

STUDY



FORMED

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word
already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He existed in the beginning
with God.

God created everything
through him,
and nothing was created
except through him.

The Word gave life to
everything that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

The light shines in the
darkness,
and the darkness can
never extinguish it.

Morning Short Reading:

“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

- Jerome, A.D. 340-420

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham

Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).

Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).

Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asa.

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.

Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.

Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.

Amon was the father of Josiah.

Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon).

After the Babylonian exile Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.

Abiud was the father of Eliakim.

Eliakim was the father of Azor.

Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Akim.

Akim was the father of Eliud.

Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

All those listed above include fourteen generations

from Abraham to David,
fourteen from David to the
Babylonian exile, and
fourteen from the
Babylonian exile to the
Messiah.

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 1

Oh, the joys of those who
do not

follow the advice of the
wicked,

or stand around with
sinners,

or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law
of the Lord,

meditating on it day and
night.

They are like trees planted
along the riverbank,

bearing fruit each
season.

Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all
they do.

But not the wicked!

They are like worthless
chaff, scattered by the wind.
They will be condemned at
the time of judgment.

Sinners will have no
place among the godly.
For the Lord watches over
the path of the godly,
but the path of the
wicked leads to destruction.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our

study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered

advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

God created everything through him,

and nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created,

and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Evening Short Reading:

“We are not interested in knowing more but in becoming more.” Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of

Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her

fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,

and they will call him Immanuel,

which means ‘God is with us.’”

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born.

And Joseph named him
Jesus.

Lord's Prayer:

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

Give us today our daily
bread. Erase our debts as we
erase the debts of others.

Keep us from temptation
and Rescue us from evil.

For kingdom, power and
glory belong to you for ever
and ever.

Amen.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 2

Why are the nations so
angry?

Why do they waste their
time with futile plans?

The kings of the earth
prepare for battle;

the rulers plot together
against the Lord

and against his anointed
one.

“Let us break their chains,”
they cry,

“and free ourselves from
slavery to God.”

But the one who rules in
heaven laughs.

The Lord scoffs at them.

Then in anger he rebukes them,

terrifying them with his fierce fury.

For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne

in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain."

The king proclaims the Lord's decree:

"The Lord said to me, 'You are my son.

Today I have become your Father.

Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance,

the whole earth as your possession.

You will break them with an iron rod

and smash them like clay pots.”

Now then, you kings, act wisely!

Be warned, you rulers of the earth!

Serve the Lord with reverent fear,

and rejoice with trembling.

Submit to God’s royal son, or he will become angry,

and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—

for his anger flares up in an instant.

But what joy for all who take refuge 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.

January 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.

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The light shines in the
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and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Morning Short Reading:

"Theology is just what you really think about God, and if you're going to do that, you'd better use your mind and not just let it be a receptacle - a catch-all for whatever beliefs happen to be passing by." Dallas Willard

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your

wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king

of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote

‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,

are not least among the
ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from
you
who will be the shepherd
for my people Israel.”

Then Herod called for a
private meeting with the
wise men, and he learned
from them the time when
the star first appeared.
Then he told them, “Go to
Bethlehem and search
carefully for the child. And
when you find him, come
back and tell me so that I
can go and worship him,
too!”

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own

country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

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 3

A psalm of David, regarding
the time David fled from his
son Absalom.

O Lord, I have so many
enemies;

so many are against me.

So many are saying,

“God will never rescue
him!”

Interlude

But you, O Lord, are a
shield around me;

you are my glory, the one
who holds my head high.

I cried out to the Lord,
and he answered me
from his holy mountain.

Interlude

I lay down and slept,
yet I woke up in safety,
for the Lord was
watching over me.

I am not afraid of ten
thousand enemies
who surround me on
every side.

Arise, O Lord!
Rescue me, my God!
Slap all my enemies in the
face!

Shatter the teeth of the wicked!

Victory comes from you, O Lord.

May you bless your people.

Interlude

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's

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Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

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everything that was created,

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never extinguish it.

Evening Short Reading:

“There are hard things in this book (the Bible), hard things to hear, hard things to obey. There are words in this book that are difficult to digest. John got a severe case of indigestion.” Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book* (p. 64)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and

reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they

stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet "I called my Son out of Egypt."

Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah

“A cry was heard in Ramah

—
weeping and great
mourning.

Rachel weeps for her
children,

refusing to be comforted,
for they are dead.”

When Herod died, an angel
of the Lord appeared in a
dream to Joseph in Egypt.

“Get up!” the angel said.

“Take the child and his
mother back to the land of
Israel, because those who
were trying to kill the child
are dead.”

So Joseph got up and
returned to the land of Israel

with Jesus and his mother. But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said "He will be called a Nazarene."

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 4

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, to be
accompanied by stringed
instruments.

Answer me when I call to
you,

O God who declares me
innocent.

Free me from my troubles.

Have mercy on me and
hear my prayer.

How long will you people
ruin my reputation?

How long will you make
groundless accusations?

How long will you
continue your lies?

Interlude

You can be sure of this:

The Lord set apart the
godly for himself.

The Lord will answer
when I call to him.

Don't sin by letting anger
control you.

Think about it overnight
and remain silent.

Interlude

Offer sacrifices in the right
spirit,
and trust the Lord.

Many people say, "Who will
show us better times?"

Let your face smile on us,
Lord.

You have given me greater
joy

than those who have abundant harvests of grain and new wine.

In peace I will lie down and sleep,

for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

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and nothing was created except through him.

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The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Morning Short Reading:

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.” John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began

preaching. His message was, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” The prophet Isaiah was speaking about 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!’”

John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went

out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "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.

“I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry 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.”

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 5

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, to be
accompanied by the flute.

O Lord, hear me as I pray;
pay attention to my
groaning.

Listen to my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for I pray to no one but
you.

Listen to my voice in the
morning, Lord.

Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked.

Therefore, the proud may not stand in your presence, for you hate all who do evil.

You will destroy those who tell lies.

The Lord detests murderers and deceivers.

Because of your unfailing love, I can enter your house;

I will worship at your
Temple with deepest awe.
Lead me in the right path,
O Lord,

or my enemies will
conquer me.

Make your way plain for
me to follow.

My enemies cannot speak a
truthful word.

Their deepest desire is
to destroy others.

Their talk is foul, like the
stench from an open grave.

Their tongues are filled
with flattery.

O God, declare them guilty.

Let them be caught in
their own traps.

Drive them away because
of their many sins,
for they have rebelled
against you.

But let all who take refuge
in you rejoice;
let them sing joyful
praises forever.

Spread your protection
over them,
that all who love your
name may be filled with joy.
For you bless the godly, O
Lord;
you surround them with
your shield of love.

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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The Word gave life to everything that was created,

and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Evening Short Reading:

“Every careful reader of the Bible is struck by how recurrently odd and unaccommodating it is to what we are used to and expect. The Bible is no ‘easy read.’” Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book* (p. 65)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But

John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

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 6

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, to be

accompanied by an eight-stringed instrument.

O Lord, don't rebuke me in your anger

or discipline me in your rage.

Have compassion on me, Lord, for I am weak.

Heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.

I am sick at heart.

How long, O Lord, until you restore me?

Return, O Lord, and rescue me.

Save me because of your unfailing love.

For the dead do not remember you.

Who can praise you from
the grave?

I am worn out from
sobbing.

All night I flood my bed
with weeping,
drenching it with my
tears.

My vision is blurred by
grief;

my eyes are worn out
because of all my enemies.

Go away, all you who do
evil,

for the Lord has heard
my weeping.

The Lord has heard my
plea;

the Lord will answer my prayer.

May all my enemies be disgraced and terrified.

May they suddenly turn back in shame.

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
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this for the sake of your love.
Amen.

January 4, 2011

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Morning Short Reading:

“A purely mental life may be destructive if it leads us to substitute thought for life and ideas for actions. The activity proper to man is not just a disembodied mind. Our destiny is to live out what we think, because unless we live what we know, we do not even know it. It is only by making our knowledge part of ourselves through action that we enter into the reality that is signified by our concepts.”

Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

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Morning Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

'People do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city, 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 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.'"

Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the Lord your God
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Lord's Prayer:

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

Give us today our daily
bread. Erase our debts as we
erase the debts of others.

Keep us from temptation
and Rescue us from evil.

For kingdom, power and
glory belong to you for ever
and ever.

Amen.

Morning Psalm: Psalm 7

A psalm of David, which he sang to the Lord concerning Cush of the tribe of Benjamin.

I come to you for protection, O Lord my God.

Save me from my persecutors—rescue me!

If you don't, they will maul me like a lion,

tearing me to pieces with no one to rescue me.

O Lord my God, if I have done wrong

or am guilty of injustice,
if I have betrayed a friend
or plundered my enemy
without cause,

then let my enemies capture me.

Let them trample me into
the ground
and drag my honor in
the dust.

Interlude

Arise, O Lord, in anger!
Stand up against the
fury of my enemies!
Wake up, my God, and
bring justice!
Gather the nations before
you.
Rule over them from on
high.
The Lord judges the
nations.
Declare me righteous, O
Lord,

for I am innocent, O Most High!

End the evil of those who are wicked,

and defend the righteous.

For you look deep within the mind and heart,

O righteous God.

God is my shield,
saving those whose hearts are true and right.

God is an honest judge.
He is angry with the wicked every day.

If a person does not repent,
God will sharpen his sword;

he will bend and string
his bow.

He will prepare his deadly
weapons

and shoot his flaming
arrows.

The wicked conceive evil;
they are pregnant with
trouble

and give birth to lies.

They dig a deep pit to trap
others,

then fall into it
themselves.

The trouble they make for
others backfires on them.

The violence they plan
falls on their own heads.

I will thank the Lord
because he is just;
I will sing praise to the
name of the Lord Most High.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning
with God.

God created everything
through him,

and nothing was created
except through him.

The Word gave life to
everything that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

The light shines in the
darkness,

and the darkness can
never extinguish it.

Evening Short Reading:

“It is far too common among
us to develop a problem-
solving habit of approach to

the Bible, figuring out what doesn't seem to fit and then sanding off the rough edges, so that it slips into our ways of thinking more easily. We want to use it for comfort, and if it doesn't work comfortably we reconfigure it so that it will." Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book* (p. 65)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah

“In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.

And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.”

From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw

two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all

over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

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 8

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, to be
accompanied by a stringed
instrument.

O Lord, our Lord, your
majestic name fills the
earth!

Your glory is higher than
the heavens.

You have taught children
and infants

to tell of your strength,
silencing your enemies
and all who oppose you.

When I look at the night
sky and see the work of your
fingers—

the moon and the stars
you set in place—

what are mere mortals that
you should think about them,
human beings that you
should care for them?

Yet you made them only a
little lower than God
and crowned them with
glory and honor.

You gave them charge of
everything you made,
putting all things under
their authority—

the flocks and the herds
and all the wild animals,
the birds in the sky, the fish
in the sea,

and everything that
swims the ocean currents.

O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills 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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word
already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning
with God.

God created everything
through him,

and nothing was created
except through him.

The Word gave life to
everything that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

The light shines in the
darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Morning Short Reading:

“There are many who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge: that is curiosity. There are others who desire to know in order that they may be known: that is vanity. Others seek knowledge in order to sell it: that is dishonorable. But there are some who seek knowledge in order to edify others: that is love [caritas].” St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 5:1-16

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the

mountainside and sat down.
His disciples gathered
around him, and he began
to teach them.

“God blesses those who
are poor and realize their
need for him,
for the Kingdom of
Heaven is theirs.

God blesses those who
mourn,
for they will be
comforted.

God blesses those who
are humble,
for they will inherit the
whole earth.

God blesses those who
hunger and thirst for justice,

for they will be satisfied.
God blesses those who
are merciful,
for they will be shown
mercy.

God blesses those whose
hearts are pure,
for they will see God.

God blesses those who
work for peace,
for they will be called the
children of God.

God blesses those who
are persecuted for doing
right,

for the Kingdom of
Heaven is theirs.

“God blesses you when
people mock you and
persecute you and lie about

you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No

one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

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 9: 1-10

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, to be sung to
the tune "Death of the Son."

I will praise you, Lord, with
all my heart;

I will tell of all the
marvelous things you have
done.

I will be filled with joy
because of you.

I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.

My enemies retreated;
they staggered and died
when you appeared.

For you have judged in my favor;

from your throne you
have judged with fairness.

You have rebuked the
nations and destroyed the
wicked;

you have erased their
names forever.

The enemy is finished, in
endless ruins;

the cities you uprooted
are now forgotten.

But the Lord reigns forever,
executing judgment from
his throne.

He will judge the world with
justice

and rule the nations with
fairness.

The Lord is a shelter for the
oppressed,

a refuge in times of
trouble.

Those who know your
name trust in you,

for you, O Lord, do not
abandon those who search
for you.

Intercession:

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



Midday

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll

regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

God created everything through him,

and nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created,

and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Evening Short Reading:

“But nothing in our Bibles is one-dimensional, systematized, or theologized.” Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book* (p. 65)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are

not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 5:17-48

“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until

heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you,

leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

“When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body

than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

“You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows

you make to the Lord.' But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury ‘An

eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.

Teaching about Love for Enemies

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your

neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect,

even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

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 9: 11-20

Sing praises to the Lord
who reigns in Jerusalem.

Tell the world about his
unforgettable deeds.

For he who avenges
murder cares for the
helpless.

He does not ignore the
cries of those who suffer.

Lord, have mercy on me.

See how my enemies
torment me.

Snatch me back from the
jaws of death.

Save me so I can praise
you publicly at Jerusalem's
gates,

so I can rejoice that you
have rescued me.

The nations have fallen into
the pit they dug for others.

Their own feet have
been caught in the trap they
set.

The Lord is known for his
justice.

The wicked are trapped
by their own deeds.

Quiet

Interlude

The wicked will go down to
the grave.

This is the fate of all the nations who ignore God.

But the needy will not be ignored forever;

the hopes of the poor will not always be crushed.

Arise, O Lord!

Do not let mere mortals defy you!

Judge the nations!

Make them tremble in fear, O Lord.

Let the nations know they are merely human.

Interlude

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word
already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning
with God.

God created everything
through him,

and nothing was created
except through him.

The Word gave life to
everything that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

The light shines in the
darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Morning Short Reading:

“Few things have contributed so powerfully to the unbelief of the modern and postmodern world as the pretension of Christians to know more than we do...If Christians exhibited more intellectual patience, modesty, curiosity, sense of adventure, there would be fewer atheists in the world, both of the rationalist and post-modern varieties.”

Richard John Neuhaus,
Encountered by the Truth

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew
6:1-18

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father,

who sees everything, will reward you.

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people

of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,

as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need,

and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven
those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to
temptation,

but rescue us from the
evil one.

"If you forgive those who
sin against you, your
heavenly Father will forgive
you. But if you refuse to
forgive others, your Father
will not forgive your sins.

"And when you fast, don't
make it obvious, as the
hypocrites do, for they try to
look miserable and
disheveled so people will
admire them for their
fasting. I tell you the truth,
that is the only reward they

will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Lord's Prayer:

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

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

Morning Psalm: Psalm 10

O Lord, why do you stand
so far away?

Why do you hide when I
am in trouble?

The wicked arrogantly hunt
down the poor.

Let them be caught in
the evil they plan for others.

For they brag about their
evil desires;

they praise the greedy
and curse the Lord.

The wicked are too proud
to seek God.

They seem to think that
God is dead.

Yet they succeed in
everything they do.

They do not see your
punishment awaiting them.

They sneer at all their
enemies.

They think, "Nothing bad
will ever happen to us!

We will be free of trouble
forever!"

Their mouths are full of
cursing, lies, and threats.

Trouble and evil are on
the tips of their tongues.

They lurk in ambush in the
villages,

waiting to murder
innocent people.

They are always
searching for helpless
victims.

Like lions crouched in
hiding,

they wait to pounce on
the helpless.

Like hunters they capture
the helpless

and drag them away in
nets.

Their helpless victims are
crushed;

they fall beneath the strength of the wicked.

The wicked think, "God isn't watching us!

He has closed his eyes and won't even see what we do!"

Arise, O Lord!

Punish the wicked, O God!

Do not ignore the helpless!

Why do the wicked get away with despising God?

They think, "God will never call us to account."

But you see the trouble and grief they cause.

You take note of it and
punish them.

The helpless put their trust
in you.

You defend the orphans.

Break the arms of these
wicked, evil people!

Go after them until the
last one is destroyed.

The Lord is king forever
and ever!

The godless nations will
vanish from the land.

Lord, you know the hopes
of the helpless.

Surely you will hear their
cries and comfort them.

You will bring justice to the
orphans and the oppressed,

so mere people can no longer terrify 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our

thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning
with God.

God created everything
through him,

and nothing was created
except through him.

The Word gave life to
everything that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

The light shines in the
darkness,

and the darkness can
never extinguish it.

Evening Short Reading:

**“The most frequent way we
have of getting rid of the**

puzzling or unpleasant difficulties in the Bible is to systematize it, organizing it according to some scheme or other that summarizes “what the Bible teaches.” If we know what the Bible teaches, we don’t have to read it anymore, don’t have to enter the story and immerse ourselves in the odd and unflattering and uncongenial way in which this story develops, including so many people and circumstances that have nothing to do, we think, with us.” Eugene Peterson, *Eat*

This Book (p. 66)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: Matthew
6:19-34**

“Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

“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 your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have

is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

“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.

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store

food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field 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 wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will

certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

“So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

“So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.

Today's trouble is enough for today.

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 11

For the choir director: A
psalm of David.

I trust in the Lord for
protection.

So why do you say to me,
“Fly like a bird to the
mountains for safety!

The wicked are stringing
their bows

and fitting their arrows
on the bowstrings.

They shoot from the
shadows

at those whose hearts
are right.

The foundations of law and
order have collapsed.

What can the righteous
do?”

But the Lord is in his holy
Temple;
the Lord still rules from
heaven.

He watches everyone
closely,
examining every person
on earth.

The Lord examines both
the righteous and the
wicked.

He hates those who love
violence.

He will rain down blazing
coals and burning sulfur on
the wicked,
punishing them with
scorching winds.

For the righteous Lord loves justice.

The virtuous will see his face.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word
already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning
with God.

God created everything
through him,

and nothing was created
except through him.

The Word gave life to
everything that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

The light shines in the
darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Morning Short Reading:

“For the ancients, to meditate is to read a text and to learn it ‘by heart’ in the fullest sense of this expression, that is with one’s whole being: with the body, since the mouth pronounced it, with the memory which fixes it, with the intelligence which understands its meaning, and with the will which desires to put it into practice.” Jean LeClercq, *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 7:1-12

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

you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

“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 to your 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.

“Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack 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 parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a

stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? 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 good gifts to those who ask him.

“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

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 12

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, to be
accompanied by an eight-
stringed instrument.

Help, O Lord, for the godly
are fast disappearing!

The faithful have
vanished from the earth!

Neighbors lie to each other,
speaking with flattering
lips and deceitful hearts.

May the Lord cut off their
flattering lips

and silence their boastful
tongues.

They say, "We will lie to our
hearts' content.

Our lips are our own—
who can stop us?"

The Lord replies, "I have
seen violence done to the
helpless,

and I have heard the
groans of the poor.

Now I will rise up to rescue
them,

as they have longed for
me to do.”

The Lord’s promises are
pure,

like silver refined in a
furnace,

purified seven times
over.

Therefore, Lord, we know
you will protect the
oppressed,

preserving them forever
from this lying generation,

even though the wicked
strut about,

and evil is praised
throughout the land.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our

thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning
with God.

God created everything
through him,

and nothing was created
except through him.

The Word gave life to
everything that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

The light shines in the
darkness,

and the darkness can
never extinguish it.

Evening Short Reading:

“But the Bible also has all the
questions, many of them
that we would just as soon

were never asked of us, and some of which we will spend the rest of our lives doing our best to dodge” Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book* (p. 66)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 7:13-29

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their

fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of

Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat

against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious 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.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 13

For the choir director: A
psalm of David.

O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever?

How long will you look the other way?

How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

Turn and answer me, O Lord my God!

Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.

Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!"

Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.

But I trust in your unfailing love.

I will rejoice because you have rescued me.

I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me.

Intercession:

Concluding Prayer: Lord Jesus stay with us, for

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

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“We read the Gospels not merely to get a picture or an idea of Christ but to enter in and pass through the words of revelation to establish, by faith, a vital contact with the Christ Who dwells in our souls as God.” Thomas Merton, *Seeds of Contemplation*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our

thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 8:1-17

Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt

before him. "Lord," the man 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 said to him, "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, 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."

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain."

Jesus said, "I will come and heal him."

But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. 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 those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel! And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer

darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour.

When Jesus arrived at Peter’s house, Peter’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him.

That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said,

“He took our sicknesses
and removed our
diseases.”

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 14

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

Only fools say in their hearts,

“There is no God.”

They are corrupt, and their actions are evil;

not one of them does
good!

The Lord looks down from
heaven

on the entire human
race;

he looks to see if anyone is
truly wise,

if anyone seeks God.

But no, all have turned
away;

all have become corrupt.

No one does good,

not a single one!

Will those who do evil
never learn?

They eat up my people
like bread

and wouldn't think of
praying to the Lord.

Terror will grip them,
for God is with those
who obey him.

The wicked frustrate the
plans of the oppressed,
but the Lord will protect
his people.

Who will come from Mount
Zion to rescue Israel?

When the Lord restores
his people,
Jacob will shout with joy,
and Israel will rejoice.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are

not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
"These people say they are mine.

They honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.

And their worship of me

is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once again astound these hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“We enter the text to meet God as he reveals himself, not to look for truth or history or morals that we can use for ourselves.”

Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

**Evening Gospel: Matthew
8:18-34**

When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.

Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, "Teacher, 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."

Another of his disciples said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

But Jesus told him, "Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead."

Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples.

Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm.

The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked. “Even the winds and waves obey him!”

When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They lived in a cemetery and were so violent that no one could go through that area.

They began screaming at him, “Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to

torture us before God's appointed time?"

There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance. So the demons begged, "If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs."

"All right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

The herdsmen fled to the nearby town, telling everyone what happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the entire town came out to meet Jesus, but they begged him to go away and leave them alone.

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 15

A psalm of David.

Who may worship in your
sanctuary, Lord?

Who may enter your
presence on your holy hill?

Those who lead blameless
lives and do what is right,
speaking the truth from
sincere hearts.

Those who refuse to gossip
or harm their neighbors
or speak evil of their
friends.

Those who despise flagrant sinners,
and honor the faithful followers of the Lord,
and keep their promises even when it hurts.

Those who lend money without charging interest,
and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent.

Such people will stand firm 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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“We need to understand that Jesus is a thinker, that this is not a dirty word but an essential work, and that his other attributes do not preclude thought, but only insure that he is certainly the greatest thinker of the human race: ‘the most intelligent person who ever lived on earth.’ He constantly uses the power of logical insight to enable people to come to the truth about

themselves and about God from the inside of their own heart and mind.” Dallas Willard, *Jesus the Logician*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 9:1-17

Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven."

But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?"

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them,

“Why do you have such evil thoughts 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 the man jumped up and went home! Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for sending a man with such great authority.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"

When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't

need a doctor—sick people do.” Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, “Why don’t your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?”

Jesus replied, “Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday

the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

“Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.”

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 16

A psalm of David.

Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord?

Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right,
speaking the truth from sincere hearts.

Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.

Those who despise flagrant sinners,
and honor the faithful followers of the Lord,
and keep their promises even when it hurts.

Those who lend money without charging interest,

and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent.

Such people will stand firm 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 that

is force-fed by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of
the intelligent will
disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“We talk of ‘making the Bible relevant to the world,’ as if the world is the fundamental reality and the Bible something that is going to help it or fix it. We talk of ‘fitting the Bible into our lives’ or ‘making room in our day for the Bible,’ as if the Bible is something that we can add on to or squeeze into our already full lives.”
Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book* (p. 66)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 9:18-38

As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him.

“My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.”

So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”

Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you

well.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

When Jesus arrived at the official's home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. “Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn't dead; she's only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him. After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men

followed along behind him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?"

"Yes, Lord," they told him, "we do."

Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen." Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, "Don't tell anyone about this." But instead, they went out and

spread his fame all over the region.

When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn't speak was brought to Jesus. So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. "Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!" they exclaimed.

But the Pharisees said, "He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons."

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of

that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "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."

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 17

A prayer of David.

O Lord, hear my plea for
justice.

Listen to my cry for help.
Pay attention to my prayer,

for it comes from honest
lips.

Declare me innocent,
for you see those who do
right.

You have tested my
thoughts and examined my
heart in the night.

You have scrutinized me
and found nothing wrong.

I am determined not to
sin in what I say.

I have followed your
commands,

which keep me from
following cruel and evil
people.

My steps have stayed on
your path;

I have not wavered from following you.

I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God.

Bend down and listen as I pray.

Show me your unfailing love in wonderful ways.

By your mighty power you rescue

those who seek refuge from their enemies.

Guard me as you would guard your own eyes.

Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

Protect me from wicked people who attack me,

from murderous enemies
who surround me.

They are without pity.

Listen to their boasting!

They track me down and
surround me,

watching for the chance
to throw me to the ground.

They are like hungry lions,
eager to tear me apart—

like young lions hiding in
ambush.

Arise, O Lord!

Stand against them, and
bring them to their knees!

Rescue me from the
wicked with your sword!

By the power of your hand,
O Lord,

destroy those who look
to this world for their
reward.

But satisfy the hunger of
your treasured ones.

May their children have
plenty,

leaving an inheritance
for their descendants.

Because I am righteous, I
will see you.

When I awake, I will see
you face to face and be
satisfied.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“Jaroslav Pelikan tells of an old rabbi asked by his pupil, ‘Why is it that you rabbis so often put your teaching in the form of a question?’ The Rabbi shot back, ‘So what’s wrong with a question?’ Very often Jesus too deflected a question back in Socratic style, pressing the seeker toward a crisis point. His answers cut to the hearts of his listeners. I doubt I would have left any

encounter with Jesus feeling smug or self-satisfied.”

Phillip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 10:1-20

Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. Here are the names of the twelve apostles

first, Simon (also called Peter),

then Andrew (Peter's brother),

James (son of Zebedee),

John (James's brother),

Philip,

Bartholomew,

Thomas,

Matthew (the tax collector),
James (son of Alphaeus),
Thaddaeus,
Simon (the zealot),
Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions “Don’t go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel—God’s lost sheep. Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out

demons. Give as freely as you have received!

“Don’t take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. Don’t carry a traveler’s bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed.

“Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. When you enter the home, give it your blessing.

If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.

“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts

and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me. When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Lord's Prayer:

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

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

Morning Psalm: Psalm 18: 1-11

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, the servant
of the Lord. He sang this

song to the Lord on the day
the Lord rescued him from
all his enemies and from
Saul. He sang:

I love you, Lord;
you are my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my
fortress, and my savior;
my God is my rock, in
whom I find protection.

He is my shield, the power
that saves me,
and my place of safety.

I called on the Lord, who is
worthy of praise,
and he saved me from
my enemies.

The ropes of death
entangled me;

floods of destruction
swept over me.

The grave wrapped its
ropes around me;

death laid a trap in my
path.

But in my distress I cried
out to the Lord;

yes, I prayed to my God
for help.

He heard me from his
sanctuary;

my cry to him reached
his ears.

Then the earth quaked and
trembled.

The foundations of the
mountains shook;

they quaked because of
his anger.

Smoke poured from his
nostrils;

fierce flames leaped
from his mouth.

Glowing coals blazed
forth from him.

He opened the heavens
and came down;

dark storm clouds were
beneath his feet.

Mounted on a mighty
angelic being, he flew,
soaring on the wings of
the wind.

He shrouded himself in
darkness,

veiling his approach with
dark rain clouds.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
"These people say they are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of
the intelligent will
disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“If we have not entered this text as participants we aren’t going to understand what is going on. This text cannot be understood by watching it from the bleachers—or even expensive box seats. We are in on it.” Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards

of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 10:21-42

“A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one town, flee

to the next. I tell you the truth, the Son of Man will return before you have reached all the towns of Israel.

“Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

“But don’t be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!

“Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. What is the price of two sparrows—one copper

coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. 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.

“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

“Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

‘I have come to set a man against his father,

 a daughter against her mother,

 and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

 Your enemies will be right in your own household!’

“If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse

to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

“Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs.

And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

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 18:12-26

Thick clouds shielded the
brightness around him
and rained down hail
and burning coals.

The Lord thundered from
heaven;

the voice of the Most
High resounded
amid the hail and
burning coals.

He shot his arrows and
scattered his enemies;

his lightning flashed, and
they were greatly confused.

Then at your command, O
Lord,

at the blast of your
breath,
the bottom of the sea
could be seen,
and the foundations of
the earth were laid bare.

He reached down from
heaven and rescued me;
he drew me out of deep
waters.

He rescued me from my
powerful enemies,
from those who hated
me and were too strong for
me.

They attacked me at a
moment when I was in
distress,

but the Lord supported
me.

He led me to a place of
safety;

he rescued me because
he delights in me.

The Lord rewarded me for
doing right;

he restored me because
of my innocence.

For I have kept the ways of
the Lord;

I have not turned from
my God to follow evil.

I have followed all his
regulations;

I have never abandoned
his decrees.

I am blameless before God;

I have kept myself from
sin.

The Lord rewarded me for
doing right.

He has seen my
innocence.

To the faithful you show
yourself faithful;

to those with integrity
you show integrity.

To the pure you show
yourself pure,

but to the wicked you
show yourself hostile.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“Although the truth of the Christian faith surpasses the capacity of human nature, yet those things which reason has inherently in possession cannot be contrary to the Christian truth.” Thomas Aquinas, *Summa contra Gentiles*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our

thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 11:1-15

When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region.

John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—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.”

As John's disciples were leaving, 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 with expensive clothes live 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 the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is! And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. For

before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come. 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 18: 27-39

You rescue the humble,
but you humiliate the
proud.

You light a lamp for me.

The Lord, my God, lights
up my darkness.

In your strength I can crush
an army;

with my God I can scale
any wall.

God's way is perfect.

All the Lord's promises
prove true.

He is a shield for all who
look to him for protection.

For who is God except the
Lord?

Who but our God is a
solid rock?

God arms me with strength,
and he makes my way
perfect.

He makes me as surefooted
as a deer,

enabling me to stand on
mountain heights.

He trains my hands for
battle;

he strengthens my arm
to draw a bronze bow.

You have given me your
shield of victory.

Your right hand supports
me;

your help has made me
great.

You have made a wide path
for my feet

to keep them from
slipping.

I chased my enemies and
caught them;

I did not stop until they
were conquered.

I struck them down so they
could not get up;

they fell beneath my feet.

You have armed me with strength for the battle;

you have subdued my enemies under my feet.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll

regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,

but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of
the intelligent will
disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“The most important question we ask of this text is not, ‘What does this mean?’ but ‘What can I obey?’ A simple act of obedience will open up our lives to this text far more quickly than any number of Bible studies and dictionaries and concordances.” Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your

wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 11:16-30

“To what can I compare this generation? It is 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 mourn.'

For John didn't spend his
time eating and drinking,
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 its results."

Then Jesus began to
denounce the towns where
he had done so many of his
miracles, because they

hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God. "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. I tell you, 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. For if the miracles

I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today. I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you.”

At that time Jesus prayed this prayer “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 Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

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 18: 40-51

You placed my foot on their necks.

I have destroyed all who hated me.

They called for help, but no one came to their rescue.

They even cried to the Lord, but he refused to answer.

I ground them as fine as dust in the wind.

I swept them into the gutter like dirt.

You gave me victory over my accusers.

You appointed me ruler over nations;

people I don't even know now serve me.

As soon as they hear of me, they submit;

foreign nations cringe before me.

They all lose their courage

and come trembling from
their strongholds.

The Lord lives! Praise to my
Rock!

May the God of my
salvation be exalted!

He is the God who pays
back those who harm me;

he subdues the nations
under me

and rescues me from my
enemies.

You hold me safe beyond
the reach of my enemies;

you save me from violent
opponents.

For this, O Lord, I will praise
you among the nations;

I will sing praises to your name.

You give great victories to your king;

you show unfailing love to your anointed,

to David and all his descendants 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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“The various opinions of philosophers have scattered through the world as many plagues of the mind as Pandora’s box did those of the body; only with this difference, that they have not left hope at the bottom.”
Jonathan Swift, “A Critical Essay upon the Faculties of the Mind”

Vow Prayer: Lord, your

thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 12:1-14

At about that time Jesus was walking through some grain-fields 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? I tell you, there is one here who is even greater than the Temple! But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

Then Jesus went over to their synagogue, where he noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Does the law permit a

person to work by healing on the Sabbath?" (They were hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him.)

And he answered, "If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would. And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath."

Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored, just like the

other one! Then the Pharisees called a meeting to plot how to kill Jesus.

Lord's Prayer:

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

Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.

Amen.

Morning Psalm: Psalm 19

For the choir director: A
psalm of David.

The heavens proclaim the
glory of God.

The skies display his
craftsmanship.

Day after day they
continue to speak;

night after night they
make him known.

They speak without a
sound or word;

their voice is never
heard.

Yet their message has gone
throughout the earth,

and their words to all the
world.

God has made a home in
the heavens for the sun.

It bursts forth like a radiant
bridegroom after his
wedding.

It rejoices like a great
athlete eager to run the
race.

The sun rises at one end of
the heavens

and follows its course to
the other end.

Nothing can hide from its
heat.

The instructions of the Lord
are perfect,

reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord
are trustworthy,
 making wise the simple.
The commandments of the
Lord are right,
 bringing joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord
are clear,
 giving insight for living.
Reverence for the Lord is
pure,
 lasting forever.
The laws of the Lord are
true;
 each one is fair.
They are more desirable
than gold,
 even the finest gold.
They are sweeter than
honey,

even honey dripping
from the comb.

They are a warning to your
servant,

a great reward for those
who obey them.

How can I know all the sins
lurking in my heart?

Cleanse me from these
hidden faults.

Keep your servant from
deliberate sins!

Don't let them control
me.

Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great
sin.

May the words of my
mouth
and the meditation of my
heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my
redeemer.

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 that is forced by self-centered

advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“...no amount of theological study can give a man spiritual discernment if he lacks the sense of respect for souls in their uniqueness, which is a gift of humility and love.” Thomas Merton, *Spiritual Direction and Meditation*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are

not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 12:15-37

But Jesus knew what they were planning. So he left that area, and many people followed him. He healed all the sick among them, but he warned them not to reveal who he was. This

fulfilled the prophecy of
Isaiah concerning him

“Look at my Servant, whom
I have chosen.

He is my Beloved, who
pleases me.

I will put my Spirit upon
him,

and he will proclaim
justice to the nations.

He will not fight or shout
or raise his voice in
public.

He will not crush the
weakest reed

or put out a flickering
candle.

Finally he will cause
justice to be victorious.

And his name will be the hope
of all the world.”

Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn't speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man so that he could both speak and see. The crowd was amazed and asked, “Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?”

But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, “No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons.”

Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart. And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not 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 Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. For who is powerful enough to enter

the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.

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

“So I tell you, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven. Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against

the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come.

“A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. 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. And I tell you this, you must give an account on

judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn 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 20

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

In times of trouble, may the Lord answer your cry.

May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm.

May he send you help from his sanctuary

and strengthen you from Jerusalem.

May he remember all your gifts

and look favorably on your burnt offerings.

Interlude

May he grant your heart's
desires
and make all your plans
succeed.

May we shout for joy when
we hear of your victory
and raise a victory
banner in the name of our
God.

May the Lord answer all
your prayers.

Now I know that the Lord
rescues his anointed king.

He will answer him from
his holy heaven
and rescue him by his
great power.

Some nations boast of their
chariots and horses,

but we boast in the
name of the Lord our God.

Those nations will fall down
and collapse,

but we will rise up and
stand firm.

Give victory to our king, O
Lord!

Answer our cry for help.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“Philosophy begins in wonder. And, at the end, when philosophic thought has done its best, the wonder remains.”

A.N. Whitehead, *Modes of Thought*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of

Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 12:38-50

One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority."

But Jesus replied, "Only an evil, adulterous generation

would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

“The people of Nineveh will 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. The queen

of Sheba will also 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.

“When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and finds its former home empty, 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. That will be the experience of this evil generation.”

As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. Someone told Jesus, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, and they want to speak to you.”

Jesus asked, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Then he pointed to his disciples and said, “Look, these are my mother

and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!”

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 21

How the king rejoices in
your strength, O Lord!

He shouts with joy
because you give him
victory.

For you have given him his
heart's desire;

you have withheld
nothing he requested.

Interlude

You welcomed him back
with success and prosperity.

You placed a crown of
finest gold on his head.

He asked you to preserve
his life,

and you granted his
request.

The days of his life
stretch on forever.

Your victory brings him
great honor,

and you have clothed
him with splendor and
majesty.

You have endowed him with
eternal blessings

and given him the joy of
your presence.

For the king trusts in the
Lord.

The unfailing love of the
Most High will keep him from
stumbling.

You will capture all your
enemies.

Your strong right hand
will seize all who hate you.

You will throw them in a
flaming furnace
when you appear.

The Lord will consume
them in his anger;
fire will devour them.

You will wipe their children
from the face of the earth;
they will never have
descendants.

Although they plot against
you,
their evil schemes will
never succeed.

For they will turn and run
when they see your
arrows aimed at them.

Rise up, O Lord, in all your power.

With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll

regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“Meditation on the Law means therefore not only thinking about the Law, studying the Law, but living it with a full, or relatively full, understanding of God’s purpose in manifesting to us His will.” Thomas Merton, *Spiritual Direction and Meditation*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our

thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the

people stood on the shore. He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the

tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

His disciples came and asked him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?”

He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more

understanding will be given,
and they will have an
abundance of knowledge.
But for those who are not
listening, even what little
understanding they have will
be taken away from them.
That is why I use these
parables,

For they look, but they
don't really see.

They hear, but they don't
really listen or understand.

This fulfills the prophecy of
Isaiah that says,

'When you hear what I say,
you will not understand.

When you see what I do,
you will not comprehend.
For the hearts of these
people are hardened,
and their ears cannot
hear,
and they have closed their
eyes—
so their eyes cannot see,
and their ears cannot hear,
and their hearts cannot
understand,
and they cannot turn to
me
and let me heal them.’

“But blessed are your eyes,
because they see; and your
ears, because they hear. I
tell you the truth, many

prophets and righteous people 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.

“Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds. The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear

the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty,

sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

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 22: 1-11

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be sung to the tune "Doe of the Dawn."

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why are you so far away when I groan for help?

Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.

Every night you hear my voice, but I find no relief.

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors trusted in you,
and you rescued them.

They cried out to you and
were saved.

They trusted in you and
were never disgraced.

But I am a worm and not a
man.

I am scorned and
despised by all!

Everyone who sees me
mocks me.

They sneer and shake
their heads, saying,

“Is this the one who relies
on the Lord?”

Then let the Lord save
him!

If the Lord loves him so
much,

let the Lord rescue him!”

Yet you brought me safely
from my mother's womb
and led me to trust you
at my mother's breast.

I was thrust into your arms
at my birth.

You have been my God
from the moment I was
born.

Do not stay so far from me,
for trouble is near,
and no one else can help
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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“Knowledge of God is acquired through other things. But once God is known, he is known not through other things, but through himself, in accordance with John 4:42: ‘Now we believe, not because of thy saying; for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed . . . the Saviour of the world.’”--Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Here is another story Jesus told “The Kingdom of

Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

“The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’

“‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed.

“Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked.

“No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”

Here is another illustration Jesus used “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into

a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.”

Jesus also used this illustration “The Kingdom of Heaven 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 always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet

“I will speak to you in parables.

I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world.”

Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.”

Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who

belong to the evil one. The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.

“Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous

will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. 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 22: 12-23

My enemies surround me
like a herd of bulls;

fierce bulls of Bashan
have hemmed me in!

Like lions they open their
jaws against me,

roaring and tearing into
their prey.

My life is poured out like
water,

and all my bones are out
of joint.

My heart is like wax,
melting within me.

My strength has dried up
like sunbaked clay.

My tongue sticks to the
roof of my mouth.

You have laid me in the
dust and left me for dead.

My enemies surround me
like a pack of dogs;

an evil gang closes in on
me.

They have pierced my
hands and feet.

I can count all my bones.

My enemies stare at me
and gloat.

They divide my garments
among themselves

and throw dice for my
clothing.

O Lord, do not stay far
away!

You are my strength;
come quickly to my aid!
Save me from the sword;
spare my precious life
from these dogs.

Snatch me from the lion's
jaws
and from the horns of
these wild oxen.

I will proclaim your name to
my brothers and sisters.

I will praise you among
your assembled people.

Praise the Lord, all you who
fear him!

Honor him, all you
descendants of Jacob!

Show him reverence, all
you descendants of Israel!

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
"These people say they are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of
the intelligent will
disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“Meditation on the psalms,

inspired by love, is the key to the great mystery of the divine compassion." Thomas Merton, *Spiritual Direction and Meditation*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 13:44-58

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net

that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you understand all these things?"

"Yes," they said, "we do."

Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

When Jesus had finished telling these stories and illustrations, he left that part of the country. He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, "Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?" Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we

know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?” And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.” And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief.

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 22:
24-31**

For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy.

He has not turned his back on them,
but has listened to their cries for help.

I will praise you in the great assembly.

I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

The poor will eat and be satisfied.

All who seek the Lord will praise him.

Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

The whole earth will
acknowledge the Lord and
return to him.

All the families of the
nations will bow down
before him.

For royal power belongs to
the Lord.

He rules all the nations.

Let the rich of the earth
feast and worship.

Bow before him, all who
are mortal,
all whose lives will end as
dust.

Our children will also serve
him.

Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
“These people say they
are mine.

They honor me with their
lips,
but their hearts are far
from me.

And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made
rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once
again astound these
hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will
pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Morning Short Reading:

“The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.” Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* (p. 1)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of

Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 14:1-21

When Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, heard about Jesus, he said to his advisers, "This must be John the Baptist raised from the dead! That is why he can do such miracles."

For Herod had arrested and imprisoned John as a favor to his wife Herodias (the former wife of Herod's brother Philip). John had been telling Herod, "It is against God's law for you to marry her." Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of a riot, because all the people believed John was a prophet.

But at a birthday party for Herod, Herodias's daughter performed a dance that greatly pleased him, so he promised with a vow to give her anything she wanted. At her mother's urging, the girl

said, "I want the head of John the Baptist on a tray!" Then the king regretted what he had said; but because of the vow he had made in front of his guests, he issued the necessary orders. So John was beheaded in the prison, and his head was brought on a tray and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. Later, John's disciples came for his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened.

As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But

the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns.

Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

“But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!” they answered.

“Bring them here,” he said. Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. About 5,000 men were fed that

day, in addition to all the women and 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 23

A psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.

He lets me rest in green
meadows;

he leads me beside
peaceful streams.

He renews my strength.

He guides me along right
paths,

bringing honor to his
name.

Even when I walk
through the darkest
valley,

I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside
me.

Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.
You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my
enemies.

You honor me by anointing
my head with oil.

My cup overflows with
blessings.

Surely your goodness and
unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house
of the Lord
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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are

not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 29: 13-14

And so the Lord says,
"These people say they are mine.

They honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.

And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.

Because of this, I will once again astound these hypocrites

with amazing wonders.

The wisdom of the wise will pass away,

and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Evening Short Reading:

“Nevertheless, as the New Testament does not do away with the Old, neither do we

cease to meditate on the Law of the Lord, But our meditation is now nourished by *memoria Christi* - the consciousness, the awareness, the experience of Jesus hidden in the Old Testament which He has now fulfilled." Thomas Merton, *Spiritual Direction and Meditation*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 14:22-36

Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell

me to come to you, walking on the water.”

“Yes, come,” Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. When the people recognized Jesus, the news of his arrival spread quickly throughout the whole area, and soon people were bringing all their sick to be healed. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.

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 24

A psalm of David.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

The world and all its people belong to him.

For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.

Who may climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies.

They will receive the Lord's blessing

and have a right
relationship with God their
savior.

Such people may seek you
and worship in your
presence, O God of Jacob.

Interlude

Open up, ancient gates!
Open up, ancient doors,
and let the King of glory
enter.

Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and
mighty;
the Lord, invincible in
battle.

Open up, ancient gates!
Open up, ancient doors,

and let the King of glory
enter.

Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of Heaven's
Armies—

he is the King of glory.

Interlude

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified,

the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“We fail in our duty to study God’s Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.” R.C. Sproul

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our

thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 15:1-28

Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, "Why do your disciples

disobey our age old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat.”

Jesus replied, “And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? For instance, God says, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’ In this

way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,

‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship is a farce,
for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’”

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. “Listen,” he said, “and try to

understand. It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth."

Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?"

Jesus replied, "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch."

Then Peter said to Jesus, “Explain to us the parable that says people aren’t defiled by what they eat.”

“Don’t you understand yet?” Jesus asked. “Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. But the words you speak come from the heart—that’s what defiles you. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. These are what defile you. Eating with

unwashed hands will never defile you.”

Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely.”

But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. “Tell her to go away,” they said. “She is bothering us with all her begging.”

Then Jesus said to the woman, “I was sent only to help God’s lost sheep—the people of Israel.”

But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!”

Jesus responded, “It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.”

She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters’ table.”

“Dear woman,” Jesus said to her, “your faith is great. Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed.

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 25: 1-11

A psalm of David.

O Lord, I give my life to
you.

I trust in you, my God!

Do not let me be
disgraced,

or let my enemies rejoice
in my defeat.

No one who trusts in you
will ever be disgraced,

but disgrace comes to
those who try to deceive
others.

Show me the right path, O Lord;

point out the road for me to follow.

Lead me by your truth and teach me,

for you are the God who saves me.

All day long I put my hope in you.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing love,

which you have shown from long ages past.

Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth.

Remember me in the light of your unfailing love,

for you are merciful, O
Lord.

The Lord is good and does
what is right;

he shows the proper
path to those who go astray.

He leads the humble in
doing right,

teaching them his way.

The Lord leads with
unfailing love and
faithfulness

all who keep his
covenant and obey his
demands.

For the honor of your name,
O Lord,

forgive my many, many
sins.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's

word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"He that studies only men, will get the body of knowledge without the soul; and he that studies only books, the soul without the body. He that to what he sees, adds observation, and to what he reads, reflection, is in the right road to knowledge, provided that in scrutinizing the hearts of others, he neglects not his own." Caleb Colton as quoted in Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 15:29-39

Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and climbed a hill and sat down. A vast crowd

brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all. The crowd was amazed! Those who hadn't been able to speak were talking, the crippled were made well, the lame were walking, and the blind could see again! And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples and told them, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. I

don't want to send them away hungry, or they will faint along the way.”

The disciples replied, “Where would we get enough food here in the wilderness for such a huge crowd?”

Jesus asked, “How much bread do you have?”

They replied, “Seven loaves, and a few small fish.”

So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, thanked God for them, and broke

them into pieces. He gave them to the disciples, who distributed the food to the crowd.

They all ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. There were , men who were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children. Then Jesus sent the people home, and he got into a boat and crossed over to the region of Magadan.

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 25: 12-22

Who are those who fear the
Lord?

He will show them the path they should choose.

They will live in prosperity, and their children will inherit the land.

The Lord is a friend to those who fear him.

He teaches them his covenant.

My eyes are always on the Lord,

for he rescues me from the traps of my enemies.

Turn to me and have mercy,

for I am alone and in deep distress.

My problems go from bad to worse.

Oh, save me from them
all!

Feel my pain and see my
trouble.

Forgive all my sins.

See how many enemies I
have

and how viciously they
hate me!

Protect me! Rescue my life
from them!

Do not let me be
disgraced, for in you I take
refuge.

May integrity and honesty
protect me,

for I put my hope in you.

O God, ransom Israel
from all its troubles.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified,

the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“To get the full flavor of an herb, it must be pressed between the fingers, so it is the same with the Scriptures; the more familiar they become, the more they reveal their hidden treasures and yield their indescribable riches.” John Chrysostom (A.D. 347-407)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our

thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 16:1-12

One day the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus, demanding that he show them a miraculous sign

from heaven to prove his authority.

He replied, "You know the saying, 'Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.' You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don't know how to interpret the signs of the times! Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign, but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah." Then Jesus left them and went away.

Later, after they crossed to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring any bread. "Watch out!" Jesus warned them. "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn't brought any bread. Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, "You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread? Don't you understand even yet? Don't you remember the , I fed with five loaves, and the

baskets of leftovers you picked up? Or the , I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up? Why can't you understand that I'm not talking about bread? So again I say, 'Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'"

Then at last they understood that he wasn't speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

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 26

A psalm of David.

Declare me innocent, O
Lord,

for I have acted with
integrity;

I have trusted in the Lord
without wavering.

Put me on trial, Lord, and
cross-examine me.

Test my motives and my
heart.

For I am always aware of
your unfailing love,

and I have lived
according to your truth.

I do not spend time with
liars

or go along with
hypocrites.

I hate the gatherings of
those who do evil,

and I refuse to join in
with the wicked.

I wash my hands to declare
my innocence.

I come to your altar, O
Lord,

singing a song of
thanksgiving

and telling of all your
wonders.

I love your sanctuary, Lord,
the place where your
glorious presence dwells.

Don't let me suffer the fate
of sinners.

Don't condemn me along
with murderers.

Their hands are dirty with
evil schemes,

and they constantly take
bribes.

But I am not like that; I live
with integrity.

So redeem me and show
me mercy.

Now I stand on solid
ground,

and I will publicly 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use

our minds to serve you.
Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified,

the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"Good feelings will not free us. Ecxtatic experiences will not free us. Getting 'high on Jesus' will not free us.

Without a knowledge of the truth, we will not be free."

Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your

wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 16:13-28

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say

Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

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

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the

powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

Then he sternly warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands

of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him [i] for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!"

Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, 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 lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. And I tell you the

truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.”

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 27

A psalm of David.

The Lord is my light and my salvation—

so why should I be afraid?

The Lord is my fortress,
protecting me from danger,
so why should I tremble?

When evil people come to devour me,

when my enemies and foes attack me,

they will stumble and fall.

Though a mighty army surrounds me,

my heart will not be afraid.

Even if I am attacked,
I will remain confident.

The one thing I ask of the
Lord—

the thing I seek most—
is to live in the house of
the Lord all the days of my
life,

delighting in the Lord's
perfections

and meditating in his
Temple.

For he will conceal me
there when troubles come;

he will hide me in his
sanctuary.

He will place me out of
reach on a high rock.

Then I will hold my head
high

above my enemies who
surround me.

At his sanctuary I will offer
sacrifices with shouts of joy,
singing and praising the
Lord with music.

Hear me as I pray, O Lord.
Be merciful and answer
me!

My heart has heard you
say, "Come and talk with
me."

And my heart responds,
"Lord, I am coming."

Do not turn your back on
me.

Do not reject your
servant in anger.

You have always been
my helper.

Don't leave me now; don't
abandon me,

O God of my salvation!

Even if my father and
mother abandon me,

the Lord will hold me
close.

Teach me how to live, O
Lord.

Lead me along the right
path,

for my enemies are
waiting for me.

Do not let me fall into their
hands.

For they accuse me of
things I've never done;
with every breath they
threaten me with violence.

Yet I am confident I will see
the Lord's goodness
while I am here in the
land of the living.

Wait patiently for the Lord.
Be brave and
courageous.

Yes, wait patiently for
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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

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the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.” Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 354-430)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 17:1-13

Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. Suddenly, Moses

and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus.

Peter exclaimed, “Lord, it’s wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I’ll make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him.” The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground.

Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus.

As they went back down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Then his disciples asked him, "Why do the teachers of religious law insist that Elijah must return before the Messiah comes?"

Jesus replied, "Elijah is indeed coming first to get everything ready. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, but he wasn't recognized, and they chose to abuse him. And in the same way they will also make the Son of Man suffer." Then the disciples realized he was talking about John the Baptist.

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 28

A psalm of David.

I pray to you, O Lord, my rock.

Do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you are silent,
I might as well give up
and die.

Listen to my prayer for
mercy
as I cry out to you for
help,
as I lift my hands toward
your holy sanctuary.

Do not drag me away with
the wicked—
with those who do evil—
those who speak friendly
words to their neighbors
while planning evil in
their hearts.

Give them the punishment
they so richly deserve!

Measure it out in
proportion to their
wickedness.

Pay them back for all their
evil deeds!

Give them a taste of
what they have done to
others.

They care nothing for what
the Lord has done
or for what his hands
have made.

So he will tear them down,
and they will never be
rebuilt!

Praise the Lord!

For he has heard my cry
for mercy.

The Lord is my strength
and shield.

I trust him with all my
heart.

He helps me, and my heart
is filled with joy.

I burst out in songs of
thanksgiving.

The Lord gives his people
strength.

He is a safe fortress for
his anointed king.

Save your people!

Bless Israel, your special
possession.

Lead them like a shepherd,
and carry them in your
arms 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the

wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"Study is a specific kind of

experience in which through careful attention to reality the mind is enabled to move in a certain direction."

Richard J. Foster in
Celebration of Discipline

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 17:14-27

At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him."

Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to

me.” Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well.

Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, “Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?”

“You don’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”

After they gathered again in Galilee, Jesus told them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead." And the disciples were filled with grief.

On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?"

"Yes, he does," Peter replied. Then he went into the house.

But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?"

"They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied.

"Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free! However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take

it and pay the tax for both of us.”

Lord's Prayer:

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

Give us today our daily bread. Erase our debts as we erase the debts of others.

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

For kingdom, power and glory belong to you for ever and ever.

Amen.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 29

A psalm of David.

Honor the Lord, you
heavenly beings;

honor the Lord for his
glory and strength.

Honor the Lord for the
glory of his name.

Worship the Lord in the
splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord
echoes above the sea.

The God of glory
thunders.

The Lord thunders over
the mighty sea.

The voice of the Lord is
powerful;

the voice of the Lord is
majestic.

The voice of the Lord splits
the mighty cedars;

the Lord shatters the
cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon's
mountains skip like a calf;

he makes Mount Hermon
leap like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord
strikes

with bolts of lightning.

The voice of the Lord
makes the barren wilderness
quake;

the Lord shakes the
wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord twists
mighty oaks

and strips the forests
bare.

In his Temple everyone
shouts, "Glory!"

The Lord rules over the
floodwaters.

The Lord reigns as king
forever.

The Lord gives his people
strength.

The Lord blesses them
with peace.

Intercession:

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

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified,

the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“But still ye will say I can not understand it. What marvel? How shouldest thou understand, if thou wilt not read, nor look upon it? Take the books into thine hands, read the whole story, and that thou understandest, keep it well in memory; that thou understandest not, read it again, and again. If thou can neither so come by it, counsel with some other that is better learned. Go to thy

curate and preacher; show thyself to be desirous to know and learn, and I doubt not but God - seeing thy diligence and readiness (if no man else teach thee) - will himself vouchsafe with his holy spirit to illuminate thee, and to open unto thee that which was locked from thee." Thomas Cranmer

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 18:1-14

About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children,

you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

“And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.

“What sorrow awaits the world, because it tempts

people to sin. Temptations are inevitable, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting. So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand or one foot than to be thrown into eternal fire with both of your hands and feet. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

“Beware that you don’t look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.

“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away! In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that

even one of these little ones should perish.

And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away! In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish.

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 30

A psalm of David. A song for the dedication of the Temple.

I will exalt you, Lord, for you rescued me.

You refused to let my enemies triumph over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to
you for help,
and you restored my
health.

You brought me up from
the grave, O Lord.

You kept me from falling
into the pit of death.

Sing to the Lord, all you
godly ones!

Praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a
moment,

but his favor lasts a
lifetime!

Weeping may last through
the night,

but joy comes with the
morning.

When I was prosperous, I
said,

“Nothing can stop me
now!”

Your favor, O Lord, made
me as secure as a mountain.

Then you turned away
from me, and I was
shattered.

I cried out to you, O Lord.

I begged the Lord for
mercy, saying,

“What will you gain if I die,
if I sink into the grave?

Can my dust praise you?

Can it tell of your
faithfulness?

Hear me, Lord, and have mercy on me.

Help me, O Lord.”

You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.

You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy,

that I might sing praises to you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards

of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll

regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from

heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"In study there are two 'books' to be studied: verbal and nonverbal. Books and lectures, therefore, constitute only half the field of study, perhaps less. The world of nature and, most important, the careful observation of events and actions are the primary

nonverbal fields of study." Richard J. Foster in *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 18:13-35

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

“I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

“I also tell you this If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone

who sins against me? Seven times?”

“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars.[i] He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

“His fellow servant fell down before him and

begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

"When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have

mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

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 31: 1-11

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

O Lord, I have come to you for protection;
don't let me be disgraced.

Save me, for you do what is right.

Turn your ear to listen to
me;

rescue me quickly.

Be my rock of protection,
a fortress where I will be
safe.

You are my rock and my
fortress.

For the honor of your
name, lead me out of this
danger.

Pull me from the trap my
enemies set for me,

for I find protection in
you alone.

I entrust my spirit into your
hand.

Rescue me, Lord, for you
are a faithful God.

I hate those who worship
worthless idols.

I trust in the Lord.

I will be glad and rejoice in
your unfailing love,

for you have seen my
troubles,

and you care about the
anguish of my soul.

You have not handed me
over to my enemies

but have set me in a safe
place.

Have mercy on me, Lord,
for I am in distress.

Tears blur my eyes.

My body and soul are
withering away.

I am dying from grief;

my years are shortened
by sadness.

Sin has drained my
strength;

I am wasting away from
within.

I am scorned by all my
enemies

and despised by my
neighbors—

even my friends are
afraid to come near me.

When they see me on the
street,

they run the other way.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified,

the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“In the language of the sacred writings, we may observe the utmost depth, together with the utmost ease. All the elegancies of human composures sink into nothing before it: God speaks not as man, but as God. His thoughts are very deep; and thence his words are of inexhaustible virtue. And the language of his messengers also, is exact in the highest degree: for the

words which were given them accurately answered the impression made upon their minds: and hence Luther says, 'divinity is nothing but a grammar of the language of the Holy Ghost.' To understand this thoroughly, we should observe the emphasis which lies on every word; the holy affections expressed thereby, and the tempers shewn by every writer." John Wesley

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your

wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 19:1-15

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went down to the region of Judea east of the Jordan River. Large

crowds followed him there, and he healed their sick.

Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?”

“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no

one split apart what God has joined together.”

“Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?” they asked.

Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”

Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, it is better not to marry!"

"Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps. Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for

them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

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 31: 12-24

I am ignored as if I were dead,
as if I were a broken pot.
I have heard the many rumors about me,
and I am surrounded by terror.

My enemies conspire
against me,
plotting to take my life.

But I am trusting you, O
Lord,
saying, "You are my
God!"

My future is in your hands.
Rescue me from those
who hunt me down
relentlessly.

Let your favor shine on
your servant.

In your unfailing love,
rescue me.

Don't let me be disgraced,
O Lord,
for I call out to you for
help.

Let the wicked be
disgraced;
let them lie silent in the
grave.

Silence their lying lips—
those proud and
arrogant lips that accuse the
godly.

How great is the goodness
you have stored up for
those who fear you.

You lavish it on those who
come to you for protection,
blessing them before the
watching world.

You hide them in the shelter
of your presence,
safe from those who
conspire against them.

You shelter them in your
presence,
far from accusing
tongues.

Praise the Lord,
for he has shown me the
wonders of his unfailing love.
He kept me safe when
my city was under attack.
In panic I cried out,
“I am cut off from the
Lord!”

But you heard my cry for
mercy
and answered my call for
help.

Love the Lord, all you godly
ones!

For the Lord protects
those who are loyal to him,
but he harshly punishes
the arrogant.

So be strong and
courageous,
all you who put your
hope in 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified,

the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"The primary task of study is a perception into the reality of a given situation, encounter, book, etc. We can go through a major crisis, for example, without any perception of the real nature of the tragic situation. But if we carefully observe and reflect upon what occurred, we can learn a great deal." Richard J. Foster in *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 19:16-30

Someone came to Jesus with this question “Teacher,

what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

“Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments.”

“Which ones?” the man asked.

And Jesus replied ““You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.””

“I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?”

Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and 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 young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I’ll say it again—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!”

The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

Then Peter said to him, “We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and

will inherit eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.

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 32

A psalm of David.

Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is
forgiven,

whose sin is put out of
sight!

Yes, what joy for those
whose record the Lord
has cleared of guilt,
whose lives are lived in
complete honesty!

When I refused to confess
my sin,

my body wasted away,
and I groaned all day
long.

Day and night your hand of
discipline was heavy on me.

My strength evaporated
like water in the summer
heat.

Interlude

Finally, I confessed all my
sins to you

and stopped trying to
hide my guilt.

I said to myself, "I will
confess my rebellion to the
Lord."

And you forgave me! All
my guilt is gone.

Interlude

Therefore, let all the godly
pray to you while there is
still time,

that they may not drown
in the floodwaters of
judgment.

For you are my hiding
place;

you protect me from
trouble.

You surround me with
songs of victory.

Interlude

The Lord says, "I will guide
you along the best pathway
for your life.

I will advise you and
watch over you.

Do not be like a senseless
horse or mule
that needs a bit and
bridle to keep it under
control.”

Many sorrows come to the
wicked,
but unfailing love
surrounds those who trust
the Lord.

So rejoice in the Lord and
be glad, all you who obey
him!

Shout for joy, all you
whose hearts are pure!

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified,

the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“I had then, and at other times, the greatest delight in the holy Scriptures, of any book whatsoever.

Oftentimes in reading it, every word seemed to touch my heart. I felt a harmony between something in my heart, and those sweet powerful words. I seemed often to see so much light, exhibited by every sentence, and such a refreshing ravishing food

communicated, that I could not get along in reading. Used oftentimes to dwell long on one sentence, to see the wonders contained in it; and yet almost every sentence seemed to be full of wonders.” Jonathan Edwards, quoted in *Jonathan Edwards and the Bible* by Robert E. Brown

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards

of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

“For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.

“At nine o’clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people

standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing.

“At five o'clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven't you been working today?’

“They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.’”

“That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. When those hired at five o’clock were paid, each received a full day’s wage. When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day’s wage. When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, ‘Those people worked only one hour, and yet you’ve

paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.'

“He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair! Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’

“So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.”

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 33:
1-12**

Let the godly sing for joy to
the Lord;

it is fitting for the pure to
praise him.

Praise the Lord with
melodies on the lyre;

make music for him on
the ten-stringed harp.

Sing a new song of praise
to him;

play skillfully on the
harp, and sing with joy.

For the word of the Lord
holds true,

and we can trust
everything he does.

He loves whatever is just
and good;

the unfailing love of the
Lord fills the earth.

The Lord merely spoke,
and the heavens were
created.

He breathed the word,
and all the stars were
born.

He assigned the sea its
boundaries
and locked the oceans in
vast reservoirs.

Let the whole world fear
the Lord,
and let everyone stand in
awe of him.

For when he spoke, the
world began!

It appeared at his
command.

The Lord frustrates the
plans of the nations
and thwarts all their
schemes.

But the Lord's plans stand
firm forever;
his intentions can never
be shaken.

What joy for the nation
whose God is the Lord,
whose people he has
chosen as his inheritance.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your

wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

**Scripture Related to the
Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23**

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he

has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"The human mind has an incredible ability to concentrate. It constantly receives thousands of stimuli, each one of which is

stored in its memory banks while it focuses on only a few. This natural ability of the brain is enhanced when, with singleness of purpose, we center our attention upon a desired object of study." Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and

reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 20:17-34

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him

over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. “What is your request?” he asked.

She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.”

But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?”

“Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!”

Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

When the ten other disciples heard what James

and John had asked, they were indignant. But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

As Jesus and the disciples left the town of Jericho, a large crowd followed behind. Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

"Be quiet!" the crowd yelled at them.

But they only shouted louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

When Jesus heard them, he stopped and called, "What do you want me to do for you?"

“Lord,” they said, “we want to see!” Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed 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 33: 13-24

The Lord looks down from
heaven

and sees the whole
human race.

From his throne he
observes

all who live on the earth.
He made their hearts,

so he understands
everything they do.

The best-equipped army
cannot save a king,

nor is great strength
enough to save a warrior.

Don't count on your
warhorse to give you victory
—

for all its strength, it
cannot save you.

But the Lord watches over
those who fear him,

those who rely on his
unfailing love.

He rescues them from
death

and keeps them alive in
times of famine.

We put our hope in the
Lord.

He is our help and our shield.

In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord,
for our hope is in you alone.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

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the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“Heresy is not so much rejecting as selecting. The heretic simply selects the parts of the Scripture he wants to emphasize and lets the rest go. This is shown by the etymology of the word heresy and by the practice of the heretic. “Beware,” an editorial scribe of the fourteenth century warned his readers in the preface to a book. ‘Beware thou take not one thing after thy

affection and liking, and leave another: for that is the condition of an heretique. But take everything with other.' The old scribe knew well how prone we are to take to ourselves those parts of the truth that please us and ignore the other parts. And that is heresy." A. W. Tozer, *We Travel An Appointed Way*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 21:1-22

As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there,

with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them."

This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

"Tell the people of Israel,
 'Look, your King is
coming to you.

He is humble, riding on a
donkey—
 riding on a donkey's
colt."

The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. They

brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.

Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

“Praise God for the Son of David!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise God in highest heaven!”

The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked.

And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them, “The

Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!"

The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David."

But the leaders were indignant. They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

“Yes,” Jesus replied.
“Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, ‘You have taught children and infants to give you praise.’” Then he returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight.

In the morning, as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem, he was hungry, and he noticed a fig tree beside the road. He went over to see if there were any figs, but there were only leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” And

immediately the fig tree withered up.

The disciples were amazed when they saw this and asked, "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?"

Then Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive 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 34: 1-11

A psalm of David, regarding
the time he pretended to be

insane in front of Abimelech,
who sent him away.

I will praise the Lord at all
times.

I will constantly speak his
praises.

I will boast only in the Lord;
let all who are helpless
take heart.

Come, let us tell of the
Lord's greatness;
let us exalt his name
together.

I prayed to the Lord, and
he answered me.

He freed me from all my
fears.

Those who look to him for
help will be radiant with joy;

no shadow of shame will
darken their faces.

In my desperation I prayed,
and the Lord listened;

he saved me from all my
troubles.

For the angel of the Lord is
a guard;

he surrounds and
defends all who fear him.

Taste and see that the Lord
is good.

Oh, the joys of those who
take refuge in him!

Fear the Lord, you his
godly people,

for those who fear him
will have all they need.

Even strong young lions
sometimes go hungry,
but those who trust in
the Lord will lack no good
thing.

Come, my children, and
listen to me,
and I will teach you to
fear 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

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Evening

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

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Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"Jesus, ..., reminds us that it is not just the truth but the knowledge of the truth that sets us free (John 8:32).

Comprehension focuses on the knowledge of the truth. All of us have had the experience of redoing something over and over

and then, all of sudden, we understand what it means. This 'eureka' experience of understanding catapults us onto a new level of growth and freedom. It leads to insight and discernment. It provides the basis for a true perception of reality."

Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards

of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 21:23-46

When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders came up to him. They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?"

"I'll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question," Jesus 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 us why we didn’t believe John. But if we say it was merely human, we’ll be mobbed because the people believe John was a prophet.” So they finally replied, “We don’t know.”

And Jesus responded, “Then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.

“But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ The son answered, ‘No, I won’t go,’ but later he changed his mind and went anyway. Then the father told the other son, ‘You go,’ and he said, ‘Yes, sir, I will.’ But he didn’t go.

“Which of the two obeyed his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Then Jesus explained his meaning “I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and

prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.

“Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and

moved to another country. At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. But the farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same.

“Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’

“But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this

estate. Come on, let's kill him and get the estate for ourselves!' So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him.

"When the owner of the vineyard returns," Jesus asked, "what do you think he will do to those farmers?"

The religious leaders replied, "He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest."

Then Jesus asked them,
“Didn’t you ever read this in
the Scriptures?

‘The stone that the
builders rejected
has now become the
cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing,
and it is wonderful to
see.’

I tell you, the Kingdom of
God will be taken away from
you and given to a nation
that will produce the proper
fruit. Anyone who stumbles
over that stone will be
broken to pieces, and it will
crush anyone it falls on.”

When the leading priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. They wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowds, who considered Jesus to be a prophet.

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 34: 12-22

Does anyone want to live a life
that is long and
prosperous?

Then keep your tongue
from speaking evil
and your lips from telling
lies!

Turn away from evil and do
good.

Search for peace, and
work to maintain it.

The eyes of the Lord watch
over those who do right;
his ears are open to their
cries for help.

But the Lord turns his face
against those who do evil;
he will erase their
memory from the earth.

The Lord hears his people
when they call to him for
help.

He rescues them from all
their troubles.

The Lord is close to the
brokenhearted;

he rescues those whose
spirits are crushed.

The righteous person faces
many troubles,

but the Lord comes to
the rescue each time.

For the Lord protects the
bones of the righteous;

not one of them is
broken!

Calamity will surely
overtake the wicked,

and those who hate the
righteous will be punished.

But the Lord will redeem those who serve him.

No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

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.

January 23, 2011

Morning

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the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Morning Short Reading:

“One does not hear God's word of grace in the Scriptures unless he has decided that this is the word he really needs and wants to hear. He must decide that as he hears he is prepared to submit to the voice of God, to be judged by it and to have it challenge all that he knows and intends. He must understand that what he hears the Bible say can change his very life.

Therefore, he cannot come to the New Testament as the disputer, the wise man, the judge over the word of God. He can come only as the child who needs to be made wise by the Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:18-31).” Glenn W. Barker, *The New Testament Speaks* (p. 18)

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and

reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 22:1-22

Jesus also told them other parables. He said, "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come!

“So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’ But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them.

“The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the

guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?’ But the man had no reply. Then the king said to his aides, ‘Bind his hands and

feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You teach the way of God truthfully. You are impartial and don’t

play favorites. Now tell us what you think about this Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me? Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin, he asked, "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."

His reply amazed them,
and they went away.

Lord's Prayer:

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

Give us today our daily
bread. Erase our debts as we
erase the debts of others.

Keep us from temptation
and Rescue us from evil.

For kingdom, power and
glory belong to you for ever
and ever.

Amen.

Morning Psalm: Psalm 35: 1-14

A psalm of David.

O Lord, oppose those who oppose me.

Fight those who fight against me.

Put on your armor, and take up your shield.

Prepare for battle, and come to my aid.

Lift up your spear and javelin

against those who pursue me.

Let me hear you say,

“I will give you victory!”

Bring shame and disgrace on those trying to kill me;

turn them back and
humiliate those who want to
harm me.

Blow them away like chaff
in the wind—

a wind sent by the angel
of the Lord.

Make their path dark and
slippery,

with the angel of the
Lord pursuing them.

I did them no wrong, but
they laid a trap for me.

I did them no wrong, but
they dug a pit to catch me.

So let sudden ruin come
upon them!

Let them be caught in
the trap they set for me!

Let them be destroyed in
the pit they dug for me.

Then I will rejoice in the
Lord.

I will be glad because he
rescues me.

With every bone in my
body I will praise him:

“Lord, who can compare
with you?

Who else rescues the
helpless from the strong?

Who else protects the
helpless and poor from
those who rob them?”

Malicious witnesses testify
against me.

They accuse me of
crimes I know nothing about.

They repay me evil for
good.

I am sick with despair.

Yet when they were ill, I
grieved for them.

I denied myself by
fasting for them,

but my prayers returned
unanswered.

I was sad, as though they
were my friends or family,

as if I were grieving for
my own mother.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

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Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered

advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-23

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the

Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

Evening Short Reading:

"To reflect, to ruminate, on the events of our time leads us to the inner reality of those events. Reflection brings us to see things from God's perspective. In reflection we come to understand not only our subject matter, but

ourselves. Jesus speaks often of ears that do not hear and eyes that do not see. When we ponder the meaning of what we study, we come to hear and see in a new way." Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use

our minds to serve you.
Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 22:23-46

That same day Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without 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 his brother married the widow. But the second brother also died, and the third brother married her. This continued with all seven of them. Last of all, the woman also died. So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her.”

Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.

“But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven’t you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So he is the God of the living, not the dead.”

When the crowds heard him, they were astounded at his teaching.

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his

reply, they met together to question him again. One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They replied, “He is the son of David.”

Jesus responded, “Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah ‘my Lord’? For David said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit in the place of honor at
my right hand
until I humble your
enemies beneath your feet.’

Since David called the Messiah 'my Lord,' how can the Messiah be his son?"

No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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 35: 15-28

But they are glad now that I
am in trouble;

they gleefully join
together against me.

I am attacked by people I
don't even know;

they slander me
constantly.

They mock me and call me
names;

they snarl at me.

How long, O Lord, will you
look on and do nothing?

Rescue me from their
fierce attacks.

Protect my life from
these lions!

Then I will thank you in
front of the great assembly.

I will praise you before all
the people.

Don't let my treacherous
enemies rejoice over my
defeat.

Don't let those who hate
me without cause gloat over
my sorrow.

They don't talk of peace;
they plot against
innocent people who mind
their own business.

They shout, "Aha! Aha!
With our own eyes we
saw him do it!"

O Lord, you know all about
this.

Do not stay silent.

Do not abandon me now,
O Lord.

Wake up! Rise to my
defense!

Take up my case, my
God and my Lord.

Declare me not guilty, O
Lord my God, for you give
justice.

Don't let my enemies
laugh about me in my
troubles.

Don't let them say, "Look,
we got what we wanted!

Now we will eat him
alive!"

May those who rejoice at
my troubles

be humiliated and
disgraced.

May those who triumph
over me

be covered with shame
and dishonor.

But give great joy to those
who came to my defense.

Let them continually say,
"Great is the Lord,

who delights in blessing
his servant with peace!"

Then I will proclaim your
justice,
and I will praise you all
day long.

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.

January 24, 2011

Morning

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

"I would like to point out briefly two weapons that we should prepare to use in combating the chief vices. These weapons are prayer and knowledge. St. Paul clearly expresses the desire that men be continually armed when he commands us to pray without ceasing. Pure prayer directed to heaven is able to subdue passion, for it is, as it were, a citadel inaccessible to the enemy. Knowledge, or learning, fortifies the mind with salutary precepts and keeps virtue ever before us. The two are inseparable, the former imploring but the

latter suggesting what should be prayed for." Desiderius Erasmus, *The Weapons of Christian Warfare*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 23:1-22

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach. They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

"Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer

boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi.'

“Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your spiritual

Father. And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces. You won't go in yourselves, and you don't let others enter either.

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!

“Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear ‘by God’s Temple,’ but that it is binding to swear ‘by the gold in the Temple.’ Blind fools! Which is more important—the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? And you say that to swear ‘by the altar’ is not

binding, but to swear 'by the gifts on the altar' is binding. How blind! For which is more important—the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred? When you swear 'by the altar,' you are swearing by it and by everything on it. And when you swear 'by the Temple,' you are swearing by it and by God, who lives in it. And when you swear 'by heaven,' you are swearing by the throne of God and by God, who sits on the throne.

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 36

For the choir director: A
psalm of David, the servant
of the Lord.

Sin whispers to the wicked,
deep within their hearts.

They have no fear of
God at all.

In their blind conceit,
they cannot see how
wicked they really are.

Everything they say is
crooked and deceitful.

They refuse to act wisely
or do good.

They lie awake at night,
hatching sinful plots.

Their actions are never
good.

They make no attempt to
turn from evil.

Your unfailing love, O Lord,
is as vast as the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches
beyond the clouds.

Your righteousness is like
the mighty mountains,
your justice like the
ocean depths.

You care for people and
animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your
unfailing love, O God!

All humanity finds shelter
in the shadow of your
wings.

You feed them from the
abundance of your own
house,

letting them drink from
your river of delights.

For you are the fountain of
life,

the light by which we
see.

Pour out your unfailing love
on those who love you;

give justice to those with
honest hearts.

Don't let the proud trample
me

or the wicked push me
around.

Look! Those who do evil
have fallen!

They are thrown down,
never to rise again.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and

reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's

word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the words it hears

just as the mouth distinguishes between foods.’

So let us discern for ourselves what is right;

let us learn together what is good.”

Evening Short Reading:

"When we study a book of the Bible we are seeking to be controlled by the intent of the author. We are determined to hear what he is saying, not what we want him to say. We want life-transforming truth, not just good feelings. We are willing to pay the price of barren day after barren day until the meaning is clear. This process revolutionizes our lives." Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 23:23-39

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites!

For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. Blind guides! You strain your water so you won't accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and

self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you build tombs for the prophets your ancestors killed, and you decorate the monuments of the godly people your ancestors destroyed. Then you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would never have joined them in killing the prophets.’

“But in saying that, you testify against yourselves that you are indeed the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead and finish what your

ancestors started. Snakes!
Sons of vipers! How will you
escape the judgment of hell?

“Therefore, I am sending
you prophets and wise men
and teachers of religious law.
But you will kill some by
crucifixion, and you will flog
others with whips in your
synagogues, chasing them
from city to city. As a result,
you will be held responsible
for the murder of all godly
people of all time—from the
murder of righteous Abel to
the murder of Zechariah son
of Barachiah, whom you
killed in the Temple between
the sanctuary and the altar.

I tell you the truth, this judgment will fall on this very generation.

“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 desolate. For I tell you this, 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.

Evening Psalm: Psalm 37: 1-10

A psalm of David.

Don't worry about the
wicked
or envy those who do
wrong.

For like grass, they soon
fade away.

Like spring flowers, they
soon wither.

Trust in the Lord and do
good.

Then you will live safely
in the land and prosper.

Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you your
heart's desires.

Commit everything you do
to the Lord.

Trust him, and he will
help you.

He will make your
innocence radiate like the
dawn,

and the justice of your
cause will shine like the
noonday sun.

Be still in the presence of
the Lord,

and wait patiently for
him to act.

Don't worry about evil
people who prosper
or fret about their
wicked schemes.

Stop being angry!

Turn from your rage!

Do not lose your temper—
it only leads to harm.
For the wicked will be
destroyed,
but those who trust in
the Lord will possess the
land.

Soon the wicked will
disappear.

Though you look for
them, they will be gone.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

"But God has put this Word into the mouth of others in order that it may be communicated to us. When one person is struck by the Word, he speaks it to others. God has willed that we should seek and find his living Word in the witness of a brother [or sister], in the mouth of a man [or woman]. Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying

the truth." Dietrich
Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: Matthew
24:1-25**

As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. But he responded, "Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!"

Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?"

Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

“Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

“The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!) “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. 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 even to get a coat. How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For there

will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones.

“Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There he is,’ don’t believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. See, I have warned

you about this ahead of time.

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 37: 11-23

The lowly will possess the
land

and will live in peace and
prosperity.

The wicked plot against the
godly;

they snarl at them in
defiance.

But the Lord just laughs,
for he sees their day of
judgment coming.

The wicked draw their
swords

and string their bows

to kill the poor and the
oppressed,
to slaughter those who
do right.

But their swords will stab
their own hearts,
and their bows will be
broken.

It is better to be godly and
have little

than to be evil and rich.

For the strength of the
wicked will be shattered,
but the Lord takes care
of the godly.

Day by day the Lord takes
care of the innocent,

and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever.

They will not be disgraced in hard times;

even in famine they will have more than enough.

But the wicked will die.

The Lord's enemies are like flowers in a field—

they will disappear like smoke.

The wicked borrow and never repay,

but the godly are generous givers.

Those the Lord blesses will possess the land,

but those he curses will die.

The Lord directs the steps of the godly.

He delights in every detail of their lives.

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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advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



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Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
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Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Evening Short Reading:

"Love all God's Creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day." Dostoevski in *The Brothers Karamazov* as quoted by Richard J. Foster in *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are

not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 24:26-51

“So if someone tells you, ‘Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,’ don’t bother to go and look. Or, ‘Look, he is hiding here,’ don’t believe it! For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the

west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.

“Immediately after the anguish of those days,

the sun will be darkened,
the moon will give no light,

the stars will fall from the sky,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is

coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

“Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know

that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

“Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and 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.

“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 is evil and 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 to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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 37: 24-40

Though they stumble, they
will never fall,
for the Lord holds them
by the hand.

Once I was young, and now
I am old.

Yet I have never seen the
godly abandoned
or their children begging
for bread.

The godly always give
generous loans to others,
and their children are a
blessing.

Turn from evil and do good,
and you will live in the
land forever.

For the Lord loves justice,

and he will never
abandon the godly.

He will keep them safe
forever,

but the children of the
wicked will die.

The godly will possess the
land

and will live there forever.

The godly offer good
counsel;

they teach right from
wrong.

They have made God's law
their own,

so they will never slip
from his path.

The wicked wait in ambush
for the godly,
looking for an excuse to
kill them.

But the Lord will not let the
wicked succeed
or let the godly be
condemned when they are
put on trial.

Put your hope in the Lord.
Travel steadily along his
path.

He will honor you by giving
you the land.

You will see the wicked
destroyed.

I have seen wicked and
ruthless people

flourishing like a tree in
its native soil.

But when I looked again,
they were gone!

Though I searched for
them, I could not find them!

Look at those who are
honest and good,
for a wonderful future
awaits those who love
peace.

But the rebellious will be
destroyed;
they have no future.

The Lord rescues the godly;
he is their fortress in
times of trouble.

The Lord helps them,

rescuing them from the wicked.

He saves them,
and they find shelter 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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

"In 'beholding the Lord' you come to the Lord in a totally different way. Perhaps at this point I need to share with you the greatest difficulty you will have in waiting upon the Lord. It has to do with your mind. The mind has a very strong tendency to stray away from the Lord. Therefore, as you come before the Lord to sit in his presence, beholding him, make use of the Scripture to quiet your mind." Madame Guyon, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their

lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’

“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones

asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.'

"But the others replied, 'We don't have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.'

"But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!'

“But he called back,
‘Believe me, I don’t know
you!’

“So you, too, must keep
watch! For you do not know
the day or hour of my return.

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 38: 1-11

A psalm of David, asking God
to remember him.

O Lord, don't rebuke me in
your anger

or discipline me in your
rage!

Your arrows have struck
deep,

and your blows are
crushing me.

Because of your anger, my
whole body is sick;
my health is broken
because of my sins.

My guilt overwhelms me—
it is a burden too heavy
to bear.

My wounds fester and stink
because of my foolish
sins.

I am bent over and racked
with pain.

All day long I walk
around filled with grief.

A raging fever burns within
me,

and my health is broken.

I am exhausted and
completely crushed.

My groans come from an
anguished heart.

You know what I long for,
Lord;

you hear my every sigh.

My heart beats wildly, my
strength fails,

and I am going blind.

My loved ones and friends
stay away, fearing my
disease.

Even my own family
stands at a distance.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards

of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's

word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the words it hears

just as the mouth distinguishes between foods.’

So let us discern for ourselves what is right;

let us learn together what is good.”

Evening Short Reading:

"There is no study that is not capable of delighting us after a little application to it." Alexander Pope as quoted by Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use

our minds to serve you.
Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and

said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'

"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

"The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.'

“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the

earth. Look, here is your money back.'

"But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

"Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more

will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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 38: 12-22

Meanwhile, my enemies lay
traps to kill me.

Those who wish me
harm make plans to ruin me.

All day long they plan
their treachery.

But I am deaf to all their
threats.

I am silent before them
as one who cannot speak.

I choose to hear nothing,
and I make no reply.

For I am waiting for you, O
Lord.

You must answer for me,
O Lord my God.

I prayed, "Don't let my
enemies gloat over me
or rejoice at my
downfall."

I am on the verge of
collapse,
facing constant pain.

But I confess my sins;
I am deeply sorry for
what I have done.

I have many aggressive
enemies;
they hate me without
reason.

They repay me evil for
good
and oppose me for
pursuing good.

Do not abandon me, O
Lord.

Do not stand at a
distance, my God.

Come quickly to help me,
O Lord my savior.

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.

January 27, 2011

Morning

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

"Through many years of habit your mind has acquired the ability to wander all over the world, just as it pleases, so what I speak of here is something that is to serve as a discipline to your mind. Be assured that as your soul becomes more accustomed to withdrawing to inward things, this process will become easier. There are two reasons that you will find it easier each time to bring your mind under the subjection of the Lord. One is that the mind, after much practice, will form a new habit of turning deep within.

The second is that you have a gracious Lord!" Madame Guyon, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the

creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When

did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I

was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'

"And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

"And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the

righteous will go into eternal life.”

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 39

For Jeduthun, the choir director: A psalm of David.

I said to myself, "I will watch what I do
and not sin in what I say.
I will hold my tongue
when the ungodly are
around me."

But as I stood there in
silence—
not even speaking of
good things—
the turmoil within me
grew worse.

The more I thought about
it,
the hotter I got,
igniting a fire of words:

“Lord, remind me how brief
my time on earth will be.

Remind me that my days
are numbered—

how fleeting my life is.

You have made my life no
longer than the width of my
hand.

My entire lifetime is just
a moment to you;

at best, each of us is but
a breath.”

Interlude

We are merely moving
shadows,

and all our busy rushing
ends in nothing.

We heap up wealth,

not knowing who will
spend it.

And so, Lord, where do I
put my hope?

My only hope is in you.
Rescue me from my
rebellion.

Do not let fools mock me.
I am silent before you; I
won't say a word,
for my punishment is
from you.

But please stop striking me!
I am exhausted by the
blows from your hand.

When you discipline us for
our sins,
you consume like a moth
what is precious to us.

Each of us is but a
breath.

Interlude

Hear my prayer, O Lord!
Listen to my cries for
help!

Don't ignore my tears.
For I am your guest—
a traveler passing
through,
as my ancestors were
before me.

Leave me alone so I can
smile again
before I am gone and
exist no more.

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of

Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

"Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who have knowledge.

Job said, 'The ear tests the words it hears

just as the mouth distinguishes between foods.'

So let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.”

Evening Short Reading:

“Now disciples of Jesus are people who want to take into their being the order of the Kingdom Among Us. They wish to live their life in it as Jesus himself would, and that requires internalization of that order. Study is the chief way in which they do it. They devote their attention, their thoughtful inquiry, and their practical experimentation to

the order of the kingdom as seen in Jesus, in the written word of scripture, in others who walk in the way, and, indeed, in every good thing in nature, history, and culture." Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use

our minds to serve you.
Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 26:1-30

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, “As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the

Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.”

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head.

The disciples were indignant when they saw this. “What a waste!” they said. “It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.”

But Jesus, aware of this, replied, "Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to me? You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me. She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and

asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

The Last Supper

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?"

"As you go into the city," he told them, "you will see a certain man. Tell him, 'The Teacher says My time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my

disciples at your house.” So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal there.

When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table with the twelve disciples. While they were eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.”

Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, “Am I the one, Lord?”

He replied, “One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me. For the Son of Man must die, as

the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!”

Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked, “Rabbi, am I the one?”

And Jesus told him, “You have said it.”

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this

and eat it, for this is my body.”

And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.”

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

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 40

For the choir director: A
psalm of David.

I waited patiently for the
Lord to help me,
and he turned to me and
heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the pit
of despair,
out of the mud and the
mire.

He set my feet on solid
ground
and steadied me as I
walked along.

He has given me a new
song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our
God.

Many will see what he has done and be amazed.

They will put their trust in the Lord.

Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord,
who have no confidence in the proud
or in those who worship idols.

O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us.

Your plans for us are too numerous to list.

You have no equal.

If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds,

I would never come to the end of them.

You take no delight in sacrifices or offerings.

Now that you have made me listen, I finally understand—

you don't require burnt offerings or sin offerings.

Then I said, "Look, I have come.

As is written about me in the Scriptures:

I take joy in doing your will, my God,

for your instructions are written on my heart."

I have told all your people
about your justice.

I have not been afraid to
speak out,

as you, O Lord, well
know.

I have not kept the good
news of your justice hidden
in my heart;

I have talked about your
faithfulness and saving
power.

I have told everyone in the
great assembly

of your unfailing love and
faithfulness.

Lord, don't hold back your
tender mercies from me.

Let your unfailing love
and faithfulness always
protect me.

For troubles surround me—
too many to count!

My sins pile up so high
I can't see my way out.

They outnumber the hairs
on my head.

I have lost all courage.

Please, Lord, rescue me!

Come quickly, Lord, and
help me.

May those who try to
destroy me

be humiliated and put to
shame.

May those who take
delight in my trouble

be turned back in
disgrace.

Let them be horrified by
their shame,

for they said, "Aha!
We've got him now!"

But may all who search for
you

be filled with joy and
gladness in you.

May those who love your
salvation

repeatedly shout, "The
Lord is great!"

As for me, since I am poor
and needy,

let the Lord keep me in
his thoughts.

You are my helper and my savior.

O my God, do not delay.

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

"First, the habit of reading the Word of God daily, preferably in the morning. The New Testament is the inspired record of the Revelation - the revelation is the person of Jesus Christ. He moves out of the pages of this Book and meet us us with the impact of his person on our persons. That impact is cleansing. 'Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.' When you 'expose your all to his everything,' then you will submit yourself to a daily cleansing of the mind, of motive, of emotions."

- E. Stanley Jones,
Conversion

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

**Morning Gospel: Matthew
26:31-46**

On the way, Jesus told them, “Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say,

‘God will strike the Shepherd,

and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.”

Peter declared, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night,

before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.”

“No!” Peter insisted. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the other disciples vowed the same.

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, “My soul is crushed with

grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For

the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”

Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open.

So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is

betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"

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 41

For the choir director: A
psalm of David.

Oh, the joys of those who
are kind to the poor!

The Lord rescues them
when they are in trouble.

The Lord protects them
and keeps them alive.

He gives them prosperity
in the land

and rescues them from
their enemies.

The Lord nurses them when
they are sick

and restores them to
health.

“O Lord,” I prayed, “have mercy on me.

Heal me, for I have sinned against you.”

But my enemies say nothing but evil about me.

“How soon will he die and be forgotten?” they ask.

They visit me as if they were my friends,

but all the while they gather gossip,

and when they leave, they spread it everywhere.

All who hate me whisper about me,

imagining the worst.

“He has some fatal disease,” they say.

“He will never get out of that bed!”

Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me.

Lord, have mercy on me.

Make me well again, so I can pay them back!

I know you are pleased with me,

for you have not let my enemies triumph over me.

You have preserved my life because I am innocent;

you have brought me into your presence forever.

Praise the Lord, the God of
Israel,
 who lives from
everlasting to everlasting.
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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, 'The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.'

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good."

Evening Short Reading:

"Study is by no means
simply a matter of gathering
information to have on hand.
Intensive internalization of
the kingdom order through
study of the written word

and learning from the Living Word establishes good epidermal responses of thought, feeling, and action. And these in turn integrate us into the flow of God's eternal reign. We really come to think and believe differently, and that changes everything else." Dallas Willard, *Divine Conspiracy*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 26:47-75

And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal "You will

know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss.” So Judas came straight to Jesus. “Greetings, Rabbi!” he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.

Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.”

Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, slashing off his ear.

“Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the

sword. Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"

Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as

recorded in the Scriptures.”
At that point, all the
disciples deserted him and
fled.

Then the people who had
arrested Jesus led him to
the home of Caiaphas, the
high priest, where the
teachers of religious law and
the elders had gathered.
Meanwhile, Peter followed
him at a distance and came
to the high priest’s
courtyard. He went in and
sat with the guards and
waited to see how it would
all end.

Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death. But even though they found many who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone's testimony. Finally, two men came forward who declared, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you

have to say for yourself?” But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, “Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his

blasphemy. What is your verdict?”

“Guilty!” they shouted. “He deserves to die!”

Then they began to spit in Jesus’ face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, jeering, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?”

Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, “You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.” But

Peter denied it in front of everyone. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said.

A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent." Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the

rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly.

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 42

For the choir director: A
psalm of the descendants of
Korah.

As the deer longs for
streams of water,
so I long for you, O God.

I thirst for God, the living
God.

When can I go and stand
before him?

Day and night I have only
tears for food,

while my enemies
continually taunt me, saying,
“Where is this God of
yours?”

My heart is breaking
as I remember how it
used to be:

I walked among the
crowds of worshipers,
leading a great
procession to the house of
God,
singing for joy and giving
thanks
amid the sound of a
great celebration!

Why am I discouraged?
Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!
I will praise him again—
my Savior and my God!

Now I am deeply
discouraged,
but I will remember you
—

even from distant Mount
Hermon, the source of the
Jordan,
from the land of Mount
Mizar.

I hear the tumult of the
raging seas
as your waves and
surging tides sweep over
me.

But each day the Lord
pours his unfailing love upon
me,

and through each night I
sing his songs,

praying to God who
gives me life.

“O God my rock,” I cry,
“Why have you forgotten
me?

Why must I wander around
in grief,

oppressed by my
enemies?”

Their taunts break my
bones.

They scoff, “Where is this
God of yours?”

Why am I discouraged?

Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!

I will praise him again—

my Savior and my God!

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

"The purpose of the Spiritual Disciplines is the total transformation of the person. They aim at replacing old destructive habits of thought with new life-giving habits. Nowhere is this purpose more clearly seen than in the Discipline of study." Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around

us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 27:1-31

Very early in the morning the leading priests and the elders met again to lay plans for putting Jesus to death. Then they bound him, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned

to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man."

"What do we care?" they retorted. "That's your problem."

Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

The leading priests picked up the coins. "It wouldn't be right to put this money in

the Temple treasury,” they said, “since it was payment for murder.” After some discussion they finally decided to buy the potter’s field, and they made it into a cemetery for foreigners. That is why the field is still called the Field of Blood. This fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah that says,

“They took the thirty pieces of silver—
the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel,
and purchased the potter’s field,
as the Lord directed.”

Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. "Are you the king of the Jews?" the governor asked him.

Jesus replied, "You have said it."

But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. "Don't you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?" Pilate demanded. But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor's surprise.

Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted. This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas. As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message “Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night.”

Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. So the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?” The crowd shouted back, “Barabbas!”

Pilate responded, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" "Why?" Pilate demanded. "What crime has he committed?" But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!"

And all the people yelled back, “We will take responsibility for his death—we and our children!” So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Some of the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a

reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

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 43

Declare me innocent, O God!

Defend me against these ungodly people.

Rescue me from these unjust liars.

For you are God, my only
safe haven.

Why have you tossed me
aside?

Why must I wander around
in grief,

oppressed by my
enemies?

Send out your light and
your truth;

let them guide me.

Let them lead me to your
holy mountain,

to the place where you
live.

There I will go to the altar
of God,

to God—the source of all
my joy.

I will praise you with my
harp,
O God, my God!

Why am I discouraged?
Why is my heart so sad?
I will put my hope in God!
I will praise him again—
my Savior and my God!

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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Evening Short Reading:

"Now we must not worship without study, for ignorant worship is of limited value and can be very dangerous. We may develop 'a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge' (Rom. 10:2) and do great harm to ourselves and others. But worship must be added to study to complete the renewal of our mind through a willing absorption in the radiant person who is worthy of all praise. Study without worship is also dangerous, and the people of Jesus constantly suffer from its effects, especially in academic settings. To

handle the things of God without worship is always to falsify them." Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 27:32-56

Along the way, they came across a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. And they went out to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). The soldiers gave him wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he had tasted it, he refused to drink it.

After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. Then they sat around and kept guard as he

hung there. A sign was fastened to the cross above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. But the rest said, "Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him."

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by

the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

And many women who had come from Galilee with Jesus to care for him were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), and the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

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 44

For the choir director: A
psalm of the descendants of
Korah.

O God, we have heard it
with our own ears—

our ancestors have told
us

of all you did in their day,
in days long ago:

You drove out the pagan
nations by your power
and gave all the land to
our ancestors.

You crushed their enemies
and set our ancestors
free.

They did not conquer the
land with their swords;
it was not their own
strong arm that gave them
victory.

It was your right hand and
strong arm

and the blinding light
from your face that helped
them,
for you loved them.

You are my King and my
God.

You command victories
for Israel.

Only by your power can we
push back our enemies;
only in your name can
we trample our foes.

I do not trust in my bow;
I do not count on my
sword to save me.

You are the one who gives
us victory over our enemies;
you disgrace those who
hate us.

O God, we give glory to
you all day long
and constantly praise
your name.

Interlude

But now you have tossed us
aside in dishonor.

You no longer lead our
armies to battle.

You make us retreat from
our enemies

and allow those who
hate us to plunder our land.

You have butchered us like
sheep

and scattered us among
the nations.

You sold your precious
people for a pittance,

making nothing on the sale.

You let our neighbors mock us.

We are an object of scorn and derision to those around us.

You have made us the butt of their jokes;

they shake their heads at us in scorn.

We can't escape the constant humiliation;

shame is written across our faces.

All we hear are the taunts of our mockers.

All we see are our vengeful enemies.

All this has happened
though we have not
forgotten you.

We have not violated
your covenant.

Our hearts have not
deserted you.

We have not strayed
from your path.

Yet you have crushed us in
the jackal's desert home.

You have covered us with
darkness and death.

If we had forgotten the
name of our God

or spread our hands in
prayer to foreign gods,

God would surely have
known it,

for he knows the secrets
of every heart.

But for your sake we are
killed every day;

we are being
slaughtered like sheep.

Wake up, O Lord! Why do
you sleep?

Get up! Do not reject us
forever.

Why do you look the other
way?

Why do you ignore our
suffering and oppression?

We collapse in the dust,
lying face down in the
dirt.

Rise up! Help us!

Ransom us because of
your unfailing love.

Intercession:

Concluding Prayer: Lord
Jesus stay with us, for
evening is at hand and the
day is past. Be our
companion in the way,
kindle our hearts and
awaken hope, that we may
know you as you are

revealed in Scripture and
the breaking of bread. Grant
this for the sake of your love.
Amen.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

"We must once again emphasize that the ingrained habits of thought that are formed will conform to the order of the thing being studied. What we study determines the kind of habits that are formed, which is why Paul urges us to focus on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and gracious."

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your

wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: Matthew 27:57-66

As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him.

Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left. Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching.

The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. They told him, "Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive 'After three

days I will rise from the dead.’ So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we’ll be worse off than we were at first.”

Pilate replied, “Take guards and secure it the best you can.” So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect 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 45

For the choir director: A love
song to be sung to the tune
“Lilies.” A psalm of the
descendants of Korah.

Beautiful words stir my
heart.

I will recite a lovely poem
about the king,

for my tongue is like the
pen of a skillful poet.

You are the most
handsome of all.

Gracious words stream
from your lips.

God himself has blessed
you forever.

Put on your sword, O
mighty warrior!

You are so glorious, so
majestic!

In your majesty, ride out to
victory,

defending truth, humility,
and justice.

Go forth to perform awe-
inspiring deeds!

Your arrows are sharp,
piercing your enemies
hearts.

The nations fall beneath
your feet.

Your throne, O God,
endures forever and ever.

You rule with a scepter of
justice.

You love justice and hate
evil.

Therefore God, your God,
has anointed you,

pouring out the oil of joy
on you more than on anyone
else.

Myrrh, aloes, and cassia
perfume your robes.

In ivory palaces the
music of strings entertains
you.

Kings' daughters are
among your noble women.

At your right side stands
the queen,

wearing jewelry of finest
gold from Ophir!

Listen to me, O royal
daughter; take to heart what
I say.

Forget your people and
your family far away.

For your royal husband
delights in your beauty;
honor him, for he is your
lord.

The princess of Tyre will
shower you with gifts.

The wealthy will beg
your favor.

The bride, a princess, looks
glorious

in her golden gown.

In her beautiful robes, she
is led to the king,

accompanied by her
bridesmaids.

What a joyful and
enthusiastic procession
as they enter the king's
palace!

Your sons will become kings like their father.

You will make them rulers over many lands.

I will bring honor to your name in every generation.

Therefore, the nations will praise you 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Evening Short Reading:

"Jesus speaks often of ears that do not hear and eyes that do not see. When we ponder the meaning of what we study, we come to hear and see in a new way."

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use

our minds to serve you.
Amen.

Evening Gospel: Matthew 28:1-20

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw

him, and they fell into a dead faint.

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

As the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the leading priests

what had happened. A meeting with the elders was called, and they decided to give the soldiers a large bribe. They told the soldiers, "You must say, 'Jesus' disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.' If the governor hears about it, we'll stand up for you so you won't get in trouble." So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today.

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

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 46

For the choir director: A
song of the descendants of
Korah, to be sung by
soprano voices.

God is our refuge and
strength,

always ready to help in
times of trouble.

So we will not fear when
earthquakes come

and the mountains
crumble into the sea.

Let the oceans roar and
foam.

Let the mountains
tremble as the waters surge!

Interlude

A river brings joy to the
city of our God,

the sacred home of the
Most High.

God dwells in that city; it
cannot be destroyed.

From the very break of
day, God will protect it.

The nations are in chaos,
and their kingdoms
crumble!

God's voice thunders,
and the earth melts!

The Lord of Heaven's
Armies is here among us;
the God of Israel is our
fortress.

Interlude

Come, see the glorious
works of the Lord:

See how he brings
destruction upon the world.
He causes wars to end
throughout the earth.

He breaks the bow and
snaps the spear;
he burns the shields with
fire.

“Be still, and know that I am
God!

I will be honored by
every nation.

I will be honored
throughout the world.”

The Lord of Heaven's
Armies is here among us;
the God of Israel is our
fortress.

Interlude

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.

January 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 that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:

“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who
have knowledge.

Job said, ‘The ear tests the
words it hears

just as the mouth
distinguishes between
foods.’

So let us discern for
ourselves what is right;

let us learn together
what is good.”

Morning Short Reading:

“We should become
attentive to the ordinary
relationships we encounter

throughout the day: at home, work, school. We notice the things that control people. Remember, we are not trying to condemn or judge anyone; we are only trying to learn. If we do find a judging spirit emerging within ourselves, we observe that and learn."

- Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our

study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Morning Gospel: 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 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: Isaiah 38:9

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When King Hezekiah was well again, he wrote this poem:

I said, "In the prime of my life,

 must I now enter the place of the dead?

 Am I to be robbed of the rest of my years?"

I said, "Never again will I see the Lord God

 while still in the land of the living.

 Never again will I see my friends

 or be with those who live in this world.

 My life has been blown away

like a shepherd's tent in
a storm.

It has been cut short,
as when a weaver cuts
cloth from a loom.

Suddenly, my life was
over.

I waited patiently all night,
but I was torn apart as
though by lions.

Suddenly, my life was
over.

Delirious, I chattered like a
swallow or a crane,
and then I moaned like a
mourning dove.

My eyes grew tired of
looking to heaven for help.

I am in trouble, Lord.
Help me!"

But what could I say?

For he himself sent this
sickness.

Now I will walk humbly
throughout my years
because of this anguish I
have felt.

Lord, your discipline is
good,
for it leads to life and
health.

You restore my health
and allow me to live!
Yes, this anguish was good
for me,
for you have rescued me
from death
and forgiven all my sins.

For the dead cannot praise
you;

they cannot raise their
voices in praise.

Those who go down to the
grave

can no longer hope in
your faithfulness.

Only the living can praise
you as I do today.

Each generation tells of
your faithfulness to the next.

Think of it—the Lord is
ready to heal me!

I will sing his praises with
instruments

every day of my life
in the Temple of the
Lord.

Intercession:

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



Midday

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your

wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.



Evening

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

Vow: In a world that is forced by self-centered advertising and media, we'll regularly reflect on God's word and let that transform our minds.

Scripture Related to the Vow: Job 34: 1-4

Then Elihu said:
"Listen to me, you wise men.
Pay attention, you who have knowledge.

Job said, 'The ear tests the words it hears

just as the mouth distinguishes between foods.'

So let us discern for ourselves what is right;

let us learn together what is good."

Evening Short Reading:

"Study produces joy. Like any novice, we will find it hard work in the beginning. But the greater our proficiency, the greater our joy. Alexander Pope says, 'There is no study that is not

capable of delighting us after a little application to it.' Study is well worth our most serious effort."

- Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline

Vow Prayer: Lord, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Teach us your wisdom. Guide our study of Scripture and guide our study of the world around us. Make us good stewards of our gifts of faith and reason. May we always use our minds to serve you. Amen.

Evening Gospel: Acts 2

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.

Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus,

the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

'In the last days,' God says,
I will pour out my Spirit
upon all people.

Your sons and daughters
will prophesy.

Your young men will see
visions,
and your old men will
dream dreams.

In those days I will pour out
my Spirit

even on my servants—
men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.

And I will cause wonders in
the heavens above

and signs on the earth
below—

blood and fire and clouds
of smoke.

The sun will become dark,
and the moon will turn
blood red

before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives.

But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him

from the horrors of death
and raised him back to life,
for death could not keep him
in its grip. King David said
this about him:

‘I see that the Lord is
always with me.

I will not be shaken, for
he is right beside me.

No wonder my heart is
glad,

and my tongue shouts
his praises!

My body rests in hope.

For you will not leave my
soul among the dead

or allow your Holy One
to rot in the grave.

You have shown me the way of life,
and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.'

“Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn't referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah's resurrection. He was saying that God would

not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.

“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit in the place of honor
at my right hand
until I humble your
enemies,
making them a footstool
under your feet.”

“So let everyone in Israel
know for certain that God
has made this Jesus, whom
you crucified, to be both
Lord and Messiah!”

Peter’s words pierced their
hearts, and they said to him
and to the other apostles,
“Brothers, what should we
do?”

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and

possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Lord's Prayer:

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

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

Evening Psalm: Isaiah 40:6-11

A voice said, "Shout!"
I asked, "What should I shout?"

"Shout that people are like the grass.

Their beauty fades as quickly

as the flowers in a field.
The grass withers and the
flowers fade
beneath the breath of
the Lord.

And so it is with people.
The grass withers and the
flowers fade,
but the word of our God
stands forever.”

O Zion, messenger of good
news,

shout from the
mountaintops!

Shout it louder, O
Jerusalem.

Shout, and do not be
afraid.

Tell the towns of Judah,

“Your God is coming!”

Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power.

He will rule with a powerful arm.

See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

He will carry the lambs in his arms,

holding them close to his heart.

He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

Intercession:

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

