

SERVICE



**FORMED**







December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

We discover that we are at the same time very insignificant and very important, because each of our actions is preparing the humanity of tomorrow; it is a tiny contribution to the construction of the huge and glorious final humanity.

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Heth

Lord, you are mine!

I promise to obey your words!

With all my heart I want your blessings.

Be merciful as you promised.

I pondered the direction of my life,

and I turned to follow your laws.

I will hurry, without delay,

to obey your commands.

Evil people try to drag me into sin,

but I am firmly anchored to your instructions.

I rise at midnight to thank you

for your just regulations.  
I am a friend to anyone who fears you—  
anyone who obeys your commandments.  
O Lord, your unfailing love fills the earth; teach me your decrees.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen."

### Evening

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

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, must empty ourselves. The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace.  
Mother Teresa

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

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

Teth

You have done many good things for me, Lord,  
just as you promised.

I believe in your commands;  
now teach me good judgment and knowledge.

I used to wander off until you disciplined me;  
but now I closely follow your word.

You are good and do only good;  
teach me your decrees.

Arrogant people smear me with lies,  
but in truth I obey your commandments with all my heart.

Their hearts are dull and stupid,  
but I delight in your instructions.

My suffering was good for me,  
for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.

Your instructions are more valuable to me  
than millions in gold and silver.

**Intercession**

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

December 2, 2011

### Morning

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

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Every human activity can be put at the service of the divine and of love. We should all exercise our gift to build community.

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Yodh

You made me; you created me.

Now give me the sense to follow your commands.

May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy,  
for I have put my hope in your word.

I know, O Lord, that your regulations are fair;  
you disciplined me because I needed it.

Now let your unfailing love comfort me,  
just as you promised me, your servant.

Surround me with your tender mercies so I may live,  
for your instructions are my delight.

Bring disgrace upon the arrogant people who lied about me;  
meanwhile, I will concentrate on your commandments.

Let me be united with all who fear you,  
with those who know your laws.  
May I be blameless in keeping your decrees;  
then I will never be ashamed.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; in just the same way, you learn to love by loving.  
St. Francis De Sales

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

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

Kaph

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

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love.

Jean Vanier

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Lamedh

Your eternal word, O Lord,  
stands firm in heaven.  
Your faithfulness extends to every generation,  
as enduring as the earth you created.  
Your regulations remain true to this day,  
for everything serves your plans.  
If your instructions hadn't sustained me with joy,  
I would have died in my misery.  
I will never forget your commandments,  
for by them you give me life.  
I am yours; rescue me!  
For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments.

Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me,  
I will quietly keep my mind on your laws.  
Even perfection has its limits,  
but your commands have no limit.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Active love is more than a feeling or a thought; it is a concrete action.  
Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

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

Mem

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

**Intercession**

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

December 4, 2011

### Morning

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

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Love doesn't mean doing extraordinary or heroic things. It means knowing how to do ordinary things with tenderness.

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Nun

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

Your laws are my treasure;  
they are my heart's delight.  
I am determined to keep your decrees  
to the very end.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot; the money that you keep locked away is the money of the poor; the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit.  
St. Basil the Great (circa 300 AD)

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

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

Samekh

I hate those with divided loyalties,  
but I love your instructions.  
You are my refuge and my shield;  
your word is my source of hope.  
Get out of my life, you evil-minded people,  
for I intend to obey the commands of my God.  
Lord, sustain me as you promised, that I may live!  
Do not let my hope be crushed.  
Sustain me, and I will be rescued;  
then I will meditate continually on your decrees.  
But you have rejected all who stray from your decrees.  
They are only fooling themselves.  
You skim off the wicked of the earth like scum;  
no wonder I love to obey your laws!  
I tremble in fear of you;  
I stand in awe of your regulations.

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

All the things in this world are not worth one human thought, and all the efforts of human thought are not worth one act of charity.  
Blaise Pascal

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Ayin

Don't leave me to the mercy of my enemies,  
for I have done what is just and right.  
Please guarantee a blessing for me.  
Don't let the arrogant oppress me!  
My eyes strain to see your rescue,  
to see the truth of your promise fulfilled.  
I am your servant; deal with me in unfailing love,  
and teach me your decrees.  
Give discernment to me, your servant;  
then I will understand your laws.  
Lord, it is time for you to act,  
for these evil people have violated your instructions.

Truly, I love your commands  
more than gold, even the finest gold.  
Each of your commandments is right.  
That is why I hate every false way.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Many people are good at talking about what they are doing, but in fact do little. Others do a lot but don't talk about it; they are the ones who make a community live.  
*Jean Vanier, Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

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

Pe

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

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

We cannot worship the suffering God today and ignore him tomorrow. We cannot eat and drink the body and blood of the passionate and compassionate God today, and then refuse to live passionately and compassionately tomorrow. If we say or sing, as we so often do, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit," we thereby commit ourselves, in love, to the work of making his love known to the world that still stands so sorely in need of it. This is not the god the world wants. This is the God the world needs.  
N.T. Wright

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Tsadhe

O Lord, you are righteous,  
and your regulations are fair.  
Your laws are perfect  
and completely trustworthy.  
I am overwhelmed with indignation,  
for my enemies have disregarded your words.  
Your promises have been thoroughly tested;  
that is why I love them so much.

I am insignificant and despised,  
but I don't forget your commandments.  
Your justice is eternal,  
and your instructions are perfectly true.  
As pressure and stress bear down on me,  
I find joy in your commands.  
Your laws are always right;  
help me to understand them so I may live.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

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

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 145-152

Qoph

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

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.

N.T. Wright

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Resh

Look upon my suffering and rescue me,  
for I have not forgotten your instructions.  
Argue my case; take my side!  
Protect my life as you promised.  
The wicked are far from rescue,  
for they do not bother with your decrees.  
Lord, how great is your mercy;  
let me be revived by following your regulations.  
Many persecute and trouble me,  
yet I have not swerved from your laws.  
Seeing these traitors makes me sick at heart,

because they care nothing for your word.  
See how I love your commandments, Lord.  
Give back my life because of your unfailing love.  
The very essence of your words is truth;  
all your just regulations will stand forever.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Isaiah 58:5-7**

You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the Lord? "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

It is only when we stand up, with all our failings and sufferings, and try to support others rather than withdraw into ourselves, that we can fully live the life of community.  
Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 119:161-168**

Shin

Powerful people harass me without cause,  
but my heart trembles only at your word.  
I rejoice in your word  
like one who discovers a great treasure.  
I hate and abhor all falsehood,  
but I love your instructions.  
I will praise you seven times a day  
because all your regulations are just.  
Those who love your instructions have great peace  
and do not stumble.  
I long for your rescue, Lord,  
so I have obeyed your commands.  
I have obeyed your laws,  
for I love them very much.  
Yes, I obey your commandments and laws  
because you know everything I do.

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

This evolution towards a real responsibility for others is sometimes blocked by fear. It is easier to stay on the level of a pleasant way of life in which we keep our freedom and our distance. But that means that we stop growing and shut ourselves up in our own small concerns and pleasures.

Jean Vanier

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

Taw

O Lord, listen to my cry;  
give me the discerning mind you promised.  
Listen to my prayer;  
rescue me as you promised.  
Let praise flow from my lips,  
for you have taught me your decrees.  
Let my tongue sing about your word,  
for all your commands are right.  
Give me a helping hand,  
for I have chosen to follow your commandments.  
O Lord, I have longed for your rescue,  
and your instructions are my delight.

Let me live so I can praise you,  
and may your regulations help me.  
I have wandered away like a lost sheep;  
come and find me,  
for I have not forgotten your commands.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

A Christian community should do as Jesus did: propose and not impose. Its attraction must lie in the radiance cast by the love of brothers.

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 120**

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

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

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Praying can never be antisocial or asocial. Whenever we pray and leave out our neighbors, our prayer is not real prayer. True prayer by its nature is socially significant. but that is not as simple as it sounds! Often people say: "Go out and do something for those who suffer instead of praying for them." Although there is little reason to suppose that so little is done for people who suffer because so much time is spent praying for them, there is some reason to wonder whether the comment "I'll pray for you" is a sign of genuine concern. Henri Nouwen, *With Open Hands*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 121**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

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

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

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

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

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

A growing community must integrate three elements: a life of silent prayer, a life of service and above all of listening to the poor, and a community life through which all its members can grow in their own gift.

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer:

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 122

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

I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
And now here we are,  
standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem is a well-built city;  
its seamless walls cannot be breached.  
All the tribes of Israel—the Lord's people—  
make their pilgrimage here.  
They come to give thanks to the name of the Lord,  
as the law requires of Israel.  
Here stand the thrones where judgment is given,  
the thrones of the dynasty of David.

Pray for peace in Jerusalem.

May all who love this city prosper.  
O Jerusalem, may there be peace within your walls  
and prosperity in your palaces.  
For the sake of my family and friends, I will say,  
"May you have peace."  
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek what is best for you, O Jerusalem.

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

In the thinking of our modern, active, energetic world, praying and living have come to be so widely separated that bringing them together seems almost impossible. But here lies the central problem: How can our prayer be truly necessary for the welfare of our fellow human beings? What do we mean when we say that we should "pray always" and that prayer is the "one necessary thing"?

Henri Nouwen, *With Open Hands*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 123**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

I lift my eyes to you,

O God, enthroned in heaven.

We keep looking to the Lord our God for his mercy,

just as servants keep their eyes on their master,

as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy,

for we have had our fill of contempt.

We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the proud

and the contempt of the arrogant

### **Intercession**

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

There is only one activity so unique to this world that Christ distinguished it as the proof of his deity and of our authenticity as his followers. It is more disarming than SALT talks. It is more reconciling than Camp David peace accords, more convincing than arguments for and against abortion or gay rights, or the authority of scripture. It illuminates the minds of men and women more than Christian television or political debates, and it is not an option for a Christian. It is a command. It is love. Love of a special sort.

Robert D. Lupton, *Theirs is the Kingdom: Celebrating the Gospel in Urban America*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 124

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

What if the Lord had not been on our side?

Let all Israel repeat:

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

They would have swallowed us alive  
in their burning anger.

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

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

Praise the Lord,

who did not let their teeth tear us apart!

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

The trap is broken, and we are free!

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

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

But this compassion is more than a shared slavery with the same fear and sighs of relief and more than a shared joy. For if your compassion is born of prayer, it is born of your meeting with God who is also the God of all people. At the moment that you fully realize that the God who loves you unconditionally loves all your fellow human beings with the same love, a new way of living opens itself to you. For you come to see with new eyes those who live beside you in this world. You realize that they too have no reason to fear, that they too do not have to hide behind a hedge, that they too need no weapons to be human. You see that the inner garden of love which has remained unattended for so long is also meant for them.

Henri Nouwen, *With Open Hands*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

Those who trust in the Lord are as secure as Mount Zion;  
they will not be defeated but will endure forever.

Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the Lord surrounds his people, both now and forever.

The wicked will not rule the land of the godly,  
for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong.

O Lord, do good to those who are good,  
whose hearts are in tune with you.

But banish those who turn to crooked ways, O Lord.  
Take them away with those who do evil.

May Israel have peace!

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

[Jesus'] teachings are suicidal for the successful. The downward mobility of the kingdom strikes at the very heart of our earthly strivings. It feels like death to let go of our diligent preparations for the next step up and the investments that insure our tomorrows. Who in their right mind would gamble away a reasonably predictable and secure future on a high-risk, intangible faith venture like the kingdom of God? A balanced portfolio makes more sense. A good mix of earthly investments with enough heavenly stock to carry us if the bottom falls out of the economy.

Robert D. Lupton, *Theirs is the Kingdom: Celebrating the Gospel in Urban America*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 126**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

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

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

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

I kept praying, "Lord, show me where you want me to go and I will follow you, but please be clear and unambiguous about it!" Well, God was. In the person of Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche communities for mentally handicapped people, God said, "Go and live among the poor in spirit, and they will heal you."

Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

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

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

Children are a gift from the Lord;  
they are a reward from him.  
Children born to a young man

are like arrows in a warrior's hands.  
How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!  
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Now here's what bothers me. Why would Christ say, "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of God" (Luke 6:20)? Could it be that our achievement values differ from the values of his kingdom? And his comments about the first being last and the last being first in that kingdom - what does that say to us well-ordered leader types? You see why it disturbs me, don't you?

Robert D. Lupton, *Theirs is the Kingdom: Celebrating the Gospel in Urban America*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 128**

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

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

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

I am telling you all this because I am deeply convinced that the Christian leader of the future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing to offer but his or her own vulnerable self.

Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 129, 130**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

From my earliest youth my enemies have persecuted me.

Let all Israel repeat this:

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

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

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

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

May they be as useless as grass on a rooftop,  
turning yellow when only half grown,

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

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.  
From the depths of despair, O Lord,  
I call for your help.  
Hear my cry, O Lord.  
Pay attention to my prayer.

Lord, if you kept a record of our sins,  
who, O Lord, could ever survive?  
But you offer forgiveness,  
that we might learn to fear you.

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

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

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we’ll demonstrate Christ’s way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### Evening Short Reading:

Life is a place of service. Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.  
Leo Tolstoy

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer:

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 131

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

Lord, my heart is not proud;  
my eyes are not haughty.

I don't concern myself with matters too great  
or too awesome for me to grasp.

Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself,  
like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk.  
Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord—  
now and always.

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

The leader of the future will be the one who dares to claim his [or her] irrelevance in the contemporary world as a divine vocation that allows him or her to enter into a deep solidarity with the anguish underlying all the glitter of success and to bring the light of Jesus there.

Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

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

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

Lord, remember David  
and all that he suffered.

He made a solemn promise to the Lord.  
He vowed to the Mighty One of Israel,

"I will not go home;  
I will not let myself rest.

I will not let my eyes sleep  
nor close my eyelids in slumber  
until I find a place to build a house for the Lord,  
a sanctuary for the Mighty One of Israel."

We heard that the Ark was in Ephrathah;

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

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Good leaders must first become good servants.  
Robert Greenleaf

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

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

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

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

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Knowing the heart of Jesus and loving him are the same thing. The knowledge of Jesus' heart is a knowledge of the heart. and when we live in the world with that knowledge, we cannot do other than bring healing, reconciliation, new life and hope wherever we go. The desire to be relevant and successful will gradually disappear, and our only desire will be to say with our whole being to our brothers and sisters of the human race, "You are loved. There is no reason to be afraid. In love God created your inmost self and knit you together in your mother's womb".

Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 133**

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

How wonderful and pleasant it is  
when brothers live together in harmony!  
For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil  
that was poured over Aaron's head,  
that ran down his beard  
and onto the border of his robe.  
Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon  
that falls on the mountains of Zion.  
And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing,

even life everlasting.

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Micah 6: 6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Ministry is not only a communal experience, it is also a mutual experience. Jesus, speaking about his own shepherding ministry, says, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep" (John 10:14-15). As Jesus ministers, so he wants us to minister. He wants Peter to feed his sheep and care for them, not as "professionals" who know their clients' problems and take care of them, but as vulnerable brothers and sisters who know and are known, who care and are cared for, who forgive and are being forgiven, who love and are being loved. Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 134**

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.  
Oh, praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you who serve at night in the house of the Lord.  
Lift up holy hands in prayer,  
and praise the Lord.

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

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

The leadership about which Jesus speaks is of radically different kind from the leadership offered by the world. It is a servant leadership - to use Robert Greenleaf's term - in which the leader is a vulnerable servant who needs the people as much as they need him or her. From this it is clear that a whole new type of leadership is asked for in the Church of tomorrow, a leadership which is not modeled on the power games of the world, but on the servant-leader, Jesus, who came to give his life for the salvation of many.

Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

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

Praise the Lord!

Praise the name of the Lord!

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

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
celebrate his lovely name with music.

For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,  
Israel for his own special treasure.

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

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

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"  
Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"  
The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"  
"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"  
The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

### Evening Short Reading:

Christians, especially ministers, so often think they must always contribute something when they are in the company of others, that this is the one service they have to render. They forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking.  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 135:10-21

He struck down many nations  
and killed mighty kings—  
Sihon king of the Amorites,  
Og king of Bashan,  
and all the kings of Canaan.  
He gave their land as an inheritance,  
a special possession to his people Israel.

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

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

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

Praise the Lord!

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility in which our world has invested so much, but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross. This might sound morbid and masochistic, but for those who have heard the voice of the first love and said "yes" to it, the downward-moving way of Jesus is the way to joy and the peace of God, a joy and peace that is not of this world.

Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

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

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully.

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

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question:  
"Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"  
Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"  
The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"  
"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"  
The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Many people are looking for an ear that will listen. They do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking where they should be listening. But he who can no longer listen to his brother will soon be no longer listening to God either; he will be doing nothing but prattle in the presence of God too. This is the beginning of the death of the spiritual life, and in the end there is nothing left but spiritual chatter.  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 136:10-16

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

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

In short, [leaders] have to say "no" to the secular world and proclaim in unambiguous terms that the incarnation of God's Word, through whom all things came into being, has made the smallest event of human history into Kairos, that is, an opportunity to be led deeper into the heart of Christ.

Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

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

Give thanks to him who struck down mighty kings.

His faithful love endures forever.

He killed powerful kings—

His faithful love endures forever.

Sihon king of the Amorites,

His faithful love endures forever.

and Og king of Bashan.

His faithful love endures forever.

God gave the land of these kings as an inheritance—

His faithful love endures forever.

a special possession to his servant Israel.

His faithful love endures forever.

He remembered us in our weakness.

His faithful love endures forever.

He saved us from our enemies.

His faithful love endures forever.

He gives food to every living thing.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

His faithful love endures forever.

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

## **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

## **Evening Short Reading:**

It is possible to be so active in the service of Christ as to forget to love him.

P. T. Forsyth

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of

your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer:

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 137

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

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

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

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

If I cannot in honest happiness take the second place (or the twentieth); if I cannot take the first without making a fuss about my unworthiness, then I know nothing of Calvary love.  
Amy Carmichael

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 138**

A psalm of David.

I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart;

I will sing your praises before the gods.

I bow before your holy Temple as I worship.

I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;

for your promises are backed

by all the honor of your name.

As soon as I pray, you answer me;

you encourage me by giving me strength.

Every king in all the earth will thank you, Lord,  
for all of them will hear your words.

Yes, they will sing about the Lord's ways,

for the glory of the Lord is very great.  
Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble,  
but he keeps his distance from the proud.

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

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

## **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"  
Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"  
The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"  
"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"  
The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

## **Evening Short Reading:**

There is nothing small in the service of God.  
Francis de Sales

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of

your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up.

You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.

You know everything I do.

You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, Lord.

You go before me and follow me.

You place your hand of blessing on my head.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

Francis of Assisi

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 14:1-14**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 136:7-12**

I can never escape from your Spirit!

I can never get away from your presence!

If I go up to heaven, you are there;

if I go down to the grave, you are there.

If I ride the wings of the morning,

if I dwell by the farthest oceans,

even there your hand will guide me,

and your strength will support me.

I could ask the darkness to hide me

and the light around me to become night—

but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.

To you the night shines as bright as day.

Darkness and light are the same to you.

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

## **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

## **Evening Short Reading:**

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything.

Samuel Johnson

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

## **Evening Gospel: John 14:15-31**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

## **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 136:13-18

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.  
Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.  
You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.  
You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!  
I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!  
And when I wake up,  
you are still with me!

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Do you often feel like parched ground, unable to produce anything worthwhile? I do. When I am in need of refreshment, it isn't easy to think of the needs of others. But I have found that if, instead of praying for my own comfort and satisfaction, I ask the Lord to enable me to give to others, an amazing thing often happens - I find my own needs wonderfully met.

Refreshment comes in ways I would never have thought of, both for others, and then, incidentally, for myself.

Elisabeth Elliot

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 15:1-17**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 136:19-24**

O God, if only you would destroy the wicked!

Get out of my life, you murderers!

They blaspheme you;

your enemies misuse your name.

O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate you?

Shouldn't I despise those who oppose you?

Yes, I hate them with total hatred,

for your enemies are my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Evening Short Reading:**

At the Day of Judgment, we shall not be asked what we have read, but what we have done.  
Thomas à Kempis

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 15:18-27**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 140**

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

O Lord, rescue me from evil people.  
Protect me from those who are violent,  
those who plot evil in their hearts  
and stir up trouble all day long.  
Their tongues sting like a snake;  
the venom of a viper drips from their lips.  
Interlude

O Lord, keep me out of the hands of the wicked.  
Protect me from those who are violent,  
for they are plotting against me.  
The proud have set a trap to catch me;  
they have stretched out a net;  
they have placed traps all along the way.  
Interlude

I said to the Lord, "You are my God!"  
Listen, O Lord, to my cries for mercy!  
O Sovereign Lord, the strong one who rescued me,  
you protected me on the day of battle.  
Lord, do not let evil people have their way.  
Do not let their evil schemes succeed,  
or they will become proud.  
Interlude

Let my enemies be destroyed  
by the very evil they have planned for me.  
Let burning coals fall down on their heads.  
Let them be thrown into the fire  
or into watery pits from which they can't escape.  
Don't let liars prosper here in our land.  
Cause great disasters to fall on the violent.

But I know the Lord will help those they persecute;  
he will give justice to the poor.  
Surely righteous people are praising your name;  
the godly will live in your presence.

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Without expectation, do something for love itself, not for what you may receive. Love in action is what gives us grace. We have been created for greater things - - to love and to be loved. Love is love - - to love a person without any conditions, without any expectations. Small things, done in great love, bring joy and peace. To love, it is necessary to give. To give, it is necessary to be free from selfishness.

Mother Theresa

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 16:1-15**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 141**

A psalm of David.

O Lord, I am calling to you. Please hurry!

Listen when I cry to you for help!

Accept my prayer as incense offered to you,  
and my upraised hands as an evening offering.

Take control of what I say, O Lord,  
and guard my lips.

Don't let me drift toward evil  
or take part in acts of wickedness.  
Don't let me share in the delicacies  
of those who do wrong.

Let the godly strike me!  
It will be a kindness!  
If they correct me, it is soothing medicine.  
Don't let me refuse it.

But I pray constantly  
against the wicked and their deeds.  
When their leaders are thrown down from a cliff,  
the wicked will listen to my words and find them true.  
Like rocks brought up by a plow,  
the bones of the wicked will lie scattered without burial.

I look to you for help, O Sovereign Lord.  
You are my refuge; don't let them kill me.  
Keep me from the traps they have set for me,  
from the snares of those who do wrong.  
Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
but let me escape.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question:  
"Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"  
Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

### Evening Short Reading:

God has given us two hands -- one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for giving.  
Billy Graham

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 16:16-33

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer:

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 142

A psalm of David, regarding his experience in the cave. A prayer.

I cry out to the Lord;  
I plead for the Lord's mercy.  
I pour out my complaints before him  
and tell him all my troubles.  
When I am overwhelmed,  
you alone know the way I should turn.  
Wherever I go,  
my enemies have set traps for me.  
I look for someone to come and help me,  
but no one gives me a passing thought!  
No one will help me;  
no one cares a bit what happens to me.  
Then I pray to you, O Lord.  
I say, "You are my place of refuge.  
You are all I really want in life.  
Hear my cry,  
for I am very low.  
Rescue me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me.  
Bring me out of prison  
so I can thank you.  
The godly will crowd around me,  
for you are good to me."

### Intercession

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

December 23, 2011

### Morning

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

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

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

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

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

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

### **Morning Short Reading:**

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. you only need a heart full of grace. a soul generated by love.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 17:1-12**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 143**

A psalm of David.

Hear my prayer, O Lord;

listen to my plea!

Answer me because you are faithful and righteous.

Don't put your servant on trial,

for no one is innocent before you.

My enemy has chased me.

He has knocked me to the ground

and forces me to live in darkness like those in the grave.

I am losing all hope;

I am paralyzed with fear.

I remember the days of old.

I ponder all your great works  
and think about what you have done.  
I lift my hands to you in prayer.  
I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain.  
Interlude

Come quickly, Lord, and answer me,  
for my depression deepens.  
Don't turn away from me,  
or I will die.  
Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning,  
for I am trusting you.  
Show me where to walk,  
for I give myself to you.  
Rescue me from my enemies, Lord;  
I run to you to hide me.  
Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
May your gracious Spirit lead me forward  
on a firm footing.  
For the glory of your name, O Lord, preserve my life.  
Because of your faithfulness, bring me out of this distress.  
In your unfailing love, silence all my enemies  
and destroy all my foes,  
for I am your servant.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Luke 10:25-29**

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question:  
"Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"  
The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"  
"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"  
The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

### Evening Short Reading:

Good works are indispensable to salvation - not as its ground or means, however, but as its consequence and evidence.  
John R. W. Stott

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 17:13-26

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer:

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 144:1-8

A psalm of David.

Praise the Lord, who is my rock.  
He trains my hands for war  
and gives my fingers skill for battle.  
He is my loving ally and my fortress,  
my tower of safety, my rescuer.  
He is my shield, and I take refuge in him.  
He makes the nations submit to me.

O Lord, what are human beings that you should notice them,  
mere mortals that you should think about them?  
For they are like a breath of air;  
their days are like a passing shadow.

Open the heavens, Lord, and come down.  
Touch the mountains so they billow smoke.  
Hurl your lightning bolts and scatter your enemies!  
Shoot your arrows and confuse them!  
Reach down from heaven and rescue me;  
rescue me from deep waters,  
from the power of my enemies.  
Their mouths are full of lies;  
they swear to tell the truth, but they lie instead.

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

“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.’”

### **Morning Short Reading:**

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed  
You're gonna have to serve somebody  
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord  
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.  
Bob Dylan, "Gotta Serve Somebody"

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 18:1-11**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 144:9-15**

I will sing a new song to you, O God!  
I will sing your praises with a ten-stringed harp.  
For you grant victory to kings!  
You rescued your servant David from the fatal sword.  
Save me!  
Rescue me from the power of my enemies.  
Their mouths are full of lies;  
they swear to tell the truth, but they lie instead.

May our sons flourish in their youth

like well-nurtured plants.  
May our daughters be like graceful pillars,  
carved to beautify a palace.  
May our barns be filled  
with crops of every kind.  
May the flocks in our fields multiply by the thousands,  
even tens of thousands,  
and may our oxen be loaded down with produce.  
May there be no enemy breaking through our walls,  
no going into captivity,  
no cries of alarm in our town squares.  
Yes, joyful are those who live like this!  
Joyful indeed are those whose God is the Lord.

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

## **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

“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.’”

## **Evening Short Reading:**

Let us not underestimate how hard it is to be compassionate. Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to place where they are weak, vulnerable,

lonely, and broken. But this is not our spontaneous response to suffering. What we desire most is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it.  
Henri J.M. Nouwen

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 18:12-18

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer:

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 145:1-7

A psalm of praise of David.

I will exalt you, my God and King,  
and praise your name forever and ever.  
I will praise you every day;  
yes, I will praise you forever.  
Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!  
No one can measure his greatness.

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;  
let them proclaim your power.  
I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor  
and your wonderful miracles.  
Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;  
I will proclaim your greatness.  
Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;  
they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

### **Morning Short Reading:**

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions. We may pass them by, preoccupied with our more important tasks, as the priest passed by the man who had fallen among thieves, perhaps--reading the Bible. When we do that we pass by the visible sign of the Cross raised athwart our path to show us that, not our way, but God's way must be done.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 18:19-27**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9**

The Lord is merciful and compassionate,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.  
The Lord is good to everyone.  
He showers compassion on all his creation.

### **Intercession**

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

“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.’”

### **Evening Short Reading:**

Service begins with an upward look to God. God is over us. He is above us. The person of faith looks up to God, not at him or down on him. The servant assumes a certain posture, a stance. If he or she fails to take that posture, attentive responsiveness to the master's commands will be hard.

Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 18:28-40**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 145:10-14

All of your works will thank you, Lord,  
and your faithful followers will praise you.  
They will speak of the glory of your kingdom;  
they will give examples of your power.  
They will tell about your mighty deeds  
and about the majesty and glory of your reign.  
For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.  
You rule throughout all generations.

The Lord always keeps his promises;  
he is gracious in all he does.  
The Lord helps the fallen  
and lifts those bent beneath their loads.

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

### **Morning Short Reading:**

The real test of a saint is not one's willingness to preach the gospel, but one's willingness to do something like washing the disciples' feet - that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything to God.  
Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 19:1-16**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 145:15-21**

The eyes of all look to you in hope;  
you give them their food as they need it.  
When you open your hand,  
you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.  
The Lord is righteous in everything he does;  
he is filled with kindness.  
The Lord is close to all who call on him,  
yes, to all who call on him in truth.  
He grants the desires of those who fear him;  
he hears their cries for help and rescues them.  
The Lord protects all those who love him,

but he destroys the wicked.

I will praise the Lord,  
and may everyone on earth bless his holy name  
forever and ever.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

“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.’”

### **Evening Short Reading:**

I'm glad to be in His service,  
I'm glad to be in His service,  
I'm glad to be in His service one more time.  
He didn't have to let me live,  
He didn't have to let me live.  
I'm glad to be in His service one more time.  
Traditional gospel song

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 19:17-27

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Let all that I am praise the Lord.  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live.  
I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.

Don't put your confidence in powerful people;  
there is no help for you there.  
When they breathe their last, they return to the earth,  
and all their plans die with them.  
But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God.  
He made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them.  
He keeps every promise forever.  
He gives justice to the oppressed  
and food to the hungry.  
The Lord frees the prisoners.  
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.  
The Lord loves the godly.  
The Lord protects the foreigners among us.  
He cares for the orphans and widows,  
but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.

The Lord will reign forever.  
He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations.

Praise the Lord!

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

### **Morning Short Reading:**

In whatever you do, remember that Christ is calling you in one way or another to the service of love: the love of God and of your neighbor.

Pope John Paul II (Homily, October 1979)

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 19:28-37**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 147:1-6**

Praise the Lord!

How good to sing praises to our God!  
How delightful and how fitting!  
The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem  
and bringing the exiles back to Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted  
and bandages their wounds.  
He counts the stars  
and calls them all by name.  
How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!  
His understanding is beyond comprehension!

The Lord supports the humble,  
but he brings the wicked down into the dust.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

### **Evening Short Reading:**

If we are saved by sheer grace, we can only become grateful, willing servants of God and of everyone around us. Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 19:38-42**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 147:7-11**

Sing out your thanks to the Lord;  
sing praises to our God with a harp.  
He covers the heavens with clouds,  
provides rain for the earth,  
and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures.  
He gives food to the wild animals  
and feeds the young ravens when they cry.  
He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse  
or in human might.  
No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him,  
those who put their hope in his unfailing love.

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

### **Morning Short Reading:**

When people give their lives to liberate others as Jesus did, they are realizing the true Christianity that Martin Luther King, Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and other Christian voices have called for. Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 20:1-10**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20**

Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and blessed your children within your walls.  
He sends peace across your nation  
and satisfies your hunger with the finest wheat.  
He sends his orders to the world—  
how swiftly his word flies!  
He sends the snow like white wool;  
he scatters frost upon the ground like ashes.  
He hurls the hail like stones.  
Who can stand against his freezing cold?

Then, at his command, it all melts.  
He sends his winds, and the ice thaws.  
He has revealed his words to Jacob,  
his decrees and regulations to Israel.  
He has not done this for any other nation;  
they do not know his regulations.

Praise the Lord!

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

## **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

## **Evening Short Reading:**

Whatever thoughts we have about God, who He is or even if God exists, most will agree--that God has a special place for the poor. The poor are where God lives. God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house. God is where the opportunity is lost and lives are shattered. God is with the mother who has infected her child with a virus that will take both their lives. God is under the rubble, in the cries we hear during wartime. God, my friends, is with the poor, and God is with us if we are with them. This is not a burden. This is an adventure.

Bono (speech at the NAACP Awards)

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 20:11-23

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer:

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 148:1 -6

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!  
Praise him from the skies!  
Praise him, all his angels!  
Praise him, all the armies of heaven!  
Praise him, sun and moon!  
Praise him, all you twinkling stars!  
Praise him, skies above!  
Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!  
Let every created thing give praise to the Lord,  
for he issued his command, and they came into being.  
He set them in place forever and ever.  
His decree will never be revoked.

#### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

### **Morning Short Reading:**

I saw one woman in a crowd as she struggled to get a meal from one of the late-night food vans. When we asked her if the meals were really worth the fight, she said, "Oh yes, but I don't eat them myself. I get them for another homeless lady, an elderly woman around the corner who can't fight for a meal."

Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 20:24-31**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

Our Father in heaven. Let your holiness be revealed

Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as in heaven

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

Keep us from temptation and Rescue us from evil.

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

Amen.

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 148:7-14**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you creatures of the ocean depths,  
fire and hail, snow and clouds,  
wind and weather that obey him,  
mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,  
wild animals and all livestock,  
small scurrying animals and birds,  
kings of the earth and all people,

rulers and judges of the earth,  
young men and young women,  
old men and children.

Let them all praise the name of the Lord.  
For his name is very great;  
his glory towers over the earth and heaven!  
He has made his people strong,  
honoring his faithful ones—  
the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

## Intercession

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

## Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

## **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

## **Evening Short Reading:**

[One day] we were short of people, and we got some folks, our guests, to help serve. I came around the steam table and I said, "Okay, now. Do you know what to do?" And this man looked at me and said, "Yes, ma'am. I have to smile." Barb Schneider, soup kitchen volunteer

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### Evening Gospel: John 21:1-14

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

### Evening Psalm: Psalm 149

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song.  
Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful.

O Israel, rejoice in your Maker.  
O people of Jerusalem, exult in your King.  
Praise his name with dancing,  
accompanied by tambourine and harp.  
For the Lord delights in his people;  
he crowns the humble with victory.  
Let the faithful rejoice that he honors them.  
Let them sing for joy as they lie on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their mouths,  
and a sharp sword in their hands—  
to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,  
to bind their kings with shackles  
and their leaders with iron chains,  
to execute the judgment written against them.  
This is the glorious privilege of his faithful ones.

Praise the Lord!

### Intercession

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

"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.'"

### **Morning Short Reading:**

I always felt that I needed to be in a place to help people, and somehow that's what I've been doing. I guess my prayers have been answered.

Joyce Cue, social worker

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning Gospel: John 21:15-23**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Psalm: Psalm 150**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heaven!  
Praise him for his mighty works;  
praise his unequalled greatness!  
Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn;  
praise him with the lyre and harp!  
Praise him with the tambourine and dancing;  
praise him with strings and flutes!  
Praise him with a clash of cymbals;  
praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

“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.’”

### **Evening Short Reading:**

I came down, I walked in the door, and I immediately felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place. I had been praying to Mother Teresa for the right volunteer opportunity—go figure, I ended up in Over-the-Rhine serving the poor!

Joan Thompson, describing her first day volunteering at Cincinnati's Our Daily Bread

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Evening Gospel: John 21:24-25**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

**Evening Psalm: Psalm 150**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heaven!  
Praise him for his mighty works;  
praise his unequalled greatness!  
Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn;  
praise him with the lyre and harp!  
Praise him with the tambourine and dancing;  
praise him with strings and flutes!  
Praise him with a clash of cymbals;  
praise him with loud clanging cymbals.  
Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

**Intercession**

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

December 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

### **Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

“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.’”

### **Morning Short Reading:**

I choose kindness... I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

Max Lucado, *Upwords*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

### **Morning New Testament Reading: Acts 1**

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

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

### **Morning Reading From Isaiah: Is 38:9-20**

When King Hezekiah was well again, he wrote this poem:

I said, “In the prime of my life,  
must I now enter the place of the dead?  
Am I to be robbed of the rest of my years?”  
I said, “Never again will I see the Lord God  
while still in the land of the living.  
Never again will I see my friends  
or be with those who live in this world.  
My life has been blown away  
like a shepherd's tent in a storm.  
It has been cut short,

as when a weaver cuts cloth from a loom.  
Suddenly, my life was over.  
I waited patiently all night,  
but I was torn apart as though by lions.  
Suddenly, my life was over.  
Delirious, I chattered like a swallow or a crane,  
and then I moaned like a mourning dove.  
My eyes grew tired of looking to heaven for help.  
I am in trouble, Lord. Help me!"

But what could I say?  
For he himself sent this sickness.  
Now I will walk humbly throughout my years  
because of this anguish I have felt.  
Lord, your discipline is good,  
for it leads to life and health.  
You restore my health  
and allow me to live!  
Yes, this anguish was good for me,  
for you have rescued me from death  
and forgiven all my sins.  
For the dead cannot praise you;  
they cannot raise their voices in praise.  
Those who go down to the grave  
can no longer hope in your faithfulness.  
Only the living can praise you as I do today.  
Each generation tells of your faithfulness to the next.  
Think of it—the Lord is ready to heal me!  
I will sing his praises with instruments  
every day of my life  
in the Temple of the Lord.

### Intercession

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

### Midday

**Vow:** In a world that idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. 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 idolizes power, individualism and ego we'll demonstrate Christ's way of serving through practical acts of love.

**Scripture Related to the Vow: Matthew 25:41-45**

“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.’”

**Evening Short Reading:**

The posture of servanthood is not a posture of nonpower. Rather, the servant style of life and action is an alternative mode of power. It rests upon the sacrifice and perseverance; the power of healing and reconciliation; the power of creativity in offering new signs, building new models, pioneering new ideas; the power to suffer evil and violence rather than to inflict.; the power of resistance and celebration.

Jim Wallis, *Agenda for Biblical People*

**Vow Prayer:** Lord, in calling us to follow you, you call us to lives of serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives. Pour out your grace on us so we may live more and more out of your self-giving love and less and less out of our selfishness. May we rejoice to be called your good and faithful servants. Amen.

**Evening New Testament Reading: Acts 2**

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

And now, with the words Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Lord’s Prayer:**

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

**Evening Reading from Isaiah: Is 40:6-11**

A voice said, “Shout!”  
I asked, “What should I shout?”

“Shout that people are like the grass.  
Their beauty fades as quickly  
as the flowers in a field.  
The grass withers and the flowers fade  
beneath the breath of the Lord.  
And so it is with people.  
The grass withers and the flowers fade,  
but the word of our God stands forever.”

O Zion, messenger of good news,  
shout from the mountaintops!  
Shout it louder, O Jerusalem.

Shout, and do not be afraid.  
Tell the towns of Judah,  
"Your God is coming!"  
Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power.  
He will rule with a powerful arm.  
See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd.  
He will carry the lambs in his arms,  
holding them close to his heart.  
He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

### Intercession

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