



Prayers for Stewardship & God's Provision



DAY OF PRAYER

12TH MAY 2025

AN ORDER FOR GATHERED WORSHIP

THE GREETING

Leader Alleluia! Christ is risen.
All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, we may share abundantly in every good work.

cf. 2 Corinthians 9.8

A hymn may be sung

Leader Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,
All **giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.**
Leader Let us bring our gifts to the Lord
All **that they may be used for his glory.**
Leader May the Spirit of God fill our hearts
All **as we come to meet him in this place**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

CONFESSION

Leader As those who know the generosity of God, let us confess our sins, especially the ways in which we take his good gifts for granted.

Father, in all things you are generous towards us,
yet we have sown sparingly
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader Jesus, you show us the way of humility,
yet we have given reluctantly;
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader Holy Spirit, you show us the gift of grace,
yet we have loved grudgingly;
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All **Amen**

COLLECT

Leader God of grace, ever creating and restoring, you breathe life into all things and embrace us with an everlasting love; help us to grow in wonder and awe, to embody a spirit of gratitude, and to dream generous dreams; that, in gathering what we have, we may graciously offer ourselves to accomplish what you will, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Psalm 104.26-36 may be said

FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 8.1-15

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness,

and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something — now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has — not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, ‘The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.’

A hymn may be sung

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:1-4

We stand

Reader Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.’

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Here a sermon, or words of encouragement to those gathered may be said

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We say together

Bishop: Let us declare our faith in God

All: **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Please sit or kneel for our intercessions

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for his gifts so generous given to us,
and for the blessings we are called to share. For recognising that
all things come from you, for remembering that we are stewards
of your gifts, for wisely using the resources entrusted to us.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For rejoicing in the beauty of creation, for the care of your world,
for sharing the gifts of creation equally among all people.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For encountering the joy of giving, for humility in putting others' needs before our own, for embracing the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For courage in offering sacrificial generosity, for giving to be an act of worship, for grace in offering our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For all financial gifts offered to your Church, for freely giving as we have received, for giving and not counting the cost.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For releasing our hold on material possessions, for contentment in what we have, for trust in letting go.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For generosity in love, encouragement and hope, for openness in invitation and hospitality, for wisdom in the gift of friendship.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For serving you as you deserve, for following our calling as your disciples, for serving you with gladness of heart.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For being a blessing through the blessings we receive, for generosity which enables mission, for sharing abundantly in every good work.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: For living a generous life, for our actions to point beyond themselves, for our generosity to be an expression of love and gratitude.

All **We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Leader: Source of all life and giver of all that is good, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy forever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us.

We kneel or sit to pray

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

A hymn may be sung

CONCLUSION

Leader: The God of hope fill us with every blessing, that we may share in every good work; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ.

All **Amen.**

PERSONAL PRAYERS

PRAYER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me.

A COLLECT FOR STEWARDSHIP

God of grace, ever creating and restoring, you breathe life into all things and embrace us with an everlasting love; help us to grow in wonder and awe, to embody a spirit of gratitude, and to dream generous dreams; that, in gathering what we have, we may graciously offer ourselves to accomplish what you will, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE PROVISION OF FINANCES

Blessed are you, Lord God of the Universe, for you create out of the cosmos this fragile earth and give life to it. You maintain our lives with the spark of our heartbeat and the growth of food from the earth. Help us to be less afraid of vulnerability and to see clearly the inequality in our world and to respond by giving through your body, the Church. Amen.

PRAYER FOR USE BY A PCC REGARDING STEWARDSHIP

Heavenly Father and Creator of all we enjoy, we give you thanks for the countless people who have gone before us in the leadership of this church. We know that the Holy Spirit inspired some as they longed for this church, others as they built this church and still others as they lovingly and boldly led this church through times of abundance and times of scarcity. Help us to be bold as we model giving of time and money to this parish. Make our bold and generous pledge a symbol of both our integrity and our gratitude. Then help us to encourage giving with what we do and say, just as you did while physically teaching among your disciples. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE PROVISION OF TIME AND TALENT

Father, you breathed life into humanity and gave us various gifts and talents. Forgive us when we think that time and talent are made by us. Help us to see that all we have comes from your provision of life. May your offering of yourself for all be our model for living as we share the gifts and skills with those around us. Amen.

PRAYER FOR USE BY CHILDREN

Jesus, we love you and we know you love us. Everything we have is a gift from you. Thank you for play time and for our growing bodies. Thank you for our laughter and our joy. Help us to give some of our time and some of our money back to you. When we think of giving something away to someone who needs it, help us to give two and not just one. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR AN ABUNDANT SPIRIT

Abundant God, you made us in your image and breathed in us a spirit of generosity that is both gift and response. Move us, we pray, to give as we have received—abundantly, generously, and joyfully that our common ministry may ever bear witness to your unfailing grace. In the name of the Three in whom we are One, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR VISION

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life.

Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.