have seen the
downfall of my enemies;

my ears have heard
the defeat of my wicked
opponents.

But the godly will
flourish like palm trees
and grow strong like
the cedars of Lebanon.

For they are
transplanted to the Lord's
own house.

They flourish in the
courts of our God.

Even in old age they will
still produce fruit;

they will remain vital
and green.

They will declare, "The
Lord is just!

He is my rock!

There is no evil in
him!"

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the

Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Morning Short Reading:

The thought of just stopping is not new and it is not simple. In biblical tradition, it is one of the oldest thoughts. Humans, one must suppose, thought of stopping soon after they had thought of whatever first made them tired. But biblical tradition elevates just stopping above physiology necessity,

makes it a requirement,
makes it an observance
of the greatest dignity
and mystery, and assigns
it a day. The day is
named. Sabbath.

Wendell Berry in the
preface to Norman
Wirzba's *Living the
Sabbath: Discovering The
Rhythms of Rest and
Delight*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance

and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 2:21-35

Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

Then it was time for their purification offering, as

required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.” So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was

there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,
“Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them,
and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

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 93

The Lord is king! He is
robed in majesty.

Indeed, the Lord is
robed in majesty and
armed with strength.

The world stands firm
and cannot be
shaken.

Your throne, O Lord, has
stood from time
immemorial.

You yourself are from
the everlasting past.

The floods have risen
up, O Lord.

The floods have
roared like thunder;

the floods have lifted
their pounding waves.

But mightier than the
violent raging of the seas,
mightier than the
breakers on the shore—
the Lord above is
mightier than these!

Your royal laws cannot
be changed.

Your reign, O Lord, is
holy 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those

who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the

Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Evening Short Reading:

For most of us, Sabbath will not become possible without extensive, regular practice of solitude. That is, we must practice time alone, out of contact with others, in a comfortable setting outdoors or indoors, doing no work. We must not take our work with us, even in the form of bible study, prayer or sermon

preparation, for then we will not be alone. An afternoon walking by a stream or on the beach, in the mountains, or sitting in a comfortable room or yard, is a good way to start. This should become a weekly practice. Then perhaps a day, or a day and a night, in a retreat center where we can be alone. Then perhaps a weekend or a week, as wisdom dictates. This will be pretty scary for most of us. But we must not try to get God

to "do something" to fill up our time. That will only throw us back into work. The command is: "Do no work." Just make space. Attend to what is around you. Learn that you don't have to do to be. Accept the grace of doing nothing. Stay with it until you stop jerking and squirming.

Dallas Willard

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help

us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 2:36-52

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only

seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem. When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the

requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. After the celebration was over, they

started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. Three days later they finally discovered him in the

Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

“But why did you need to search?” he asked. “Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they didn’t understand what he meant.

Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

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 94: 1-11

O Lord, the God of
vengeance,

O God of vengeance,
let your glorious justice
shine forth!

Arise, O judge of the
earth.

Give the proud what
they deserve.

How long, O Lord?

How long will the
wicked be allowed to
gloat?

How long will they speak
with arrogance?

How long will these
evil people boast?

They crush your people,
Lord,

hurting those you
claim as your own.

They kill widows and
foreigners

and murder orphans.

“The Lord isn’t looking,”
they say,

“and besides, the God
of Israel doesn’t care.”

Think again, you fools!

When will you finally
catch on?

Is he deaf—the one who made your ears?

Is he blind—the one who formed your eyes?

He punishes the nations—won't he also punish you?

He knows everything—doesn't he also know what you are doing?

The Lord knows people's thoughts;

he knows they are worthless!

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the

Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Morning Short Reading:

Spiritual life begins to decay when we fail to sense the grandeur of what is eternal in time.
Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance

and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 3:1-20

It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over

Iturea and Traconitis;
Lysanias was ruler over
Abilene. Annas and
Caiaphas were the high
priests. At this time a
message from God came
to John son of Zechariah,
who was living in
the wilderness. Then John
went from place to place
on both sides of the
Jordan River,
preaching that people
should be baptized to
show that they had
repented of their sins and
turned to God to be
forgiven. Isaiah had

spoken of John when he
said,
“He is a voice shouting in
the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the
Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!
The valleys will be filled,
and the mountains and
hills made level.
The curves will be
straightened,
and the rough places
made smooth.
And then all people will
see
the salvation sent from
God.’”

When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, "You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee God's coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these

very stones. Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."

The crowds asked, "What should we do?"

John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry."

Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more taxes than the government requires."

"What should we do?" asked some soldiers.

John replied, "Don't extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay."

Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate

the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.” John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people.

John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for many other wrongs he

had done. So Herod put John in prison, adding this sin to his many others.

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 94: 12-23

Joyful are those you
discipline, Lord,
those you teach with
your instructions.

You give them relief
from troubled times
until a pit is dug to
capture the wicked.

The Lord will not reject
his people;

he will not abandon
his special possession.

Judgment will again be
founded on justice,
and those with
virtuous hearts will
pursue it.

Who will protect me
from the wicked?

Who will stand up for
me against evildoers?

Unless the Lord had
helped me,

I would soon have
settled in the silence of
the grave.

I cried out, "I am slipping!"

but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me.

When doubts filled my mind,

your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.

Can unjust leaders claim that God is on their side—

leaders whose decrees permit injustice?

They gang up against the righteous

and condemn the innocent to death.

But the Lord is my
fortress;

my God is the mighty
rock where I hide.

God will turn the sins of
evil people back on them.

He will destroy them
for their sins.

The Lord our God will
destroy them.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Exodus 20:9-11**

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Evening Short Reading:

Creator Spirit,
mighty wind of God,
You brood over our lives,
and speak new life into
our chaos.

You set Your Sabbath
apart for Your service.

Your Sabbath
celebrates the flowering
of creation,
the wedding of our hopes
to Your divine yearning.
In the light of your holy
Sabbath,
each day is holy;

in the overflowing of
Sabbath joy,
each moment is sacred.

As we read in the story of
creation:

“Now the whole universe
--sky, earth, and all their
array
--was completed.

With the seventh day,
God enjoyed rest from
the labor of creation.
Then God blessed the
seventh day,
and called it holy.”

Overshadow us now

with your beauty and
your joy,
that our world may know
a Sabbath of wholeness
and peace,
today and forever.

From The Brothers of
Weston Priory, as found in
Sam Hamilton-Poore's
*Earth Gospel: A Guide to
Prayer for God's Creation*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance

and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 3:21-38

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a

dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry.

Jesus was known as the son of Joseph.

Joseph was the son of Heli.

Heli was the son of Matthat.

Matthat was the son of Levi.

Levi was the son of Melki.
Melki was the son of
Jannai.

Jannai was the son of
Joseph.

Joseph was the son of
Mattathias.

Mattathias was the son of
Amos.

Amos was the son of
Nahum.

Nahum was the son of
Eсли.

Eсли was the son of
Naggai.

Naggai was the son of
Maath.

Maath was the son of
Mattathias.

Mattathias was the son of
Semein.

Semein was the son of
Josech.

Josech was the son of
Joda.

Joda was the son of
Joanan.

Joanan was the son of
Rhesa.

Rhesa was the son of
Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was the son
of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the son of
Neri.

Neri was the son of Melki.
Melki was the son of Addi.
Addi was the son of
Cosam.

Cosam was the son of
Elmadam.

Elmadam was the son of
Er.

Er was the son of Joshua.
Joshua was the son of
Eliezer.

Eliezer was the son of
Jorim.

Jorim was the son of
Matthat.

Matthat was the son of
Levi.

Levi was the son of
Simeon.

Simeon was the son of
Judah.

Judah was the son of
Joseph.

Joseph was the son of
Jonam.

Jonam was the son of
Eliakim.

Eliakim was the son of
Melea.

Melea was the son of
Menna.

Menna was the son of
Mattatha.

Mattatha was the son of
Nathan.

Nathan was the son of David.

David was the son of Jesse.

Jesse was the son of Obed.

Obed was the son of Boaz.

Boaz was the son of Salmon.

Salmon was the son of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the son of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the son of Admin.

Admin was the son of Arni.

Arni was the son of
Hezron.

Hezron was the son of
Perez.

Perez was the son of
Judah.

Judah was the son of
Jacob.

Jacob was the son of
Isaac.

Isaac was the son of
Abraham.

Abraham was the son of
Terah.

Terah was the son of
Nahor.

Nahor was the son of
Serug.

Serug was the son of Reu.
Reu was the son of Peleg.
Peleg was the son of Eber.
Eber was the son of
Shelah.

Shelah was the son of
Cainan.

Cainan was the son of
Arphaxad.

Arphaxad was the son of
Shem.

Shem was the son of
Noah.

Noah was the son of
Lamech.

Lamech was the son of
Methuselah.

Methuselah was the son of Enoch.

Enoch was the son of Jared.

Jared was the son of Mahalalel.

Mahalalel was the son of Kenan.

Kenan was the son of Enosh.

Enosh was the son of Seth.

Seth was the son of Adam.

Adam was the son 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 95

Come, let us sing to the Lord!

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come to him with thanksgiving.

Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

For the Lord is a great God,

a great King above all gods.

He holds in his hands the depths of the earth

and the mightiest mountains.

The sea belongs to him,
for he made it.

His hands formed the
dry land, too.

Come, let us worship
and bow down.

Let us kneel before
the Lord our maker,
for he is our God.

We are the people he
watches over,
the flock under his
care.

If only you would listen
to his voice today!

The Lord says, "Don't harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah, as they did at Massah in the wilderness.

For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience,

even though they saw everything I did.

For forty years I was angry with them, and I said,

'They are a people whose hearts turn away from me.

They refuse to do what I tell them.'

So in my anger I took an oath:

‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the

Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Morning Short Reading:

The world seduces us with an artificial urgency that requires us to respond without listening to what is most deeply true. In Sabbath time, we cultivate a sense of eternity where we truly rest, and feel how things can wait, and turn them gently in the hand until we feel their shape, and know the truth of them.

Wayne Muller

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: Luke
4:1-30**

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. “I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, “because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me.”

Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands

so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'”

Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”

When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread

quickly through the whole region. He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll

and found the place
where this was written:
“The Spirit of the Lord is
upon me,
for he has anointed me to
bring Good News to the
poor.
He has sent me to
proclaim that captives
will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be
set free,
and that the time of the
Lord’s favor has come.”

He rolled up the scroll,
handed it back to the

attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

Then he said, “You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: ‘Physician, heal yourself’— meaning, ‘Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.’ But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

“Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe

famine devastated the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian.”

When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. Jumping up, they mobbed

him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

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 96

Sing a new song to the Lord!

Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!

Sing to the Lord; praise his name.

Each day proclaim
the good news that he
saves.

Publish his glorious
deeds among the nations.

Tell everyone about
the amazing things he
does.

Great is the Lord! He is
most worthy of praise!

He is to be feared
above all gods.

The gods of other
nations are mere idols,
but the Lord made the
heavens!

Honor and majesty
surround him;

strength and beauty
fill his sanctuary.

O nations of the world,
recognize the Lord;
recognize that the
Lord is glorious and
strong.

Give to the Lord the
glory he deserves!

Bring your offering
and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in all
his holy splendor.

Let all the earth
tremble before him.

Tell all the nations, "The
Lord reigns!"

The world stands firm
and cannot be shaken.

He will judge all
peoples fairly.

Let the heavens be glad,
and the earth rejoice!

Let the sea and
everything in it shout his
praise!

Let the fields and their
crops burst out with joy!

Let the trees of the
forest rustle with praise
before the Lord, for he is
coming!

He is coming to judge
the earth.

He will judge the world
with justice,
and the nations with
his truth.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest,

contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Exodus 20:9-11**

“You have six days each
week for your ordinary
work, but the seventh day

is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Evening Short Reading:

The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live

under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time. It is a day on which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation; from the world of creation to the creation of the world.
Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your

creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. There, too, the people were amazed

at his teaching, for he spoke with authority.

Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil spirit—began shouting at Jesus, “Go away! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One sent from God!” Jesus cut him short. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. At that, the demon threw

the man to the floor as the crowd watched; then it came out of him without hurting him further.

Amazed, the people exclaimed, "What authority and power this man's words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!" The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region.

After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon's home, where he found Simon's mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. "Please heal her," everyone begged. Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

As the sun went down that evening, people

throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak.

Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. But he replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent." So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout 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 97

The Lord is king!

Let the earth rejoice!

Let the farthest
coastlands be glad.

Dark clouds surround
him.

Righteousness and
justice are the foundation
of his throne.

Fire spreads ahead of
him

and burns up all his
foes.

His lightning flashes out
across the world.

The earth sees and
trembles.

The mountains melt like
wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all
the earth.

The heavens proclaim
his righteousness;
every nation sees his
glory.

Those who worship idols
are disgraced—
all who brag about
their worthless gods—
for every god must
bow to him.

Jerusalem has heard
and rejoiced,
and all the towns of
Judah are glad

because of your
justice, O Lord!

For you, O Lord, are
supreme over all the
earth;

you are exalted far
above all gods.

You who love the Lord,
hate evil!

He protects the lives
of his godly people
and rescues them
from the power of the
wicked.

Light shines on the
godly,

and joy on those
whose hearts are right.

May all who are godly
rejoice in the Lord

and praise his holy
name!

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the

Sabbath day and set it
apart as holy.”

Morning Short Reading:

Lord of the Sabbath, hear
us pray,
In this Your house, on this
Your day;
And own, as grateful
sacrifice,
The songs which from
Your temple rise.

Now met to pray and
bless Your Name,
Whose mercies flow each
day the same;

Whose kind compassions
never cease,
We seek instruction,
pardon, peace.

Your earthly Sabbaths,
Lord, we love,
But there's a nobler rest
above;
To that our laboring souls
aspire
With ardent hope and
strong desire.

In Your blest kingdom we
shall be
From every mortal
trouble free;

No sighs shall mingle with
the songs
Resounding from
immortal tongues.

Philip Doddridge

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 5:1-16

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water.

So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their

nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." For he was awestruck by

the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an

advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. "Lord," he said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."

Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Then Jesus instructed him not to tell anyone what had happened. He

said, "Go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."

But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. But Jesus often withdrew to the

wilderness for prayer.

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 98

A psalm.

Sing a new song to the
Lord,

for he has done
wonderful deeds.

His right hand has won
a mighty victory;

his holy arm has
shown his saving power!

The Lord has announced
his victory

and has revealed his
righteousness to every
nation!

He has remembered his promise to love and be faithful to Israel.

The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth;

break out in praise and sing for joy!

Sing your praise to the Lord with the harp,

with the harp and melodious song,

with trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn.

Make a joyful
symphony before the
Lord, the King!

Let the sea and
everything in it shout his
praise!

Let the earth and all
living things join in.

Let the rivers clap their
hands in glee!

Let the hills sing out
their songs of joy
before the Lord.

For the Lord is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world
with justice,

and the nations with fairness.

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 of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

Call To Prayer: Our help is in the name of the Lord*

The Maker of heaven and earth

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Exodus 20:9-11

“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day

is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God... For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Evening Short Reading:

Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth; on the Sabbath we

especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul. The world has our hands, but our soul belongs to Someone Else. Six days a week we seek to dominate the world, on the seventh day we try to dominate the self.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and

rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 5:17-39

One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing

power was strongly with Jesus.

Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to

the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven." But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to

you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.”

Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”

And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God.

Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, “We

have seen amazing things today!”

Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow

tax collectors and other guests also ate with them. But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with such scum?"

Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to

repent.”

One day some people said to Jesus, “John the Baptist’s disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking?”

Jesus responded, “Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from

them, and then they will fast.”

Then Jesus gave them this illustration: “No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t even match the old garment.

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins,

spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins. But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. 'The old is just fine,' they 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.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 99

The Lord is king!

Let the nations tremble!

He sits on his throne between the cherubim.

Let the whole earth quake!

The Lord sits in majesty
in Jerusalem,
exalted above all the
nations.

Let them praise your
great and awesome
name.

Your name is holy!
Mighty King, lover of
justice,
you have established
fairness.

You have acted with
justice
and righteousness
throughout Israel.

Exalt the Lord our God!

Bow low before his
feet, for he is holy!

Moses and Aaron were
among his priests;

Samuel also called on
his name.

They cried to the Lord
for help,

and he answered
them.

He spoke to Israel from
the pillar of cloud,

and they followed the
laws and decrees he gave
them.

O Lord our God, you
answered them.

You were a forgiving
God to them,
but you punished
them when they went
wrong.

Exalt the Lord our God,
and worship at his
holy mountain in
Jerusalem,
for the Lord our God
is holy!

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

We need to find God, who cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence...we need silence to be able to touch souls.

Mother Theresa

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have

called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 6:1-19

One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grain fields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands,

and ate the grain. But some Pharisees said, “Why are you breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?”

Jesus replied, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests can

eat. He also gave some to his companions.”

And Jesus added, “The Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath.”

On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." So the man came forward. Then Jesus said to his critics, "I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?"

He looked around at them one by one and then said

to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him.

One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be

apostles. Here are their names:

Simon (whom he named Peter),

Andrew (Peter's brother),

James,

John,

Philip,

Bartholomew,

Matthew,

Thomas,

James (son of Alphaeus),

Simon (who was called the zealot),

Judas (son of James),

Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed. Everyone tried to touch him,

because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.

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 100

A psalm of thanksgiving.

Shout with joy to the
Lord, all the earth!

Worship the Lord with
gladness.

Come before him,
singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the
Lord is God!

He made us, and we
are his.

We are his people, the
sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with
thanksgiving;

go into his courts with
praise.

Give thanks to him
and praise his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love
continues forever,

and his faithfulness
continues to each
generation.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and

rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,

contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day

when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

To the biblical mind, however, labor is the means toward an end, and the Sabbath as a day of rest, as a day of abstaining from, toil, is not for the purpose of recovering one's lost strength and becoming fit for the forthcoming labor. The Sabbath is a day for the sake of life. Man is not a beast of burden, and

the Sabbath is not for the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of his work.

“Last in creation, first in intention.”

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 6:20-49

Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said,
“God blesses you who are poor,
for the Kingdom of God is yours.

God blesses you who are hungry now,
for you will be satisfied.

God blesses you who weep now,
for in due time you will laugh.

What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

“What sorrow awaits you who are rich,

for you have your only
happiness now.

What sorrow awaits you
who are fat and
prosperous now,
for a time of awful hunger
awaits you.

What sorrow awaits you
who laugh now,
for your laughing will turn
to mourning and sorrow.

What sorrow awaits you
who are praised by the
crowds,
for their ancestors also
praised false prophets.

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

“If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do

not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

Then Jesus gave the following illustration: “Can

one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch? Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

“And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you

can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

“A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thorn bushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. A good person produces

good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like

a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation.

When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

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 101

A psalm of David.

I will sing of your love
and justice, Lord.

I will praise you with
songs.

I will be careful to live a
blameless life—

when will you come to
help me?

I will lead a life of
integrity

in my own home.

I will refuse to look at
anything vile and
vulgar.

I hate all who deal
crookedly;

I will have nothing to do with them.

I will reject perverse ideas

and stay away from every evil.

I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors.

I will not endure conceit and pride.

I will search for faithful people

to be my companions.

Only those who are above reproach

will be allowed to
serve me.

I will not allow deceivers
to serve in my house,
and liars will not stay
in my presence.

My daily task will be to
ferret out the wicked
and free the city of
the Lord from their grip.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

The key to experiencing the Sabbath in the richness of its design is to recognize the importance of its rhythm. Which day is used to observe the Sabbath is not as important as ensuring that the day of ceasing occurs every seven days without fail.

Marva J. Dawn, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 7:1-35

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people, he returned to Capernaum. At that

time the highly valued slave of a Roman officer was sick and near death. When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some respected Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his slave. So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man. "If anyone deserves your help, he does," they said, "for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us." So Jesus went with them. But just before they

arrived at the house, the officer sent some friends to say, "Lord, don't trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor. I am not even worthy to come and meet you. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come.

And if I say to my slaves,
'Do this,' they do it."

When Jesus heard this,
he was amazed. Turning
to the crowd that was
following him, he
said, "I tell you, I haven't
seen faith like this in all
Israel!" And when the
officer's friends
returned to his house,
they found the slave
completely healed.

Soon afterward Jesus
went with his disciples to

the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you,

get up.” Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, “A mighty prophet has risen among us,” and “God has visited his people today.” And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, and he sent them to the Lord to ask him, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"

John's two disciples found Jesus and said to him, "John the Baptist sent us to ask, 'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we

keep looking for someone else?’”

At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. Then he told John's disciples, “Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life,

and the Good News is being preached to the poor. And tell him, 'God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.'"

After John's disciples left, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in

expensive clothes? No, people who wear beautiful clothes and live in luxury are found in palaces. Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, of all who have ever lived, none is greater

than John. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of God is greater than he is!”

When they heard this, all the people—even the tax collectors—agreed that God’s way was right, for they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in religious law rejected God’s plan for them, for they had refused John’s baptism.

“To what can I compare the people of this generation?” Jesus asked. “How can I describe them? They are like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends, ‘We played wedding songs, and you didn’t dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn’t weep.’ For John the Baptist didn’t spend his time

eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, 'He's possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow 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 102:
1-10**

A prayer of one
overwhelmed with
trouble, pouring out
problems before the Lord.

Lord, hear my prayer!

Listen to my plea!

Don't turn away from
me

in my time of distress.

Bend down to listen,

and answer me

quickly when I call to you.

For my days disappear
like smoke,

and my bones burn
like red-hot coals.

My heart is sick,
withered like grass,

and I have lost my
appetite.

Because of my groaning,
I am reduced to skin
and bones.

I am like an owl in the
desert,

like a little owl in a
far-off wilderness.

I lie awake,
lonely as a solitary
bird on the roof.

My enemies taunt me
day after day.

They mock and curse
me.

I eat ashes for food.

My tears run down
into my drink
because of your anger
and wrath.

For you have picked
me up and thrown me
out.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

It must always be remembered that the Sabbath is not an occasion for diversion or frivolity; not a day to shoot fireworks or to turn somersaults, but an opportunity to mend our tattered lives; to collect rather than to dissipate time.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your

creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman

from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a

prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to

one and pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?”

Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.”

“That’s right,” Jesus said. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this

woman kneeling here.
When I entered your
home, you didn't offer me
water to wash the dust
from my feet, but she has
washed them with her
tears and wiped them
with her hair. You
didn't greet me with a
kiss, but from the time I
first came in, she has not
stopped kissing my
feet. You neglected the
courtesy of olive oil to
anoint my head, but she
has anointed my feet
with rare perfume.

“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?”

And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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 102: 11-17

My life passes as swiftly as the evening shadows.

I am withering away like grass.

But you, O Lord, will sit on your throne forever.

Your fame will endure to every generation.

You will arise and have
mercy on Jerusalem—
and now is the time to
pity her,

now is the time you
promised to help.

For your people love
every stone in her walls
and cherish even the
dust in her streets.

Then the nations will
tremble before the Lord.

The kings of the earth
will tremble before his
glory.

For the Lord will rebuild
Jerusalem.

He will appear in his glory.

He will listen to the prayers of the destitute.

He will not reject their pleas.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

To advocate a complete day of ceasing from work - as this entire book does - does not mean, of course, that work is wrong. Indeed, our work is worship when we do it to the glory of God. However, that subject must be pursued at another time, for our focus here is on the rhythm of the worshipful life, alternating between regular days of work and special day of ceasing,

resting, embracing, and feasting.

Marva J. Dawn, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 8:1-15

Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out

seven demons; Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.

One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his

field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture.

Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had

said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

‘When they look, they won’t really see.

When they hear, they won't understand.'

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy.

But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, goodhearted people who hear God's

word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge 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 102: 18-28

Let this be recorded for
future generations,

so that a people not
yet born will praise the
Lord.

Tell them the Lord
looked down

from his heavenly
sanctuary.

He looked down to
earth from heaven
to hear the groans of the
prisoners,
to release those
condemned to die.

And so the Lord's fame
will be celebrated in Zion,
his praises in
Jerusalem,
when multitudes gather
together
and kingdoms come
to worship the Lord.

He broke my strength in
midlife,
cutting short my days.

But I cried to him, "O my
God, who lives forever,
don't take my life
while I am so young!

Long ago you laid the
foundation of the earth
and made the
heavens with your hands.

They will perish, but you
remain forever;

they will wear out like
old clothing.

You will change them
like a garment
and discard them.

But you are always the
same;

you will live forever.

The children of your
people
will live in security.
Their children's children
will thrive in your
presence.”

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest,

contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Genesis 2:1-3**

So the creation of the
heavens and the earth
and everything in them

was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

Not only the hands of man celebrate the day, the tongue and the soul keep the Sabbath. One does not talk on it in the

same manner in which one talks on weekdays. Even thinking of business or labor should be avoided.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 8:16-39

“No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house. For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.

“So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.”

Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they couldn't get to him because of the crowd. Someone told Jesus, “Your mother and

your brothers are outside,
and they want
to see you.”

Jesus replied, “My mother
and my brothers are all
those who hear God’s
word and obey it.”

One day Jesus said to his
disciples, “Let’s cross to
the other side of the lake.”
So they got
into a boat and started
out. As they sailed across,
Jesus settled down for a
nap. But soon a

fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger.

The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?"

The disciples were terrified and amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!”

So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee. As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a

long time he had been homeless and naked, living in a cemetery outside the town.

As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him. This spirit had

often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power.

Jesus demanded, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, for he was filled with many demons. The demons kept begging Jesus

not to send them into the bottomless pit.

There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs.

So Jesus gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned.

When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. Then those

who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them.

So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go

with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, "No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for 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 103: 1-11

A psalm of David.

Let all that I am praise the Lord;

with my whole heart, I
will praise his holy name.

Let all that I am praise
the Lord;

may I never forget the
good things he does for
me.

He forgives all my sins
and heals all my
diseases.

He redeems me from
death

and crowns me with
love and tender mercies.

He fills my life with good
things.

My youth is renewed
like the eagle's!

The Lord gives
righteousness
and justice to all who
are treated unfairly.

He revealed his
character to Moses
and his deeds to the
people of Israel.

The Lord is
compassionate and
merciful,
slow to get angry and
filled with unfailing love.

He will not constantly
accuse us,

nor remain angry
forever.

He does not punish us
for all our sins;

he does not deal
harshly with us, as we
deserve.

For his unfailing love
toward those who fear
him

is as great as the
height of the heavens
above the 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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

In all these dimensions we will recognize the great healing that can take place in our lives when we get into the rhythm of setting aside every seventh day all of our efforts to provide for ourselves and make our way in the world. A great benefit of Sabbath keeping is that we learn to let God take care of us - not by becoming passive and lazy, but in the freedom of giving up

our feeble attempts to be
God in our own lives.

Marva J. Dawn, *Keeping
the Sabbath Wholly:
Ceasing, Resting,
Embracing, Feasting*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 8:40-56

On the other side of the lake the crowds welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for him. Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come home with him. His only daughter, who was about twelve years old, was dying.

As Jesus went with him, he was surrounded by the crowds. A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped.

“Who touched me?”
Jesus asked.

Everyone denied it, and Peter said, “Master, this

whole crowd is pressing up against you.”

But Jesus said, “Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me.”

When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. “Daughter,” he said to her,

“your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

While he was still speaking to her, a messenger arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. He told him, “Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.”

But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just have

faith, and she will be healed.”

When they arrived at the house, Jesus wouldn't let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, James, and the little girl's father and mother. The house was filled with people weeping and wailing, but he said, “Stop the weeping! She isn't dead; she's only asleep.”

But the crowd laughed at him because they all

knew she had died. Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, "My child, get up!" And at that moment her life returned, and she immediately stood up! Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were overwhelmed, but Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone what had happened.

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 103:
12-22**

He has removed our sins
as far from us
as the east is from the
west.

The Lord is like a father
to his children,
tender and
compassionate to those
who fear him.

For he knows how weak
we are;
he remembers we are
only dust.

Our days on earth are
like grass;
like wildflowers, we
bloom and die.

The wind blows, and we
are gone—

as though we had
never been here.

But the love of the Lord
remains forever

with those who fear
him.

His salvation extends to
the children's children

of those who are
faithful to his covenant,
of those who obey his
commandments!

The Lord has made the
heavens his throne;

from there he rules
over everything.

Praise the Lord, you
angels,
you mighty ones who
carry out his plans,
listening for each of
his commands.

Yes, praise the Lord, you
armies of angels
who serve him and do
his will!

Praise the Lord,
everything he has
created,
everything in all his
kingdom.

Let all that I am 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

Call To Prayer: Our help is in the name of the Lord*

The Maker of heaven and earth

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had

finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

The basic principle of the sabbath is stated clearly enough in Genesis 2:3. But what it actually says there, though outwardly simple, is actually deeply mysterious and pregnant.

God finished the work of creating the heavens and the earth on the sixth day, and then “rested” on the seventh day. What does this mean?

For a start, it appears to mean that God, having created a world which includes “time” itself, the forward movement of the world and events within it, is somehow himself within, or at least in relation to, this time which he has created.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 9:1-20

One day Jesus called together his twelve

disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. "Take nothing for your journey," he instructed them.

"Don't take a walking stick, a traveler's bag, food, money, or even a change of clothes.

Wherever you go, stay in the same house until you leave town. And if a town refuses to

welcome you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate.”

So they began their circuit of the villages, preaching the Good News and healing the sick.

When Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, heard about everything Jesus was doing, he was puzzled. Some were saying that John the

Baptist had been raised from the dead. Others thought Jesus was Elijah or one of the other prophets risen from the dead.

“I beheaded John,” Herod said, “so who is this man about whom I hear such stories?” And he kept trying to see him.

When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped

quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.

Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find

food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place.”

But Jesus said, “You feed them.”

“But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?” For there were about 5,000 men there. Jesus replied, “Tell them to sit down in groups of

about fifty each.” So the people all sat down. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them.

Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers!

One day Jesus left the crowds to pray alone. Only his disciples were with him, and he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

"Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other ancient prophets risen from the dead."

Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Peter replied, "You are the Messiah sent from 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 104: 1-10

Let all that I am praise
the Lord.

O Lord my God, how
great you are!

You are robed with
honor and majesty.

You are dressed in a
robe of light.

You stretch out the
starry curtain of the
heavens;

you lay out the rafters
of your home in the rain
clouds.

You make the clouds
your chariot;

you ride upon the
wings of the wind.

The winds are your
messengers;

flames of fire are your
servants.

You placed the world on
its foundation

so it would never be moved.

You clothed the earth with floods of water,
water that covered even the mountains.

At your command, the water fled;
at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.

Mountains rose and valleys sank
to the levels you decreed.

Then you set a firm boundary for the seas,
so they would never again cover the earth.

You make springs pour
water into the ravines,
so streams gush down
from the mountains.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

In Judaica the Sabbath is loved as a bride or a queen. Deep in our beings there is a longing for completion; all sorts of prostitutes in our culture compete to satisfy that yearning. Only holy time, in which we experience the presence of God, can fill our emptiness.

Marva J. Dawn, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 9:21-45

Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone who he was. “The

Son of Man must suffer many terrible things,” he said. “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels. I tell you the truth, some standing here right now

will not die before they see the Kingdom of God.”

About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this

world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, "Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you,

one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them.

Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him.” When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn’t tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

The next day, after they had come down the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus. A man in the crowd called out to him, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, my only child. An evil spirit keeps seizing him, making him scream. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It batters him and hardly ever leaves him alone. I begged your disciples to cast out

the spirit, but they couldn't do it."

Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?" Then he said to the man, "Bring your son here."

As the boy came forward, the demon knocked him to the ground and threw him into a violent convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil

spirit and healed the boy. Then he gave him back to his father. Awe gripped the people as they saw this majestic display of God's power.

While everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, "Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies." But they didn't know what he

meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they couldn't understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about 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 104: 11-23

They provide water for
all the animals,
and the wild donkeys
quench their thirst.

The birds nest beside
the streams
and sing among the
branches of the trees.

You send rain on the
mountains from your
heavenly home,
and you fill the earth
with the fruit of your
labor.

You cause grass to grow
for the livestock
and plants for people
to use.

You allow them to
produce food from the
earth—
wine to make them
glad,
olive oil to soothe their
skin,

and bread to give
them strength.

The trees of the Lord are
well cared for—

the cedars of Lebanon
that he planted.

There the birds make
their nests,

and the storks make
their homes in the
cypresses.

High in the mountains
live the wild goats,

and the rocks form a
refuge for the hyraxes.

You made the moon to
mark the seasons,

and the sun knows
when to set.

You send the darkness,
and it becomes night,
when all the forest
animals prowl about.

Then the young lions
roar for their prey,
stalking the food
provided by God.

At dawn they slink back
into their dens to rest.
Then people go off to
their work,
where they labor until
evening.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have

called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And

God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

God creates a world of space, time and matter; declares that it is very good (so that we would be wrong to see space, time, and matter as somehow second-rate, shabby things); and then, as it were, takes control of it, not being bound by the

relentless need always to be working, to be creating. Creation is going somewhere. It is a project, not a tableau or a machine. It contains a rhythm within which God's own rhythm of life somehow seems to be intersecting mysteriously with ours.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have

called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 9:46-62

Then his disciples began arguing about which of them was the greatest. But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to

his side. Then he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest."

John said to Jesus, "Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn't in our group."

But Jesus said, "Don't stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you."

As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. When James

and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them. So they went on to another village.

As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has

no place even to lay his head.”

He said to another person, “Come, follow me.”

The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”

But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.”

Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."

But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom 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 104: 24-35

O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

Here is the ocean, vast
and wide,
teeming with life of
every kind,
both large and small.
See the ships sailing
along,
and Leviathan, which
you made to play in the
sea.

They all depend on you
to give them food as
they need it.

When you supply it, they
gather it.

You open your hand to
feed them,

and they are richly satisfied.

But if you turn away from them, they panic.

When you take away their breath,

they die and turn again to dust.

When you give them your breath, life is created,

and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord continue forever!

The Lord takes
pleasure in all he has
made!

The earth trembles at
his glance;
the mountains smoke
at his touch.

I will sing to the Lord as
long as I live.

I will praise my God to
my last breath!

May all my thoughts be
pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the
Lord.

Let all sinners vanish
from the face of the
earth;

let the wicked
disappear forever.

Let all that I am praise
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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

The current state of food production, particularly meat production, gives us one of the clearest indicators that we have forsaken a Sabbath way of life and refused to order our economic choices according to Sabbath priorities.

Though few of us have much direct involvement in the raising of food, we all eat and thus daily enact our interdependencies with

the whole spectrum of God's creation. Thus eating, whether we recognize it or not, takes us to the heart of what a culture is about and what it sees as valuable and important.

Norman Wirzba, *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance

and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 10:1-29

The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. These were his instructions to them: “The harvest is

great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Don't take any money with you, nor a traveler's bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don't stop to greet anyone on the road.

“Whenever you enter someone's home, first

say, 'May God's peace be on this house.' If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. Don't move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay.

"If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat

whatever is set before you. Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.' But if a town refuses to welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'We wipe even the dust of your town from our feet to show that we have abandoned you to your fate. And know this—the Kingdom of God is near!' I assure you, even wicked Sodom will be better off than such a town on judgment day.

“What sorrow awaits you,
Korazin and Bethsaida!
For if the miracles I did in
you had been
done in wicked Tyre and
Sidon, their people would
have repented of their
sins long ago,
clothing themselves in
burlap and throwing
ashes on their heads to
show their remorse. Yes,
Tyre and Sidon will be
better off on judgment
day than you. And you
people of Capernaum,
will you be honored in
heaven? No, you will go

down to the place of the dead.”

Then he said to the disciples, “Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me.”

When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the

demons obey us when we use your name!”

“Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way.

"My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one

truly knows the Son
except the Father,
and no one truly knows
the Father except the Son
and those to whom the
Son chooses to
reveal him.”

Then when they were
alone, he turned to the
disciples and said,
“Blessed are the eyes that
see what you have seen. I
tell you, many prophets
and kings longed to see
what you see, but
they didn't see it. And
they longed to hear what

you hear, but they didn't hear it."

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question:

"Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all

your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

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 105:
1-11**

Give thanks to the Lord
and proclaim his
greatness.

Let the whole world
know what he has done.

Sing to him; yes, sing his
praises.

Tell everyone about
his wonderful deeds.

Exult in his holy name;
rejoice, you who
worship the Lord.

Search for the Lord and
for his strength;

continually seek him.

Remember the wonders
he has performed,

his miracles, and the
rulings he has given,
you children of his
servant Abraham,
you descendants of
Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God.
His justice is seen
throughout the land.
He always stands by his
covenant—
the commitment he
made to a thousand
generations.
This is the covenant he
made with Abraham

and the oath he swore
to Isaac.

He confirmed it to
Jacob as a decree,
and to the people of
Israel as a never-ending
covenant:

“I will give you the land
of Canaan
as your special
possession.”

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

One way of understanding [sabbath] has been proposed, on the basis of detailed study of comparative material in the ancient Near East, by John Walton in his remarkable book *The Lost World of Genesis One*. Walton insists that in the ancient world anyone reading about something being built by a god in six days or stages would know that it was basically a

temple, a dwelling for the god himself or herself. And what the god would do after the six days of construction was not simply to stop working and have some time off. The god would enter the newly constructed house and “rest” there—in the sense of “taking his ease,” taking up residence and being at peace in his new home. This gives quite a new perspective on the Genesis sabbath instruction. If Walton is right, it has to do with the

creator's enjoyment of his world, his celebration of heaven and earth as a dwelling for himself.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 10:30-42

Jesus replied with a story:
“A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw

the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed

his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

"Now which of these three would you say was

a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed

him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details!

There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

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 105: 11-22

“I will give you the land of
Canaan
as your special
possession.”

He said this when they
were few in number,

a tiny group of
strangers in Canaan.

They wandered from
nation to nation,
from one kingdom to
another.

Yet he did not let anyone
oppress them.

He warned kings on
their behalf:

“Do not touch my
chosen people,
and do not hurt my
prophets.”

He called for a famine
on the land of Canaan,

cutting off its food supply.

Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—

Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

They bruised his feet with fetters

and placed his neck in an iron collar.

Until the time came to fulfill his dreams,

the Lord tested Joseph's character.

Then Pharaoh sent for him and set him free;

the ruler of the nation opened his prison door.

Joseph was put in charge of all the king's household;

he became ruler over all the king's possessions.

He could instruct the king's aides as he pleased and teach the king's advisers.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

So what is at stake in Sabbath observance is not simply that we manage to pause and refuel enough to continue on in our frantic and sometimes destructive ways. The real issue is whether we can learn to see, and then welcome, the divine presence wherever we are. Can we link up as servants of God's covenantal love and see in that service our unending joy?

Norman Wirzba, Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 11:1-28

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus said, “This is how you should pray:
“Father, may your name be kept holy.
May your Kingdom come soon.

Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation."

Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for

him to eat.’ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will

receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

“You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of

course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

One day Jesus cast out a demon from a man who couldn't speak, and when the demon was gone, the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed, but some of them said, “No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from

Satan, the prince of demons.” Others, trying to test Jesus, demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority.

He knew their thoughts, so he said, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A family splintered by feuding will fall apart. You say I am empowered by Satan. But if Satan is divided and fighting against himself, how can his

kingdom survive? And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said. But if I am casting out demons by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. For when a strong man like Satan is fully armed and guards his palace, his possessions are safe—until someone even stronger attacks and overpowers him, strips

him of his weapons, and carries off his belongings.

“Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.

“When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, searching for rest. But when it finds none, it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and finds that its

former home is all swept and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before.”

As he was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, “God bless your mother—the womb from which you came, and the breasts that nursed you!”

Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

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 105: 23-34

Then Israel arrived in
Egypt;

 Jacob lived as a
foreigner in the land of
Ham.

 And the Lord multiplied
the people of Israel
 until they became too
mighty for their enemies.

Then he turned the
Egyptians against the
Israelites,

and they plotted
against the Lord's
servants.

But the Lord sent his
servant Moses,

along with Aaron,
whom he had chosen.

They performed
miraculous signs among
the Egyptians,

and wonders in the
land of Ham.

The Lord blanketed
Egypt in darkness,

for they had defied
his commands to let his
people go.

He turned their water
into blood,
poisoning all the fish.

Then frogs overran the
land

and even invaded the
king's bedrooms.

When the Lord spoke,
flies descended on the
Egyptians,

and gnats swarmed
across Egypt.

He sent them hail
instead of rain,

and lightning flashed
over the land.

He ruined their
grapevines and fig trees
and shattered all the
trees.

He spoke, and hordes of
locusts came—
young locusts beyond
number.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Genesis 2:1-3**

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

As with a Temple, the final part of the whole operation [of creation] is when, with the structure just about complete, an image of the god himself is inserted into the shrine. This "image" will then, as it were, face both ways: it is the mode and means of the god's presence in the house, and it is the focal point of the homage and devotion which the god will receive. So here in Genesis the human pair, male and female, are the mode and means of the

creator's presence in his newly made world, and the ones through whom the rest of creation is brought into fruitful order. And the image-bearing pair themselves are called to share in the creator's enjoyment of his world, by themselves keeping sabbath. What the creator does, his image bearers will also do. They will "take their rest" together.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 11:29-54

As the crowd pressed in on Jesus, he said, "This evil generation keeps asking me to show

them a miraculous sign. But the only sign I will give them is the sign of Jonah. What happened to him was a sign to the people of Nineveh that God had sent him. What happens to the Son of Man will be a sign to these people that he was sent by God.

“The queen of Sheba will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for she came from a distant land to hear the

wisdom of Solomon. Now someone greater than Solomon is here—but you refuse to listen. The people of Nineveh will also stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent.

“No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts

it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.

“Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is bad, your body is filled with darkness. Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. If you are filled with light, with no dark

corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.”

As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table. His host was amazed to see that he sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish

custom. Then the Lord said to him, “You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness! Fools! Didn’t God make the inside as well as the outside? So clean the inside by giving gifts to the poor, and you will be clean all over.

“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are

careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you love to sit in the seats of honor in the synagogues and receive respectful greetings as you walk in the marketplaces. Yes, what

sorrow awaits you! For you are like hidden graves in a field. People walk over them without knowing the corruption they are stepping on.”

“Teacher,” said an expert in religious law, “you have insulted us, too, in what you just said.”

“Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never

lift a finger to ease the burden. What sorrow awaits you! For you build monuments for the prophets your own ancestors killed long ago. But in fact, you stand as witnesses who agree with what your ancestors did. They killed the prophets, and you join in their crime by building the monuments! This is what God in his wisdom said about you: 'I will send prophets and apostles to them, but they will kill some and

persecute the others.’

“As a result, this generation will be held responsible for the murder of all God’s prophets from the creation of the world — from the murder of Abel to the murder of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, it will certainly be charged against this generation.

“What sorrow awaits you experts in religious law! For you remove the key to knowledge from the people. You don’t enter the Kingdom yourselves, and you prevent others from entering.”

As Jesus was leaving, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees became hostile and tried to provoke him with many questions. They wanted to trap him into saying something

they could use against 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 105: 35-45

They ate up everything
green in the land,
destroying all the
crops in their fields.

Then he killed the oldest
son in each Egyptian
home,

the pride and joy of
each family.

The Lord brought his
people out of Egypt,

loaded with silver and
gold;

and not one among
the tribes of Israel even
stumbled.

Egypt was glad when
they were gone,
for they feared them
greatly.

The Lord spread a cloud
above them as a covering
and gave them a
great fire to light the
darkness.

They asked for meat,
and he sent them quail;

he satisfied their
hunger with manna—
bread from heaven.

He split open a rock, and
water gushed out
to form a river
through the dry
wasteland.

For he remembered his
sacred promise
to his servant
Abraham.

So he brought his
people out of Egypt with
joy,
his chosen ones with
rejoicing.

He gave his people the
lands of pagan nations,
and they harvested
crops that others had
planted.

All this happened so
they would follow his
decrees
and obey his
instructions.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Morning Short Reading:

In these diverse times and places - our investment portfolios, career aspirations, housing preferences, consumer habits, extracurricular activities - a more honest reckoning of our piety will become possible. Moreover, as we begin to cast a Sabbath light on the whole sweep of our activities and routines by looking for occasions to be thankful and to celebrate, we may

yet catch glimpses of God's sustaining presence and abiding goodness in places we never thought possible. Norman Wirzba, *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 12:1-21

Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. The time is coming when everything that is

covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

“Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. But I'll tell you whom to fear.

Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear.

“What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

“I tell you the truth, everyone who

acknowledges me
publicly here on earth,
the Son of Man
will also acknowledge in
the presence of God's
angels. But anyone who
denies me here on
earth will be denied
before God's angels.
Anyone who speaks
against the Son of Man
can be
forgiven, but anyone who
blasphemes the Holy
Spirit will not be forgiven.

“And when you are
brought to trial in the

synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said."

Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge

over you to decide such things as that?" Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll

tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship 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 106: 1-10

Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good!

His faithful love
endures forever.

Who can list the glorious
miracles of the Lord?

Who can ever praise
him enough?

There is joy for those
who deal justly with
others

and always do what is
right.

Remember me, Lord,
when you show favor to
your people;

come near and rescue
me.

Let me share in the
prosperity of your chosen
ones.

Let me rejoice in the
joy of your people;

let me praise you with
those who are your
heritage.

Like our ancestors, we
have sinned.

We have done wrong!
We have acted wickedly!

Our ancestors in Egypt
were not impressed
by the Lord's miraculous
deeds.

They soon forgot his
many acts of kindness to
them.

Instead, they rebelled
against him at the Red
Sea.

Even so, he saved them

—

to defend the honor of
his name

and to demonstrate
his mighty power.

He commanded the Red
Sea to dry up.

He led Israel across
the sea as if it were a
desert.

So he rescued them
from their enemies

and redeemed them
from their foes.

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 of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

Call To Prayer: Our help is in the name of the Lord*

The Maker of heaven and earth

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Genesis 2:1-3

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had

finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Evening Short Reading:

The sabbath in the Old Testament is...far more complex as an institution and symbol than might at first appear (and that has appeared when people have read scripture

merely in search of “commands to obey”). It is about much more than merely the command to abstain from work on the seventh day of the week. It appears to be about (among other things) a call to humility and hope—the humility of recognizing that work (which for most meant working the land) was not the be-all and end-all of life, a frantic, relentless greed.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: Luke
12:22-48**

Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! Can all your worries add a single moment to your

life? And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things?

“Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you.

Why do you have so little faith?

“And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

“So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

“Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your

heart will also be.

“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve

them as they sit and eat!
He may come in the
middle of the night or just
before dawn. But
whenever he comes, he
will reward the servants
who are ready.

“Understand this: If a
homeowner knew exactly
when a burglar was
coming, he would not
permit his house to be
broken into. You also must
be ready all the time, for
the Son of Man will come
when least expected.”

Peter asked, “Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?”

And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the

truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful.

“And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

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 106: 11-20

Then the water returned
and covered their
enemies;

not one of them
survived.

Then his people
believed his promises.

Then they sang his
praise.

Yet how quickly they
forgot what he had done!

They wouldn't wait for
his counsel!

In the wilderness their
desires ran wild,
testing God's patience
in that dry wasteland.

So he gave them what
they asked for,
but he sent a plague
along with it.

The people in the camp
were jealous of Moses
and envious of Aaron,
the Lord's holy priest.

Because of this, the
earth opened up;
it swallowed Dathan
and buried Abiram
and the other rebels.

Fire fell upon their
followers;
a flame consumed the
wicked.

The people made a calf
at Mount Sinai;
they bowed before an
image made of gold.

They traded their
glorious God
for a statue of a
grass-eating bull.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them,
“Haven’t you read in the
Scriptures what David did
when he and his
companions were
hungry? He went into the
house of God, and he and
his companions broke the
law by eating the sacred
loaves of bread that only
the priests are allowed to
eat. And haven’t you read
in the law of Moses that
the priests on duty in the
Temple may work on the
Sabbath?”

Morning Short Reading:

Sabbath life is truly human life - abundant life, life at its best - because it is founded in God's overarching design for all places (Sabbath celebration completes the creation of the universe) and all times (Sabbath worship is the week's fulfillment and inspiration). Though the Sabbath does not promise a life without pain and suffering, its observance does offer the practical context

through which our collective hurt can be addressed (if not always answered).

Norman Wirzba, *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 12:49-59

“I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning! I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of me, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished.

Do

you think I have come to bring peace to the earth?

No, I have come to divide people against each other! From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against. ‘Father will be divided against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’”

Then Jesus turned to the crowd and said, "When you see clouds beginning to form in the west, you say, 'Here comes a shower.' And you are right. When the south wind blows, you say, 'Today will be a scorcher.' And it is. You fools! You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don't know how to interpret the present times.

“Why can’t you decide for yourselves what is right? When you are on the way to court with your accuser, try to settle the matter before you get there. Otherwise, your accuser may drag you before the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, who will throw you into prison. And if that happens, you won’t be free again until you have paid the very last penny.”

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 106:
21-30**

They forgot God, their savior,
who had done such great things in Egypt—
such wonderful things in the land of Ham,
such awesome deeds at the Red Sea.

So he declared he would destroy them.

But Moses, his chosen one, stepped between the Lord and the people.

He begged him to turn from his anger and not destroy them.

The people refused to enter the pleasant land, for they wouldn't believe his promise to care for them.

Instead, they grumbled in their tents and refused to obey the Lord.

Therefore, he solemnly swore

that he would kill them in the wilderness, that he would scatter their descendants among the nations, exiling them to distant lands.

Then our ancestors
joined in the worship of
Baal at Peor;

they even ate
sacrifices offered to the
dead!

They angered the Lord
with all these things,

so a plague broke out
among them.

But Phinehas had the
courage to intervene,

and the plague was
stopped.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance

and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor

rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the

law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath.”

Jesus said to them, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. And haven’t you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?”

Evening Short Reading:

Like tithing, and particularly like the offering of fine animals as sacrifices, the keeping of the sabbath was a stepping back from the idea that Israel, or human beings, actually owns or runs the world. Overwork, working seven days a week, correlates with a loss of faith in God the creator and provider. And the sabbath was also about hope—the hope

that God would keep his promises, and that through the cycles of linear time he would bring about the ultimate “rest,” the equivalent of his own “enjoyment” of creation at the beginning and of Israel’s “rest” in the land after the conquest.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help

us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 13:1-17

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. “Do you think those

Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too."

Then Jesus told this story:
“A man planted a fig tree
in his garden and came
again and again
to see if there was any
fruit on it, but he was
always disappointed.
Finally, he said to his
gardener, ‘I’ve waited
three years, and there
hasn’t been a single fig!
Cut it down. It’s just
taking up space in the
garden.’

“The gardener answered,
‘Sir, give it one more

chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.”

One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called

her over and said, "Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!" Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!

But the leader in charge of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day. "There are six days of the week for working," he said to the crowd. "Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath."

But the Lord replied, “You hypocrites! Each of you works on the Sabbath day! Don’t you untie your ox or your donkey from its stall on the Sabbath and lead it out for water? This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn’t it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath?”

This shamed his enemies,
but all the people
rejoiced at the wonderful
things he did.

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 106: 31-39

So he has been regarded
as a righteous man
ever since that time.

At Meribah, too, they
angered the Lord,
causing Moses serious
trouble.

They made Moses angry,

and he spoke
foolishly.

Israel failed to destroy
the nations in the land,
as the Lord had
commanded them.

Instead, they mingled
among the pagans
and adopted their evil
customs.

They worshiped their
idols,
which led to their
downfall.

They even sacrificed
their sons

and their daughters to
the demons.

They shed innocent
blood,

the blood of their sons
and daughters.

By sacrificing them to
the idols of Canaan,

they polluted the land
with murder.

They defiled themselves
by their evil deeds,

and their love of idols
was adultery in the Lord's
sight.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them,
“Haven’t you read in the
Scriptures what David did
when he and his
companions were
hungry? He went into the
house of God, and he and
his companions broke the
law by eating the sacred
loaves of bread that only
the priests are allowed to
eat. And haven’t you read
in the law of Moses that
the priests on duty in the
Temple may work on the
Sabbath?”

Morning Short Reading:

Rather than being simply a 'break' from frenetic, self-obsessed ways of living, the Sabbath is a discipline and practice in which we ask, consider, and answer the questions that will lead us into a complete and joyful life. As such, the Sabbath is a teaching that has the potential to redirect and transform all our existence, bringing it into more faithful alignment with God's life-building

and life-strengthening ways.

Norman Wirzba, Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 13:18-35

Then Jesus said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed that a man planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds make nests in its branches."

He also asked, "What else is the Kingdom of God like? It is like the yeast a woman used in

making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”

Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?”

He replied, “Work hard to enter the narrow door to

God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' Then you will say, 'But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' And he will reply, 'I tell you, I don't know you or where you

come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’

“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God. And note this: Some who seem least important

now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then.”

At that time some Pharisees said to him, “Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!”

Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will

accomplish my purpose.
Yes, today, tomorrow,
and the next day I must
proceed on my way. For it
wouldn't do for a prophet
of God to be
killed except in
Jerusalem!

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
the city that kills the
prophets and stones
God's messengers! How
often I have wanted to
gather your children
together as a hen
protects her chicks
beneath her wings, but

you wouldn't let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will never see me again until you say, 'Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

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 106: 40-48

That is why the Lord's
anger burned against his
people,
and he abhorred his
own special possession.

He handed them over to
pagan nations,
and they were ruled
by those who hated them.
Their enemies crushed
them
and brought them
under their cruel power.
Again and again he
rescued them,
but they chose to
rebel against him,
and they were finally
destroyed by their sin.
Even so, he pitied them
in their distress
and listened to their
cries.

He remembered his
covenant with them
and relented because
of his unfailing love.

He even caused their
captors
to treat them with
kindness.

Save us, O Lord our God!
Gather us back from
among the nations,
so we can thank your
holy name
and rejoice and praise
you.

Praise the Lord, the God
of Israel,
 who lives from
everlasting to everlasting!
Let all the people say,
“Amen!”

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,

contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the

law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath.”

Jesus said to them, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. And haven’t you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?”

Evening Short Reading:

...[Jesus'] two healings on the Sabbath [in John's Gospel], on top of the synoptic stories, have given rise to the long-running interpretation according to which the Pharisees, with their insistence on sabbath observance, were "legalists," and Jesus was challenging them to a different sort of religion: a religion of the heart and of grace, instead of a

religion of outward observance and human self-effort. More recent scholarship, with a deeper understanding of first-century Judaism, has frequently observed that this does scant justice to the way in which most Jews then, and in many cases since, have actually viewed the sabbath both as an institution and in practice. Not least for those whose daily life and work have been hard or even harsh, the seventh

day has provided much-needed and welcome rest and refreshment. To reiterate the early point: there was, and has remained in Judaism, a sense of the sabbath as sacred time in the same sense that the Temple was sacred space.

Sabbath is seen as a time when God's time and human time overlap and intersect, so that one might sense time in a different way, with a different quality, as one does with great music.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: Luke
14:1-14**

One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely. There was a man there whose arms and legs were swollen.

Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in religious law, "Is it permitted in the law to heal people on the Sabbath day, or not?" When they refused to answer, Jesus touched the sick

man and healed him and sent him away. Then he turned to them and said, "Which of you doesn't work on the Sabbath? If your son or your cow falls into a pit, don't you rush to get him out?" Again they could not answer.

When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them

this advice: “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? The host will come and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!

“Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the

table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite

your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay 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.

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 107:
1-11**

Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good!

His faithful love
endures forever.

Has the Lord redeemed
you? Then speak out!

Tell others he has
redeemed you from your
enemies.

For he has gathered the
exiles from many lands,
from east and west,
from north and south.

Some wandered in the
wilderness,

lost and homeless.
Hungry and thirsty,

they nearly died.

“Lord, help!” they cried
in their trouble,

and he rescued them
from their distress.

He led them straight to
safety,

to a city where they
could live.

Let them praise the Lord
for his great love

and for the wonderful
things he has done for
them.

For he satisfies the
thirsty

and fills the hungry
with good things.

Some sat in darkness
and deepest gloom,
imprisoned in iron
chains of misery.

They rebelled against
the words of God,
scorning the counsel
of the Most High.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them,
“Haven’t you read in the
Scriptures what David did
when he and his
companions were
hungry? He went into the
house of God, and he and
his companions broke the
law by eating the sacred
loaves of bread that only
the priests are allowed to
eat. And haven’t you read
in the law of Moses that
the priests on duty in the
Temple may work on the
Sabbath?”

Morning Short Reading:

Just as God's shabbat completes the creation of the universe—by demonstrating that the proper response to the gifts of life is celebration and delight—so too should our Sabbaths be the culmination of habits and days that express gratitude for and joy in the manifold blessings of God.

Norman Wirzba, *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 14:15-35

Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with

Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

Jesus replied with this story: “A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations.

When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must

inspect it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I now have a wife, so I can't come.'

"The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the

blind, and the lame.’ After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’

So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’”

A large crowd was following Jesus. He

turned around and said to them, “If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

“But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who

would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

“Or what king would go to war against another

king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

“Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses

its flavor, how do you make it salty again? Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!”

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 107: 12-23

That is why he broke them with hard labor; they fell, and no one was there to help them.

“Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble,

and he saved them
from their distress.

He led them from the
darkness and deepest
gloom;

he snapped their
chains.

Let them praise the Lord
for his great love

and for the wonderful
things he has done for
them.

For he broke down their
prison gates of bronze;

he cut apart their
bars of iron.

Some were fools; they rebelled

and suffered for their sins.

They couldn't stand the thought of food,
and they were knocking on death's door.

"Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble,

and he saved them from their distress.

He sent out his word and healed them,

snatching them from the door of death.

Let them praise the Lord for his great love

and for the wonderful things he has done for them.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and sing joyfully
about his glorious acts.

Some went off to sea in ships,
plying the trade routes of the world.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

Call To Prayer: Our help is in the name of the Lord*

The Maker of heaven and earth

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they

began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only

the priests are allowed to eat. And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?"

Evening Short Reading:

So why would Jesus so pointedly cut a swath through this great and God-given institution? The only explanation which will do—but it will do very well indeed—is that Jesus believed he was inaugurating the new

age toward which the entire sabbath institution had been pointing. He had come to announce and enact the Jubilee of Jubilees, the sabbath of sabbaths, the time when God's purposes and human life would come together at last.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help

us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful

people—even eating with them!

So Jesus told them this story: “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and

neighbors, saying,
'Rejoice
with me because I have
found my lost sheep.' In
the same way, there is
more joy in heaven
over one lost sinner who
repents and returns to
God than over ninety-
nine others who are
righteous and haven't
strayed away!

“Or suppose a woman
has ten silver coins and
loses one. Won't she light
a lamp and sweep

the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."

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 107:
24-32**

They, too, observed the
Lord's power in action,
his impressive works
on the deepest seas.

He spoke, and the winds
rose,

stirring up the waves.

Their ships were tossed
to the heavens

and plunged again to
the depths;

the sailors cringed in
terror.

They reeled and
staggered like drunkards
and were at their wits'
end.

“Lord, help!” they cried
in their trouble,

and he saved them
from their distress.

He calmed the storm to
a whisper

and stilled the waves.

What a blessing was
that stillness

as he brought them
safely into harbor!

Let them praise the Lord
for his great love

and for the wonderful
things he has done for
them.

Let them exalt him
publicly before the
congregation
and before the
leaders of the nation.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them,
“Haven’t you read in the
Scriptures what David did
when he and his
companions were
hungry? He went into the
house of God, and he and
his companions broke the
law by eating the sacred
loaves of bread that only
the priests are allowed to
eat. And haven’t you read
in the law of Moses that
the priests on duty in the
Temple may work on the
Sabbath?”

Morning Short Reading:

In observing the Sabbath, man was culturally structuring his time in accordance with a holy pattern. This was part of his cultural commission, along with the task of being an architect of space by tending the Garden. Space and time were thus consecrated by man's original culture.

Kenneth A. Myers, *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes: Christians and Popular Culture*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them

this story: “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine

swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants

have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."

"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran

to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

"But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening.'

We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life.

He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the

fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

"The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after

squandering your money
on prostitutes,
you celebrate by killing
the fattened calf!

“His father said to him,
‘Look, dear son, you have
always stayed by me, and
everything I have
is yours. We had to
celebrate this happy day.
For your brother was
dead and has come back
to life! He was lost, but
now he is found!’”

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 107:
33-40**

He changes rivers into
deserts,

and springs of water
into dry, thirsty land.

He turns the fruitful land
into salty wastelands,

because of the
wickedness of those who
live there.

But he also turns deserts
into pools of water,

the dry land into
springs of water.

He brings the hungry to
settle there

and to build their
cities.

They sow their fields,
plant their vineyards,
and harvest their
bumper crops.

How he blesses them!
They raise large
families there,
and their herds of
livestock increase.

When they decrease in
number and become
impoverished
through oppression,
trouble, and sorrow,
the Lord pours contempt
on their princes,

causing them to wander in trackless wastelands.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest,

contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Matthew 12:1-5**

At about that time Jesus
was walking through
some grainfields on the

Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the

law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?"

Evening Short Reading:

My central point... is that the sabbath command of the Old Testament was a true and necessary signpost, pointing forward to God's purposes for his creation

and to the place of Israel in relation to those purposes. But it was always, from the perspective of Genesis 2:3, a sign which spoke of God coming to live in his heaven-and-earth creation, taking up residence, dwelling in the midst of his people. In the gospels, the actions of Jesus on the sabbath thus speak powerfully of his belief that "my father is working still, and I am working." Sabbath is a sign of eschaton to come;

the New Testament speaks of Jesus acting as if he were the eschaton in person, sacred time come to life. This, I suggest, rather than any simplistic “rejection of legalism” or any such thing, is what lies behind the wholesale disappearance of the sabbath command in early Christianity. And this is the clue to the way in which the surprisingly complex scriptural material about the sabbath can be powerfully authoritative

for the Christian in our day, or in any day.

N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 16:1-18

Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

“The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’

“So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do

you owe him?’ The man replied, ‘I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.’

“‘And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.’

“The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?”

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world

honors is detestable in the sight of God.

“Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides.

But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in.

But that doesn't mean that the law has lost its force. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the smallest point of God's law to be overturned.

“For example, a man who divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery. And anyone who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

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 107: 41-43

But he rescues the poor from trouble

and increases their families like flocks of sheep.

The godly will see these things and be glad,
while the wicked are struck silent.

Those who are wise will take all this to heart;
they will see in our history the faithful love of 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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them,
“Haven’t you read in the
Scriptures what David did
when he and his
companions were
hungry? He went into the
house of God, and he and
his companions broke the
law by eating the sacred
loaves of bread that only
the priests are allowed to
eat. And haven’t you read
in the law of Moses that
the priests on duty in the
Temple may work on the
Sabbath?”

Morning Short Reading:

A great benefit of Sabbath keeping is that we learn to let God take care of us — not by becoming passive and lazy, but in the freedom of giving up our feeble attempts to be God in our own lives.

Marva J. Dawn, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have

called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate

lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he

saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you

wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.'

“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them

so they don't end up in this place of torment.'

"But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.'

"The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.'

“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t listen even if someone rises 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.

Morning Psalm: Psalm 108

A song. A psalm of David.

My heart is confident in
you, O God;

no wonder I can sing
your praises with all my
heart!

Wake up, lyre and harp!

I will wake the dawn
with my song.

I will thank you, Lord,
among all the people.

I will sing your praises
among the nations.

For your unfailing love is
higher than the heavens.

Your faithfulness
reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God,
above the highest
heavens.

May your glory shine
over all the earth.

Now rescue your
beloved people.

Answer and save us
by your power.

God has promised this
by his holiness:

“I will divide up
Shechem with joy.

I will measure out the
valley of Succoth.

Gilead is mine,
and Manasseh, too.

Ephraim, my helmet, will
produce my warriors,
and Judah, my
scepter, will produce my
kings.

But Moab, my
washbasin, will become
my servant,
and I will wipe my feet
on Edom

and shout in triumph
over Philistia.”

Who will bring me into
the fortified city?

Who will bring me
victory over Edom?

Have you rejected us, O
God?

Will you no longer
march with our armies?

Oh, please help us
against our enemies,

for all human help is
useless.

With God's help we will
do mighty things,

for he will trample
down our foes.

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 of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

Call To Prayer: Our help is in the name of the Lord*

The Maker of heaven and earth

Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they

began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only

the priests are allowed to eat. And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?"

Evening Short Reading:

So there is no "Christian equivalent" to the Old Testament sabbath? Well, yes, I suggest there is. But it works quite differently. Now that heaven and earth have come together in Jesus Christ, and now that the new

day has dawned, we live (from that point of view) in a perpetual sabbath. “The time has fully come,” and we should not try to downplay the note of realization, of a new sort of time already launched. So perhaps the proper way to celebrate any kind of “Christian sabbath” would be just that—a celebration: a way of recognizing in creative ways, in music and art and dance and family life, the fact that heaven and earth have indeed come

together in a new way in Jesus, that the “rest” of the old sabbath has been replaced by the “celebration” of the new.
N.T. Wright, *Scripture and the Authority of God*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 17:1-19

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting! It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin. So watch yourselves!

“If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.”

The apostles said to the Lord, “Show us how to increase our faith.”

The Lord answered, “If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this

mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and thrown into the sea,' and it would obey you!

“When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, ‘Come in and eat with me’? No, he says, ‘Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.’ And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was

told to do? Of course not. In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.'"

As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the

other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed 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.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 109: 1-10

For the choir director: A
psalm of David.

O God, whom I praise,
don't stand silent and
aloof
while the wicked slander
me
and tell lies about me.

They surround me with
hateful words
and fight against me
for no reason.

I love them, but they try
to destroy me with
accusations
even as I am praying
for them!

They repay evil for
good,
and hatred for my
love.

They say, "Get an evil
person to turn against
him.

Send an accuser to
bring him to trial.

When his case comes up
for judgment,

let him be
pronounced guilty.

Count his prayers as
sins.

Let his years be few;
let someone else take
his position.

May his children become
fatherless,

and his wife a widow.

May his children wander
as beggars

and be driven from
their ruined homes.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the

Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?"

Morning Short Reading:

When we live without listening to the timing of things, when we live and work in twenty-four-hour shifts without rest - we are on war time, mobilized for battle. Yes, we are strong and capable people, we can work without stopping, faster and faster, electric lights making artificial day so the whole machine can labor without ceasing. But remember: No living thing lives like this. There are greater rhythms, seasons

and hormonal cycles and sunsets and moonrises and great movements of seas and stars. We are part of the creation story, subject to all its laws and rhythms.

Wayne Muller, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those

who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 17:20-37

One day the Pharisees
asked Jesus, “When will
the Kingdom of God
come?”

Jesus replied, “The
Kingdom of God can’t be
detected by visible signs.
You won’t be able to
say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s
over there!’ For the

Kingdom of God is already among you.”

Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see the day when the

Son of Man returns, but you won't see it. People will tell you, ‘Look, there is the Son of Man,’ or ‘Here he is,’ but don't go out and follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other, so it will be on the day when

the Son of Man comes.
But first the Son of Man
must suffer terribly and
be rejected by this
generation.

“When the Son of Man
returns, it will be like it
was in Noah’s day. In
those days, the people
enjoyed banquets and
parties and weddings
right up to the time Noah
entered his boat and
the flood came and
destroyed them all.

“And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot. People went about their daily business— eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building— until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Yes, it will be ‘business as usual’ right up to the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day a person out on the deck of a roof must not go down

into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return home. Remember what happened to Lot's wife! If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it. That night two people will be asleep in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour together at the mill; one will be taken, the other left."

“Where will this happen, Lord?” the disciples asked.

Jesus replied, “Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.”

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 109: 11-23

May creditors seize his entire estate,
and strangers take all he has earned.

Let no one be kind to
him;

let no one pity his
fatherless children.

May all his offspring die.

May his family name
be blotted out in a single
generation.

May the Lord never
forget the sins of his
fathers;

may his mother's sins
never be erased from the
record.

May the Lord always
remember these sins,

and may his name
disappear from human
memory.

For he refused all
kindness to others;

he persecuted the
poor and needy,

and he hounded the
brokenhearted to death.

He loved to curse others;
now you curse him.

He never blessed
others;

now don't you bless
him.

Cursing is as natural to
him as his clothing,

or the water he
drinks,
or the rich food he
eats.

Now may his curses
return and cling to him
like clothing;
may they be tied
around him like a belt.”

May those curses
become the Lord's
punishment
for my accusers who
speak evil of me.

But deal well with me, O
Sovereign Lord,

for the sake of your
own reputation!

Rescue me

because you are so
faithful and good.

For I am poor and
needy,

and my heart is full of
pain.

I am fading like a
shadow at dusk;

I am brushed off like a
locust.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those

who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor

rhythms of rest,
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renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the

law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath.”

Jesus said to them, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. And haven’t you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?”

Evening Short Reading:

Forces at work in our culture have contributed to the increased attention Sabbath keeping and fasting are receiving in our time. Our culture is spinning faster and faster, almost out of control in both busyness and consumption. We are increasingly aware that this pattern cannot possibly be what God intends for us. The Sabbath affirms God's

invitation to rest from ceaseless, frenzied activity, while fasting affirms God's invitation to rest from constant, mind-numbing consumption. Lynne M. Baab, "Gifts of Freedom: The Sabbath and Fasting" (<http://www.lynnebaab.com/articlefreedom.htm>)

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and

rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 18:1-17

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him

repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

Then the Lord said,
"Learn a lesson from this

unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great

confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give

you a tenth of my income.'

“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those

who humble themselves will be exalted.”

One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But when the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents for bothering him.

Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me.

Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs

to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter 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.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 109: 24-31

My knees are weak from
fasting,
and I am skin and
bones.
I am a joke to people
everywhere;

when they see me,
they shake their heads in
scorn.

Help me, O Lord my
God!

Save me because of
your unfailing love.

Let them see that this is
your doing,

that you yourself have
done it, Lord.

Then let them curse me
if they like,

but you will bless me!

When they attack me,
they will be disgraced!

But I, your servant, will
go right on rejoicing!

May my accusers be
clothed with disgrace;

may their humiliation
cover them like a cloak.

But I will give repeated
thanks to the Lord,

praising him to
everyone.

For he stands beside the
needy,

ready to save them
from those who condemn
them.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them,
“Haven’t you read in the
Scriptures what David did
when he and his
companions were
hungry? He went into the
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law by eating the sacred
loaves of bread that only
the priests are allowed to
eat. And haven’t you read
in the law of Moses that
the priests on duty in the
Temple may work on the
Sabbath?”

Morning Short Reading:

The teachings of unsuspected teachers belong to the task, and are its hope.

The love and the work of friends and lovers belong to the task, and are its health.

Rest and rejoicing belong to the task, and are its grace.

Wendell Berry, "Healing"

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help

us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 18:18-43

Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.’”

The man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

When Jesus heard his answer, he said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.

When Jesus saw this, he said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! In

fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

Those who heard this said, “Then who in the world can be saved?”

He replied, “What is impossible for people is possible with God.”

Peter said, “We’ve left our homes to follow you.”

“Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come.”

Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, “Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all

the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true. He will be handed over to the Romans, and he will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. They will flog him with a whip and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again.”

But they didn't understand any of this. The significance of his words was hidden from them,

and they failed to grasp what he was talking about.

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. So he began shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

“Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him.

But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord,” he said, “I want to see!”

And Jesus said, "All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you."

Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.

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 110

A psalm of David.

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.”

The Lord will extend
your powerful kingdom
from Jerusalem;

you will rule over your
enemies.

When you go to war,
your people will serve
you willingly.

You are arrayed in holy
garments,
and your strength will
be renewed each day like
the morning dew.

The Lord has taken an oath and will not break his vow:

“You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.”

The Lord stands at your right hand to protect you.

He will strike down many kings when his anger erupts.

He will punish the nations

and fill their lands with corpses;

he will shatter heads over the whole earth.

But he himself will be refreshed from brooks along the way.

He will be victorious.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest,

contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Matthew 12:1-5**

At about that time Jesus
was walking through
some grainfields on the

Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the

law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?"

Evening Short Reading:

Let tomorrow come tomorrow. Not by your will is the house carried through the night.

Order is only the possibility of rest.

Wendell Berry, "Healing"

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 19:1-27

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way

through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus

and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and

said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said.

And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, 'Invest this for me while I

am gone.' But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want him to be our king.'

"After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!'

“‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’

“The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’

“‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’

“But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’

“‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a

hard man who takes what isn't mine and harvests crops I didn't plant, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

“Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’

“‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’

“‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. And as for these enemies of mine who didn’t want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of 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 111

Praise the Lord!

I will thank the Lord
with all my heart

as I meet with his
godly people.

How amazing are the
deeds of the Lord!

All who delight in him
should ponder them.

Everything he does
reveals his glory and
majesty.

His righteousness
never fails.

He causes us to
remember his wonderful
works.

How gracious and
merciful is our Lord!

He gives food to those
who fear him;

he always remembers
his covenant.

He has shown his great
power to his people

by giving them the
lands of other nations.

All he does is just and
good,

and all his
commandments are
trustworthy.

They are forever true,
to be obeyed
faithfully and with
integrity.

He has paid a full
ransom for his people.

He has guaranteed his
covenant with them
forever.

What a holy, awe-
inspiring name he has!

Fear of the Lord is the
foundation of true
wisdom.

All who obey his
commandments will grow
in wisdom.

Praise him 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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them,
“Haven’t you read in the
Scriptures what David did
when he and his
companions were
hungry? He went into the
house of God, and he and
his companions broke the
law by eating the sacred
loaves of bread that only
the priests are allowed to
eat. And haven’t you read
in the law of Moses that
the priests on duty in the
Temple may work on the
Sabbath?”

Morning Short Reading:

The great Swiss theologian Karl Barth wrote, "A being is free only when it can determine and limit its activity." By that definition, I have a hard time counting many free beings among my acquaintance. I know people who can do five things at once who are incapable of doing nothing. I know people who can decide what to do without being able to do less of it. Since I have

been one of these people,
I know that saying no is a
more difficult spiritual
practice than tithing,
praying on a cold stone
floor, or visiting a
prisoner on death row.
Barbara Brown Taylor

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 19:28-48

After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young

donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that colt?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?"

And the disciples simply replied, "The Lord needs

it.” So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

“Blessings on the King
who comes in the name
of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and
glory in highest heaven!”

But some of the Pharisees
among the crowd said,
“Teacher, rebuke your
followers for saying
things like that!”

He replied, “If they kept
quiet, the stones along
the road would burst into
cheers!”

But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies

will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation.”

Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people selling animals for sacrifices. He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

After that, he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him. But they could think of nothing, because all the people hung on every word he said.

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 112

Praise the Lord!

How joyful are those who fear the Lord

and delight in
obeying his commands.

Their children will be
successful everywhere;
an entire generation
of godly people will be
blessed.

They themselves will be
wealthy,
and their good deeds
will last forever.

Light shines in the
darkness for the godly.

They are generous,
compassionate, and
righteous.

Good comes to those
who lend money
generously

and conduct their
business fairly.

Such people will not be
overcome by evil.

Those who are
righteous will be long
remembered.

They do not fear bad
news;

they confidently trust
the Lord to care for them.

They are confident and
fearless

and can face their
foes triumphantly.

They share freely and
give generously to those
in need.

Their good deeds will
be remembered forever.

They will have
influence and honor.

The wicked will see this
and be infuriated.

They will grind their
teeth in anger;

they will slink away,
their hopes thwarted.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and

rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,

contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 12:1-5

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law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath.”

Jesus said to them, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. And haven’t you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath?”

Evening Short Reading:

The room is quiet. You're not feeling tired enough to sleep or energetic enough to go out. For the moment there is nowhere else you'd rather go, no one else you'd rather be. You feel at home in your body. You feel at peace in your mind. For no particular reason, you let the palms of your hands come together and close your eyes. Sometimes it is only when you happen to

taste a crumb of it that you dimly realize what it is that you're so hungry for you can hardly bear it. Frederick Buechner on Sabbath, from *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 20:1-19

One day as Jesus was teaching the people and preaching the Good News in the Temple, the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to him. They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?"

“Let me ask you a question first,” he replied. “Did John’s authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?”

They talked it over among themselves. “If we say it was from heaven, he will ask why we didn’t believe John. But if we say it was merely human, the people will stone us because they are convinced John was a prophet.” So they finally

replied that they didn't know.

And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things."

Now Jesus turned to the people again and told them this story: "A man planted a vineyard, leased it to tenant farmers, and moved to another country to live for several years. At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his

servants to collect his share of the crop. But the farmers attacked the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. So the owner sent another servant, but they also insulted him, beat him up, and sent him away empty-handed. A third man was sent, and they wounded him and chased him away.

“‘What will I do?’ the owner asked himself. ‘I know! I’ll send my

cherished son. Surely they will respect him.'

"But when the tenant farmers saw his son, they said to each other, 'Here comes the heir to this estate. Let's kill him and get the estate for ourselves!' So they dragged him out of the vineyard and murdered him.

"What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard

will do to them?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you —he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others.”

“How terrible that such a thing should ever happen,” his listeners protested.

Jesus looked at them and said, “Then what does this Scripture mean? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’”

Everyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.”

The teachers of religious law and the leading priests wanted to arrest Jesus immediately because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the people’s reaction.

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 113

Praise the Lord!

Yes, give praise, O
servants of the Lord.

Praise the name of the
Lord!

Blessed be the name of
the Lord

now and forever.

Everywhere—from east
to west—

praise the name of
the Lord.

For the Lord is high
above the nations;

his glory is higher
than the heavens.

Who can be compared
with the Lord our God,
who is enthroned on
high?

He stoops to look down
on heaven and on
earth.

He lifts the poor from
the dust
and the needy from
the garbage dump.

He sets them among
princes,
even the princes of his
own people!

He gives the childless
woman a family,

making her a happy mother.

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.

July 24, 2011ac

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon

ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

Sabbath ceasing [means] to cease not only from work itself, but also from the need to accomplish and be productive, from the worry and tension that accompany our modern criterion of efficiency, from our efforts to be in control of our lives as if we were God, from our possessiveness and our

enculturation, and finally, from the humdrum and meaninglessness that result when life is pursued without the Lord at the center of it all.

Marva J. Dawn, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 20:20-47

Watching for their opportunity, the leaders sent spies pretending to be honest men. They tried to get Jesus to say something that could be reported to the Roman governor so he would arrest Jesus.

“Teacher,” they said, “we know that you speak and teach what is right

and are not influenced by what others think. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us— is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

He saw through their trickery and said, “Show me a Roman coin. Whose picture and title are stamped on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

“Well then,” he said, “give to Caesar what belongs

to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

So they failed to trap him by what he said in front of the people. Instead, they were amazed by his answer, and they became silent.

Then Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this

question: "Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife but no children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother's name. Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. So the second brother married the widow, but he also died. Then the third brother married her. This continued with all seven of them, who died

without children. Finally, the woman also died. So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her!”

Jesus replied, “Marriage is for people here on earth. But in the age to come, those worthy of being raised from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. And they will never die again. In this respect they will be like angels.

They are children of God and children of the resurrection.

“But now, as to whether the dead will be raised—even Moses proved this when he wrote about the burning bush. Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, he referred to the Lord as ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So he is the God of the

living, not the dead, for they are all alive to him.”

“Well said, Teacher!” remarked some of the teachers of religious law who were standing there. And then no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Then Jesus presented them with a question. “Why is it,” he asked, “that the Messiah is said to

be the son of David? For David himself wrote in the book of Psalms:

‘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.’

Since David called the Messiah ‘Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?”

Then, with the crowds listening, he turned to his

disciples and said,
“Beware of these
teachers of religious law!
For they like to parade
around in flowing robes
and love to receive
respectful greetings as
they walk in the
marketplaces. And how
they love the seats of
honor in the synagogues
and the head table at
banquets. Yet they
shamelessly cheat
widows out of
their property and then
pretend to be pious by
making long prayers in

public. Because of this, they will be severely punished.”

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 114

When the Israelites
escaped from Egypt—
when the family of
Jacob left that foreign
land—
the land of Judah
became God's sanctuary,
and Israel became his
kingdom.

The Red Sea saw them
coming and hurried out
of their way!

The water of the
Jordan River turned
away.

The mountains skipped
like rams,
the hills like lambs!

What's wrong, Red Sea,
that made you hurry out
of their way?

What happened,
Jordan River, that you
turned away?

Why, mountains, did you
skip like rams?

Why, hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the
presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the
God of Jacob.

He turned the rock into
a pool of water;
yes, a spring of water
flowed from solid rock.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Colossians 2:14-19**

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet

to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

God rests, and blesses this day, and makes it holy. In this way, the Christian theologian Karl Barth has suggested, God declares as fully as possible just how very good creation is. Resting, God takes pleasure in what has been made; God has no regrets, no need to go on to create a still better world or a creature more wonderful than the man and woman. In the day of rest, God's

free love toward
humanity takes form as
time shared with them.
Practicing Our Faith,
edited by Dorothy Bass

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 21:1-19

While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins.

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them.

For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but

she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.”

Some of his disciples began talking about the majestic stonework of the Temple and the memorial decorations on the walls. But Jesus said, “The time is coming when all these things will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!”

“Teacher,” they asked, “when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to take place?”

He replied, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and saying, ‘The time has come!’ But don’t believe them. And when you hear of wars and insurrections, don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place first, but the end won’t follow

immediately.” Then he added, “Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven.

“But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into

synagogues and prisons,
and you will stand trial
before kings and
governors because you
are
my followers. But this will
be your opportunity to
tell them about me. So
don't worry in
advance about how to
answer the charges
against you, for I will give
you the right words and
such wisdom that none of
your opponents will be
able to reply or refute
you! Even those

closest to you—your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends—will betray you. They will even kill some of you. And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. But not a hair of your head will perish! By standing firm, you will win your souls.

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 115

Not to us, O Lord, not to us,

but to your name goes all the glory

for your unfailing love
and faithfulness.

Why let the nations say,
“Where is their God?”

Our God is in the
heavens,

and he does as he
wishes.

Their idols 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.

They have hands but
cannot feel,

and feet but cannot
walk,

and throats but
cannot make a sound.

And those who make
idols are just like them,

as are all who trust in
them.

O Israel, trust the Lord!

He is your helper and
your shield.

O priests, descendants
of Aaron, trust the Lord!

He is your helper and
your shield.

All you who fear the
Lord, trust the Lord!

He is your helper and
your shield.

The Lord remembers us
and will bless us.

He will bless the
people of Israel

and bless the priests,
the descendants of Aaron.

He will bless those who
fear the Lord,

both great and lowly.

May the Lord richly
bless

both you and your
children.

May you be blessed by
the Lord,

who made heaven
and earth.

The heavens belong to
the Lord,

but he has given the
earth to all humanity.

The dead cannot sing
praises to the Lord,

for they have gone
into the silence of the
grave.

But we can praise the
Lord
both now and forever!

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon

ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

The [fourth] commandment looks back to the rest of God... God's governance is not one of anxiety or franticness. The world is confidently, serenely ordered as God's good creation...and the goal and crown of life in the community of covenant is the freedom, space, and delight of Sabbath rest. In

keeping Sabbath rest, the
human community...
participates in the
tranquility God has
ordained into the
structure of creation.
Walter Bruggeman

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
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and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 21:20-38

“And when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that the time of its destruction has arrived. Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. Those in Jerusalem must get out, and those out in the country should not return to the city. For those will be days of God’s vengeance, and the prophetic words of the

Scriptures will be fulfilled. How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. For there will be disaster in the land and great anger against this people. They will be killed by the sword or sent away as captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles comes to an end.

“And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand

and look up, for your salvation is near!”

Then he gave them this illustration: “Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene

until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

“Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong

enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”

Every day Jesus went to the Temple to teach, and each evening he returned to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. The crowds gathered at the Temple early each morning to hear 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 116

I love the Lord because
he hears my voice

and my prayer for
mercy.

Because he bends down
to listen,

I will pray as long as I
have breath!

Death wrapped its ropes
around me;

the terrors of the
grave overtook me.

I saw only trouble and
sorrow.

Then I called on the
name of the Lord:

“Please, Lord, save
me!”

How kind the Lord is!
How good he is!

So merciful, this God
of ours!

The Lord protects those
of childlike faith;

I was facing death,
and he saved me.

Let my soul be at rest
again,

for the Lord has been
good to me.

He has saved me from
death,

my eyes from tears,
my feet from
stumbling.

And so I walk in the
Lord's presence

as I live here on earth!

I believed in you, so I
said,

“I am deeply troubled,
Lord.”

In my anxiety I cried out
to you,

“These people are all
liars!”

What can I offer the
Lord

for all he has done for
me?

I will lift up the cup of
salvation

and praise the Lord's
name for saving me.

I will keep my promises
to the Lord

in the presence of all
his people.

The Lord cares deeply
when his loved ones
die.

O Lord, I am your
servant;

yes, I am your servant,
born into your household;
you have freed me
from my chains.

I will offer you a sacrifice
of thanksgiving

and call on the name
of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to
the Lord

in the presence of all
his people—
in the house of the Lord
in the heart of
Jerusalem.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor

rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
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**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Colossians 2:14-19**

He canceled the record of
the charges against us

and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn

you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

It is one of life's highest rewards, a source of strength and inspiration to endure tribulation, to live nobly. The work on weekdays and the rest on the seventh day are correlated. The Sabbath is the inspirer, the other days inspired. Rabbi Abraham Heschel, *The Sabbath*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance

and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 22:1-6

The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but they were

afraid of the people's reaction.

Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could

arrest him when the
crowds
weren't around.

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 117

Praise the Lord, all you
nations.

Praise him, all you
people of the earth.

For he loves us with
unfailing love;

the Lord's faithfulness
endures forever.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon

ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

We do not enter the prayer of rest [contemplation] in order to become better servants of God; that is a natural side effect.... In contemplation we move from communicating with God through speech to communing with God through the gaze of love. Worlds fall away, and the most palpable reality is

being present to the lover of our souls. When we let go of all effort to speak or even to listen, simply becoming quiet before God, the Spirit is free to work its healing mysteries in us: releasing us from bondage, energizing new patterns of life, restoring our soul's beauty. Such communion with God is an end in itself, not a means to another end, no matter how good.

Marjory Thompson, *Soul Feast*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 22:7-30

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the

Passover lamb is sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, "Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together."

"Where do you want us to prepare it?" they asked him.

He replied, "As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the

owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal." They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won’t eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”

Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, “Take this and share

it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.”

He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”

After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between

God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

“But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him.” The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important,

the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

“You have stayed with me in my time of trial. And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

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 118: 1-10

Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good!

His faithful love
endures forever.

Let all Israel repeat:

“His faithful love
endures forever.”

Let Aaron’s descendants,
the priests, repeat:

“His faithful love
endures forever.”

Let all who fear the Lord
repeat:

“His faithful love
endures forever.”

In my distress I prayed
to the Lord,
and the Lord
answered me and set me
free.

The Lord is for me, so I
will have no fear.

What can mere
people do to me?

Yes, the Lord is for me;
he will help me.

I will look in triumph
at those who hate me.

It is better to take refuge
in the Lord

than to trust in
people.

It is better to take refuge
in the Lord

than to trust in
princes.

Though hostile nations
surrounded me,

I destroyed them all
with the authority 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those

who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
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Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what

you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he

holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

To the biblical mind menuha is the same as happiness and stillness, as peace and harmony. The word with which Job described the state after life he was longing for is derived from the same root as menuha. It is the state wherein man lies

still, wherein the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. It is the state in which there is no strife and no fighting, no fear and no distrust. The essence of good life is menuha. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters" (the waters of munuhot). In later times menuha became a synonym for the life in the world to come, for eternal life.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: Luke
22:31-46**

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”

Peter said, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.”

But Jesus said, “Peter, let me tell you something.

Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.”

Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you out to preach the Good News and you did not have money, a traveler’s bag, or extra clothing, did you need anything?”

“No,” they replied.

“But now,” he said, “take your money and a

traveler's bag. And if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one! For the time has come for this prophecy about me to be fulfilled: 'He was counted among the rebels.' Yes, everything written about me by the prophets will come true."

"Look, Lord," they replied, "we have two swords among us."

"That's enough," he said.

Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. There he told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation."

He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not

mine.” Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief. “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray, so that

you will not give in to temptation.”

Lord's Prayer:

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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 118: 11-21

Yes, they surrounded
and attacked me,
but I destroyed them
all with the authority of
the Lord.

They swarmed around
me like bees;
they blazed against
me like a crackling fire.

But I destroyed them
all with the authority of
the Lord.

My enemies did their
best to kill me,
but the Lord rescued
me.

The Lord is my strength
and my song;
he has given me
victory.

Songs of joy and victory
are sung in the camp of
the godly.

The strong right arm
of the Lord has done
glorious things!

The strong right arm of
the Lord is raised in
triumph.

The strong right arm
of the Lord has done
glorious things!

I will not die; instead, I
will live

to tell what the Lord
has done.

The Lord has punished
me severely,

but he did not let me
die.

Open for me the gates
where the righteous
enter,

and I will go in and
thank the Lord.

These gates lead to the
presence of the Lord,
and the godly enter
there.

I thank you for
answering my prayer
and giving me victory!

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.

July 27, 2011

Morning

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Vow: In a world of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

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ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

Keeping the Sabbath means trusting God to be God, recognizing that we are not indispensable.

When we refuse to take a single day for genuine refreshment and rest, we try to outdo even God! In the light of God's rest, our anxious, compulsive activities may be exposed as little more than efforts to stay in

control, or to fabricate
life's meaning out of
constant activity.

Marjory Thompson,
SoulFeast

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God, time is your
creation, and you have
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and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
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and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 22:47-65

But even as Jesus said this, a crowd approached, led by Judas, one of the twelve disciples.

Judas walked over to Jesus to greet him with a kiss. But Jesus said, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, “Lord, should we

fight? We brought the swords!” And one of them struck at the high priest’s slave, slashing off his right ear.

But Jesus said, “No more of this.” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

Then Jesus spoke to the leading priests, the captains of the Temple guard, and the elders who had come for him. “Am I some dangerous

revolutionary,” he asked, “that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day. But this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.”

So they arrested him and led him to the high priest’s home. And Peter followed at a distance. The guards lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard

and sat around it, and Peter joined them there. A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said,
“This man was one of Jesus’ followers!”

But Peter denied it.
“Woman,” he said, “I don’t even know him!”

After a while someone else looked at him and said, “You must be one of them!”

“No, man, I’m not!” Peter retorted.

About an hour later someone else insisted, “This must be one of them, because he is a Galilean, too.”

But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me." And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.

The guards in charge of Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and

said, "Prophecy to us!
Who hit you that time?"
And they hurled all sorts
of terrible insults at
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 118: 22-29

The stone that the
builders rejected
has now become the
cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing,
and it is wonderful to
see.

This is the day the Lord
has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Please, Lord, please save us.

Please, Lord, please give us success.

Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, shining upon us.

Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise you!

You are my God, and I
will exalt you!

Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good!

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor

rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Colossians 2:14-19**

He canceled the record of
the charges against us

and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn

you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

God is not found in the soul by adding anything but by subtracting.

Meister Eckhart

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 22:66-71

At daybreak all the elders of the people assembled, including the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. Jesus was led before this high council, and they said, "Tell us, are you the Messiah?"

But he replied, "If I tell you, you won't believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won't

answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated in the place of power at God's right hand."

They all shouted, "So, are you claiming to be the Son of God?"

And he replied, "You say that I am."

"Why do we need other witnesses?" they said.

"We ourselves heard him say 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.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 119: 1-8

Aleph

Joyful are people of integrity,
who follow the instructions of the Lord.

Joyful are those who obey his laws
and search for him with all their hearts.

They do not compromise with evil,
and they walk only in his paths.

You have charged us

to keep your
commandments carefully.

Oh, that my actions
would consistently
reflect your decrees!

Then I will not be
ashamed

when I compare my
life with your commands.

As I learn your righteous
regulations,

I will thank you by
living as I should!

I will obey your decrees.

Please don't give up
on 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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon

ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

I know that saying no is more of a spiritual practice than tithing, praying on a cold stone floor, or visiting a prisoner on death row – because while all of those worthwhile activities may involve saying no to something else so that I can do them instead, they still amount to doing more instead of less.

Limiting my activity does not help me feel holy. Doing more feels holy, which is why I stay so intrigued by the fourth commandment....Look the word [Sabbath] up in the book of Exodus and you will discover that the Jews were observing Sabbath before Moses brought the stone tablets of God's holy law down from Mount Sinai. The first holy thing in all creation, Abraham Heschel says, was not a people or a place but a

day. God made everything in creation and called it good, but when God rested on the seventh day, God called it holy.

Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 23:1-25

Then the entire council took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. They began to state their case: “This man has been leading our people astray by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is the Messiah, a king.”

So Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “You have said it.”

Pilate turned to the leading priests and to the crowd and said, “I find nothing wrong with this man!”

Then they became insistent. “But he is causing riots by his teaching wherever he goes—all

over Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem!”

“Oh, is he a Galilean?” Pilate asked. When they said that he was, Pilate sent him to Herod Antipas, because Galilee was under Herod’s jurisdiction, and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time.

Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus, because he had heard about him and

had been hoping for a long time to see him perform a miracle. He asked Jesus question after

question, but Jesus refused to answer.

Meanwhile, the leading priests and the teachers of

religious law stood there shouting their

accusations. Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing

Jesus. Finally, they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to

Pilate. (Herod and Pilate, who had been enemies before, became friends that day.)

Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent. Herod came to

the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him.”

Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, “Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!” (Barabbas was in prison for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for

murder.) Pilate argued with them, because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time he demanded, “Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him.”

But the mob shouted louder and louder,

demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed. So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. As they had requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he turned Jesus over to them to do as they wished.

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: 9-16

Beth

How can a young person
stay pure?

By obeying your word.

I have tried hard to find
you—

don't let me wander
from your commands.

I have hidden your word
in my heart,

that I might not sin
against you.

I praise you, O Lord;
teach me your
decrees.

I have recited aloud
all the regulations you
have given us.

I have rejoiced in your
laws
as much as in riches.
I will study your
commandments
and reflect on your
ways.
I will delight in your
decrees
and not forget your
word.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon

ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

Contemplative prayer is resting in God, allowing the spirit to fill and move in us as God wills. It has the quality of an inner Sabbath. In a world driven by the need to accomplish and acquire, in a world where we judge one another on the basis of performance, God calls us to the radical trust of rest.

Marjory Thompson, *Soul Feast*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: Luke
23:26-43**

As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are

coming when they will say, 'Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.' People will beg the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and plead with the hills, 'Bury us.' For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, both criminals, were led out to

be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He

saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” A sign was fastened to the cross above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he

said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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: 17-24

Gimel

Be good to your servant,
that I may live and
obey your word.

Open my eyes to see
the wonderful truths
in your instructions.

I am only a foreigner in
the land.

Don't hide your
commands from me!

I am always
overwhelmed

with a desire for your
regulations.

You rebuke the arrogant;
those who wander
from your commands are
cursed.

Don't let them scorn and
insult me,

for I have obeyed
your laws.

Even princes sit and
speak against me,

but I will meditate on
your decrees.

Your laws please me;
they give me wise
advice.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon

ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

Unless one learns how to relish the taste of Sabbath while still in this world, unless one is initiated in the appreciation of eternal life, one will be unable to enjoy the taste of eternity in the world to come. Sad is the lot of him who arrives inexperienced and when led to heaven has

no power to perceive the
beauty of the Sabbath.
Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 23:44-56

By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.

When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. But Jesus' friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council, but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Then he took the body down from

the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock. This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin.

As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. Then they went home and

prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. But by the time they were finished the Sabbath had begun, so they rested as required by the law.

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: 25-32

Daleth

I lie in the dust;
revive me by your
word.

I told you my plans, and
you answered.

Now teach me your
decrees.

Help me understand the
meaning of your
commandments,

and I will meditate on
your wonderful deeds.

I weep with sorrow;
encourage me by
your word.

Keep me from lying to
myself;

give me the privilege
of knowing your
instructions.

I have chosen to be
faithful;

I have determined to
live by your regulations.

I cling to your laws.

Lord, don't let me be
put to shame!

I will pursue your
commands,

for you expand my
understanding.

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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: Colossians 2:14-19**

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet

to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

Our noisy day has now descended with the sun beyond our sight.

In the silence of our praying place we close the door upon the hectic joys and fears, the accomplishments and anguish of the week we have left behind.

What was but moments ago the substance of our life has become a memory; what we did must now be woven into what we are.

On this day we shall not do, but be.

We are to walk the path of our humanity, no longer ride unseeing through a world we do not touch and only vaguely sense.

No longer can we tear the world apart to make our fire.

On this day heat and warmth and light must come from deep within ourselves.

“Welcoming Sabbath”, a Friday evening prayer

from *Gates of Prayer, New
Union Prayer Book*
(Jewish)

Vow Prayer: Life-giving
God, time is your
creation, and you have
called it very good. Help
us maintain the balance
and justice of work and
rest for ourselves, those
who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."

Then they remembered that he had said this. So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. However,

Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look.

Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

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: 33-40

He

Teach me your decrees,
O Lord;

I will keep them to the
end.

Give me understanding
and I will obey your
instructions;

I will put them into
practice with all my heart.

Make me walk along the
path of your commands,
for that is where my
happiness is found.

Give me an eagerness
for your laws
rather than a love for
money!

Turn my eyes from
worthless things,
and give me life
through your word.

Reassure me of your
promise,
made to those who
fear you.

Help me abandon my
shameful ways;
for your regulations
are good.
I long to obey your
commandments!
Renew my life with
your goodness.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon

ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

Biblically speaking, the Sabbath has always been Saturday, and the Lord's Day has always been Sunday, the day when the Christian tradition holds that Jesus was raised from the dead. There is evidence that for a very little while, early Christians tried to observe both the Sabbath and the Lord's Day. They

rested on Saturday and gathered to remember the resurrection on Sunday. Then the church and synagogue got a nasty divorce and part of the separation agreement was a division of holy days.

Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and

rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Luke 24:13-34

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these

things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who

hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious

leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

“Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was

missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to

suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he

went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And

within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

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: 41-48

Waw

Lord, give me your unfailing love,

the salvation that you promised me.

Then I can answer those
who taunt me,
for I trust in your
word.

Do not snatch your word
of truth from me,
for your regulations
are my only hope.

I will keep on obeying
your instructions
forever and ever.

I will walk in freedom,
for I have devoted
myself to your
commandments.

I will speak to kings
about your laws,

and I will not be
ashamed.

How I delight in your
commands!

How I love them!

I honor and love your
commands.

I meditate on 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf,

and the land we cultivate.
Amen.

Evening

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

Vow: In a world of frantic
busyness, we will honor
rhythms of rest,
contemplation and
renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.

For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it

grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

The purpose of Sabbath rest is to free us inwardly for full-hearted worship. Genuine worship flows from a heart that trusts God to uphold the universe. The joy and peace of worship come from entrusting ourselves to divine provision, and releasing ourselves from the illusion that labor is the chief source of our life

- even if that labor is for the church or felt to be an expression of God's will!
Rest and worship are expressions of deep trust.
Marjory Thompson, *Soul Feast*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Luke 24:35-53

Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. "Peace be with you," he said. But the

whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

“Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.” As he spoke, he showed

them his hands and his feet.

Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched.

Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the

law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in

Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things.

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he

was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising 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: 49-56

Zayin

Remember your promise
to me;

it is my only hope.

Your promise revives
me;

it comforts me in all
my troubles.

The proud hold me in
utter contempt,

but I do not turn away
from your instructions.

I meditate on your age-
old regulations;

O Lord, they comfort
me.

I become furious with
the wicked,

because they reject
your instructions.

Your decrees have been
the theme of my songs
wherever I have lived.

I reflect at night on who
you are, O Lord;

therefore, I obey your
instructions.

This is how I spend my
life:

obeying your
commandments.

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.

July 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Colossians 2:14-19

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.

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grows as God nourishes it.

Morning Short Reading:

Sabbath is not only God's gift to those who have voices to say how tired they are; Sabbath is also God's gift to the tired fields, the tired vines, the tired vineyard, the tired land....Sabbath is the great equalizer, the great reminder that we do not live on this earth but in it, and that everything we do under the tent of this

planet's atmosphere affects all who are woven into this web with us.

Just because the land and the livestock cannot hire lawyers does not mean they have not been violated.

Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those

who labor on our behalf,
and the land we cultivate.
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 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 of frantic busyness, we will honor rhythms of rest, contemplation and renewal.

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. Amen.

Evening

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

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to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.

Evening Short Reading:

After the work of creation was completed, the Seventh Day pleaded: Master of the universe, all that Thou hast created is in couples; to every day of the week Thou gavest a mate; only I was left alone. And God answered: The Community of Israel will be your mate.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel,
The Sabbath

Vow Prayer: Life-giving God, time is your

creation, and you have called it very good. Help us maintain the balance and justice of work and rest for ourselves, those who labor on our behalf, and the land we cultivate. 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
prophecy.

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 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.