

Nurture 365

March

A Daily Devotional

By Robbie Pruitt



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A Prayer for Christ to Be Formed in Us:

“Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.”

(#71., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

About Nurture 365

Nurture 365 is a daily devotional compiled from devotional posts I have posted on Facebook and Instagram over the last few years. In 2021, I also started posting these in the Blog section of my website, www.robbypruitt.com.

My hope and prayer for these posts and this compilation of devotionals is that they help others to nurture their relationship with Jesus daily.

Each devotional has a title, questions to consider, an idea or two, a passage of scripture, an application of some kind, and a prayer from the 2019 Book of Common Prayer, published by The Anglican Church in North America, <https://bcp2019.anglican church.net>.

The basic flow for most of these devotionals is the acrostic S.O.A.P., scripture, observation, application, and prayer—an easy, consistent, simple, and predictable format.

These devotionals are designed to be basic and easy to read. They are not intended to be overly comprehensive or complete in the subjects they cover. Like salt, hopefully these brief offerings will enhance the flavor of your faith and make you thirst for more.

If you have questions, would like to talk, to know more about any of these devotional thoughts, if you would like to have a deeper conversation, or if you would like to pray, you can always reach out to me through text, my cell phone number is 571-346-9583.

In the end, the best devotional for you is the one you use. If this one does not work for you, please find one that does and use it daily. Reach out to me if you would like other suggestions.

As you begin your daily time with God, I suggest quieting yourself, and prayer—asking God to reveal himself to you, to help you see something you have not seen before, or to teach you something you did not know about him, his kingdom, yourself, or this world.

A great model for prayer is the acrostic A.C.T.S.: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. Take time to express your love for God. Confess to God where you have fallen short of loving him and others the way you should. Spend time in thanksgiving, expressing your gratitude to God for who he is and all he has done. Finally, ask God to supply what you need. (For a short article on this method read: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/simple-acrostic-prayer>).

I am praying with you and for you as you use this resource to draw near to Jesus and to nurture your faith.

In Christ alone,

Robbie Pruitt

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Find more at www.robbypruitt.com.

Day 1

Bearing, Believing, Hoping, and Enduring

How do you hold up under the weight of hardship? How do you keep the faith and believe? What gives you the hope you need? What enables you to endure difficulties?

We all face heaviness and weighty loads that we have to bear at some point in our lives. We all face challenges to our faith and have doubts in our relationships from time to time. We all need hope in the face of life's broken hopelessness.

Each of us encounter periods of trying and difficult times that require us to endure.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7, ESV).

When we are facing difficulties, "love bears all things".

When we are facing doubts that need faith and belief, "love believes all things".

When we are facing hopelessness that needs hope, "love hopes all things".

When we are facing troubles, difficulties, and hardships that need to be endured, "love endures all things."

May we lean in on God's love in the face of all kinds of circumstances and find that we are able to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things.

A Collect to Await Christ's Return: "O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 2

Fear

What keeps you in a state of fear? What releases you from fear?

Doubting God's provision and presence can lead us to fear. Recognizing God's presence can ease our fear and give us great courage. When we realize God is with us, that he will strengthen us, help us, and uphold us, our fear subsides.

God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah saying, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10, ESV).

We are called out of fear by God. We are not alone. God will strengthen us. God is with us, and God will help us. God will hold us in the palm of his hand.

May we relinquish all fear in the presence and power of God who is upholding us.

A Prayer for Trustfulness in Times of Worry and Anxiety: "Most loving Father, you will us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on the One who cares for us. Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested unto us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 3

Speaking Life

What do your words produce in the people around you? How do your words impact the world? Do your words impact the world for life, or do your words produce death in the world?

Wisdom tells us our words matter. Our words carry the weight of life and death.

The wisdom of the Proverbs tells us, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” (Proverbs 18:21, ESV).

We can speak life into a dead world. Our words impact the world and the people in it.

May we love God’s word of life and speak God’s word of life, and may we love and delight in eating its fruits.

A Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter: Good Shepherd: “O God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of your people: Grant that, when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 4

Pruning

What are the areas of your life, the branches, that are dead and fruitless and in need of care and pruning? Are there activities or habits that you are engaged in that are not producing good?

We can cut back on so much busyness in our lives which is not bearing good fruit. We can prune the areas of our lives which are dead and fruitless and sucking up valuable energy and time without producing fruit.

In the gospel of John, Jesus said to his disciples, “Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2, ESV).

God compares his people with a fruitful vine. The Vine Dresser—God will help nurture, craft, and remove branches in our lives so that we will grow, flourish, and bear an abundance of good fruit.

May we experience God’s good pruning work in our lives so that we can live fruitfully for God and his kingdom.

A Prayer for the Week of the Sunday from June 19 to June 25: Proper 7: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 5

Life's Anxieties

What are you worried and anxious about? Does it matter? Does it REALLY matter? Is what you are worried and anxious about equal to the sum-total of your life?

We can be anxious about many details of our lives, but anxieties and the details we are anxious over do not comprise the entirety of our life. Our life is more than our anxieties.

In Matthew's gospel account, Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25, ESV).

Our life is more than having our needs met. Our life is more than our anxieties.

May we be anxious for nothing and enjoy our lives as we trust in God to meet all our needs and to take good care of us.

A Prayer for Trustfulness in Times of Worry and Anxiety: "Most loving Father, you will us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on the One who cares for us. Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested unto us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 6

Knowledge and Glory

When you look at the world, what do you see? What message does creation send us?

The earth is full of the knowledge of God and the glory of God. This world communicates the understanding of God and God's glory.

The Prophet Habakkuk wrote of the knowledge of the Lord in creation, saying, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14, ESV).

God's character, nature, and glory fill the world, if we will only have the eyes to see the knowledge of the glory of the LORD.

May we have the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, and may we see God's glory blanketing the earth like a magnificent sea of knowledge and glory.

A Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter: "Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 7

Justice and Kindness

What does God think of injustice? How should we treat our neighbors, those who are different from us, and those who are in need? What does it look like for us to do justice and to exercise kindness in the world?

This life is filled with injustice, inequities, prideful arrogance, and self-supremacy.

God spoke through the Prophet Micah, saying, “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8, ESV).

God is just and requires his followers to do justice in this world. God is merciful and kind to his children and requires his children to love mercy and to live with kindness. God is great and mighty, and we are to walk in humility in the presence of his majesty.

May we live lives of justice and kindness as we live in humble obedience to our magnificent, kind, and just God.

A Prayer in Times of Social Conflict or Unrest: “Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (#44, Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 8

Last Words

If you were going away, what would be your final speech to those whom you love? What would you want your loved ones to know? What would you want them to be? What would you want them to do?

Our last words reflect what we value and what we see as essential and of utmost importance.

In John's Gospel, in chapter fourteen, Jesus was leaving his disciples to be crucified, to die, to raise again, and to ascend. Jesus was going away, and he wanted to exhort his disciples to love God and to keep his commandments. Jesus wanted to comfort his disciples with the hope and assurance of the presence of the Holy Spirit who the Father would send in his name to help them, to comfort them, to dwell with them, to be in them, and to give them life.

Jesus' disciple Judas, the son of James, wanted to know: "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" (John 14:22, ESV). Jesus answered, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." (John 14:23, ESV).

Some of Jesus' last words to his disciples was encouragement to love him and to keep his word. When we love Jesus and keep his word, God is present with us, and God makes his home with us. We are never alone when we love God and keep his commandments.

May we receive and obey Jesus' last words to us to love him and obey his word, and may we discover God's intimate presence as he abides with us as we live for him.

A Collect for Mission II: "O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 9

God's Good Promise of Home

Have you ever been homesick? Have you ever longed for home, to be in a familiar place of comfort and security with the people you love?

God desires to dwell with his people. From the very beginning of time when God set a garden in the middle of his creation and placed humanity in the middle of the garden, God walked with Adam and Eve in the paradise of the Garden of Eden.

Since the fall of humanity, all of scripture reveals God's pursuit of humanity, to rescue them, to restore them to himself, and to make his home with his people once again.

God revealed the final scene to the Apostle John of a new heaven and a new earth, the fulfillment of God's plan to make his home with his people, and to usher in his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

John heard a loud voice from the throne of God saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." (Revelation 21:3, ESV).

John tells us, "And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God... I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb." (Revelation 21:10 and 21:22, ESV).

God will fulfill his good promise to provide a home for us, where God will dwell with us forever. God will dwell once again with his children in a new heaven and a new earth. God will give us his true promised land, a new Jerusalem, where God will be with us, and where we will be with him.

May we anticipate this homecoming, this eternal family reunion, where we will be with God and with one another in that heavenly kingdom home—the true promised homeland.

A Prayer for the Communion of Saints: "O eternal Lord God, you hold all souls in life: Shed forth upon your whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of your light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served you here and are now at rest, may enter with them into the fullness of your unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (#113, Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 10

Moses's and Jesus's Final Speeches

What does God want us to do, and to look forward to, in anticipation of his leaving and his returning again?

When God called his people out of slavery in Egypt and used his servant Moses to lead them to the promised land, their new home of blessing, peace, and provision, Moses sinned against God and was told he would not enter the land of promise. At the end of Moses' life, he gave a final speech to the Israelites, God's chosen people, encouraging them to love God and to keep his commandments.

In Moses's last speech, the Book of Deuteronomy, he spoke to the people of God in several places, saying, "You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always." (Deuteronomy 11:1, ESV).

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it." (Deuteronomy 30:15-16, ESV).

In John's gospel account, Jesus captures the essence of this final speech of Moses in his own final speech to his disciples, when he said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15, ESV).

The promised land is a metaphor for home; a new creation; a new Eden; a restored creation; a place where God will dwell with his people in God's shalom—God's perfect peace.

Jesus had just promised his disciples that he was preparing a place for them, when he said, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:1-3, ESV).

May we take courage in Jesus's final speech, which promises us our heavenly homecoming and our dwelling with God and his children.

A Prayer for the Coming of God's Kingdom: "Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen." (#115, Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 11

Doing the Work

What good gift of work has God given you? How are you gifted and skilled to impact the world with your labor, productivity, and creativity for the glory of God?

God has given us the good gift of work. We can cultivate creation to produce a fruitful abundance. We can impact this world to be better. We can make an impact and a difference through our labors.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Thessalonian Church, saying, “aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.” (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, ESV).

Our personal responsibility and diligent work is an important part of our life, the well-being of the world, and our witness. We walk in harmony with others, and we are good stewards, as we do our work in the world.

May we aspire to live wisely and to work diligently as we impact the world for God’s glory, and as we do the work of God and his kingdom.

A Prayer for Rogation Day (Tuesday): “Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give us all a right satisfaction in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 12

The Children's Kingdom

How does God view children? What do children possess that we should aspire to?

God views children as his beloved who are close to God and to the kingdom of God.

Jesus spoke about children and the kingdom of God in Matthew's Gospel, saying, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 'Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.'" (Matthew 18:3-5, ESV).

Children are near and dear to God. It is only when we become humble like children that we will enter God's kingdom.

When we receive a child in Jesus' name, we receive Jesus himself.

May we rest in the comfort that God's kingdom belongs to children, may we become like children and inherit God's kingdom, and may we receive Jesus by receiving children.

A Prayer for all Faithful Departed: "Almighty God, with whom the souls of the faithful who have departed this life are in joy and felicity: We praise and magnify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear; and we most humbly pray that, at the day of resurrection, we and all who are members of the mystical body of your Son may be set on his right hand, and hear his most joyful voice: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen." (#114., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 13**Ascended High Priest**

What does it mean that Jesus is our ascended High Priest?

Because Jesus ascended to the right hand of God in heaven, we can be assured that he is interceding on our behalf. We have an advocate with God. We have a priest who has lived in this world, who has experienced what we have experienced, and who can identify with us and advocate for us. We can come before God with confidence and expect to receive grace and mercy because of Jesus' ascension.

The author of the book of Hebrews proclaimed, "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14, 16, ESV).

We can hold fast to our faith because Jesus has ascended to heaven. We can come boldly before God because Jesus is seated with the Father in heaven and is interceding on our behalf. We can expect to receive the grace of God and the mercy of God we need to help us because Jesus has ascended to his throne in heaven.

May we come boldly to God and "with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

A Collect for Ascension Day: "Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven: May our hearts and minds also there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 14

Sent

Who is God sending you to? What is God sending you out to do? If God sends us all out to do his work in the world, what might it look like in our lives to obey that call?

God sent his only son into the world for the purpose of our salvation, redemption, and restoration. Jesus was sent to us on a mission from the Father.

God sent Jesus on mission in the world, and God sends us on mission in the world.

In John's gospel account, Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21, ESV).

Jesus gives us his peace and sends us out to do the work he has given us to do.

May we receive the peace of Jesus and obey God's sending as we do his work in the world.

A Prayer for Those Who Serve Others: "O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others especially those who are laboring in this time of plague; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 15

Poverty of Spirit

Do you feel blessed when you are at your lowest? Are you thinking of another kingdom, or way of life, when you have a broken spirit?

In this broken and sin-filled world, it is easy to be impoverished in our spirit. We can feel weighed down by the cares, the traumas, and the brokenness in our lives, and in the lives of those around us.

In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew's gospel, Jesus promised, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3, ESV).

We can anticipate another kingdom and way of life in the shadows of this one. God has the kingdom of heaven awaiting those of us who are impoverished in spirit. Jesus went so far as to call the poor in spirit "blessed".

May we anticipate the coming kingdom of God in our poverty of spirit and know that we are blessed. As Jesus promised, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

A Prayer for the Saturday after Ascension Day: "Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven: May our hearts and minds also there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 16

Love Sacrifices

What does true love, dedication, and commitment look like? How do we love others well?
What is the greatest expression of love?

Love is dedicated and love sacrifices for the benefit of others. Love is a commitment to give of yourself for another.

In John's gospel account, Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13, ESV).

Jesus modeled sacrificial love for us by dying on the cross so that we might have abundant life. Jesus is dedicated to saving us and committed to give his life for ours.

Anytime anyone gives their life for the life of another, they are reflecting the love of God. This sacrificial love is the greatest love. As Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13, ESV).

May we remember the love of Jesus as we remember all those who paid the ultimate price by laying their lives down in the greatest act of sacrificial love.

A Collect for Memorial Day: "O King and Judge of the nations: We remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our armed forces, who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy; grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and for ever. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 17

The Blameless Way

When is your conscience at its clearest and your pathway most blameless? What guards you as you go through life? How is your way clear and secure?

Our righteousness is our guard against sin and the accusation of the enemy. The sin and brokenness that inflicts us will eventually undo and overthrow the wicked who impose their sin upon us.

Righteousness will win the day and will bring about the blameless way.

The wisdom of the Proverbs promises us, "Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but sin overthrows the wicked." (Proverbs 13:6, ESV).

Righteousness is its own reward. The way of righteousness guards us in blamelessness along our pathway of life.

May we live righteous lives and find ourselves guarded along a blameless pathway.

A Collect for Peace: "O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 18

What You Wear

Does what you wear communicate something about you? What are you saying about yourself, or about God, by what you put on display for others to see?

We communicate through what we put on display; by what we wear, by what we say, by what we do, by how we live in the world, and through the decisions we make. How we present ourselves matters, because it communicates.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Colossian church, saying, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12, ESV).

If we are representatives of God, as God’s chosen and beloved children, then we must represent God well through putting on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. The world needs to see Jesus. We need to put Jesus on display for all to see.

May we clothe ourselves with Jesus and put his character and nature on display for all to see.

A Collect for Mission, III: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 19
Mercy

Have you ever experienced someone being merciless? Have you ever been shown mercy? Have you ever given someone the mercy you wished you had been shown?

It has been said that grace is getting what we do not deserve, and mercy is not getting what we do deserve.

God has shown us such great mercy.

Because we do not get what we deserve, we should also show mercy to others.

In Luke's gospel account, Jesus instructed his followers to "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36, ESV).

As God has shown us his extravagant mercy, we are to be generously merciful to others.

May we express the mercy of God to others out of our deep understanding and gratitude for how God has been merciful to us.

A Collect for Guidance: "Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 20**Set Your Mind Right**

What is your mind set upon? What are you often thinking of? Is your mind focused on the Spirit, on life, and on peace? Is your mind set upon eternity?

We can set our minds on material things or on our fleshly desires, or we can set our minds on eternity and the things of the Spirit.

The Apostle Paul wrote the church in Rome instructing them on where they should focus their minds, saying, “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, ESV).

If we set our minds on the sin nature, it leads to death, but when we set our minds on the Spirit, it leads to life and peace.

May we set our minds upon the Spirit and enjoy God’s life and peace.

A Collect for Endurance: “Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 21**Loving Your Neighbor**

How should you love your neighbor? How do you expect your neighbor to show love to you? Why is it important for us to love our neighbor?

Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. It is essential that we express the love we have for God to our neighbor. Love fulfills all of God's law.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:14, ESV).

May we fulfill God's law as we love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

A Collect for Mission, III: "O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 22

Power On

Have you ever tried to use appliances without plugging them in? What is it like to not have power when you need power? What is it like when the power is on?

Just like mechanical appliances require power to function properly, followers of Jesus also need the power of the Holy Spirit to properly function as God's witnesses in the world.

When God gives us his Holy Spirit, the power of God is on in our lives. We have God's power to do God's work in the world.

In Luke's writing, in The Book of Acts, Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8, ESV).

Like the early disciples at Pentecost, we have the Power of God to be his witnesses, because we have been given the Holy Spirit. Power on.

May we live empowered lives as witnesses of Jesus in the world through his Holy Spirit living in us and working through us.

A Collect for the Day of Pentecost: "Almighty God, on this day, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, you revealed the way of eternal life to every race and nation: Pour out this gift anew, that by the preaching of the Gospel your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 23**A New Heart**

What is the condition of your heart toward God and others? Is your heart hard and calloused or soft and receptive?

God desires for us to have a receptive heart and spirit. God wants to give us a new heart to love him and to be receptive to his will.

God spoke through the Prophet Ezekiel saying, “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26, ESV).

God will remove our hardness of heart. God will give us the heart and spirit we need to love him well. God will put his heart within us. God will put his spirit within us.

May we receive the heart and Spirit of God as we love God and do his will.

A Collect for the Renewal of Life: “O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 24

Humility

What does it mean to humble yourself? Have you ever humbled yourself? Have you ever been humbled, or been brought low? How low can you go? How low do you want to go?

Pride is a pandemic. Humility is rare. However, humility is the high calling for the follower of Jesus. If we want to submit to the high call of God, we must get low in Godly humility.

In his first letter, the Apostle Peter encouraged suffering believers, saying, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.” (1 Peter 5:6, ESV).

Our humble obedience under God leads to God lifting us up in his exaltation. When we get low, God takes us higher.

May we live lives of humility as we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and may we find ourselves lifted by God as we get low in humble obedience to him.

A Collect for Grace: “O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 25**God's Protection and Rescue**

When you are overwhelmed beyond measure, what is it that you need? When the turbulent and troubled waters of life swell and threaten to overwhelm you in their torrent, who protects you? When the fiery trials threaten to consume, who is your rescuer?

God is our protector. God is with us when we are overwhelmed. God is with us in our troubles and hardships. God is our rescuer.

God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah, saying, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." (Isaiah 43:2, ESV).

We can trust that God is with us in the torrential and troubled waters of life. We can count on God when we are battered by the waves of hardship and grief. We will be protected and saved from the rushing rivers of sorrow that threaten to sweep us away. We can walk through the fiery trials and not be consumed because God is our protector and rescuer.

May we rest in the assurance of God's presence and power to protect and rescue us, and may we live lives of obedient endurance as we trust in him.

A Prayer for the Saturday after the Day of Pentecost: "Grant, O Lord, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your providence, that your Church may joyfully serve you in quiet confidence and godly peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 26**Do Not Be Outdone**

What are the limits to how much you are willing to love and honor others? If showing affection were a competition, would you be winning, or would someone be outdoing you?

When it comes to loving one another, we are to outdo one another in expressing our love and in showing honor.

In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul encouraged the church to, “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” (Romans 12:10, ESV).

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love one another like family. We are called to outdo one another in expressing love and honor. We are not to be outdone in the way we express God’s love, care, and esteem for each other.

May we live our lives in such a way that we are never outdone in our love and honor of our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

A Collect for the Monday after Trinity Sunday: “O Lord, from whom all good proceeds: Grant us the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may always think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may accomplish the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 27**God's Goodness and Love**

Do you believe that God is good? Do you believe that God loves you?

Not only is God good, but God's goodness and love for us is steady and enduring.

The Chronicler wrote, encouraging the people of God, saying, "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" (1 Chronicles 16:34, ESV).

We can give thanks to God because he is fundamentally good and because his loyal love for us is eternal.

May we rest assured of God's goodness and everlasting love for us.

A Collect for the Tuesday after Trinity Sunday: "O Lord, from whom all good proceeds: Grant us the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may always think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may accomplish the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 28

Craftsmanship

Do you know that you are a work of art? Do you know that you were crafted in Christ Jesus to do his handiwork?

You are God's workmanship. You are God's work of art, created by God to do God's good work in the world. You are God's artwork, created to be God's artist.

The Apostle Paul wrote the church in Ephesus, encouraging them to understand their creative identity and their creative purpose in Jesus. Paul said, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

God has created us and called us into his creativity to do his good works, which he has prepared for us, so that we may walk in them.

May we walk in the craftsmanship of God's good work in the world and perpetuate his goodness and creativity in the world.

A Prayer for Those Who Serve Others: "O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served, but to serve: We ask you to bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others especially those who are laboring in this time of plague; endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage, that they may strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall, and, being inspired by your love, may worthily minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the sake of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ." (#45., Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 29
Jesus' Mind

Have you ever been out of your mind? Have you ever been in your right mind? Have you ever experienced the mind of God?

We all have a mind and are called to be of sound mind. As followers of Jesus, we are called to have the mind of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul wrote the church in Philippi, encouraging them to have the mind of Jesus, saying, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5, ESV).

We can have the same mind of Jesus, which is ours as followers of Jesus.

May we think like Jesus and act like Jesus through Jesus' mind which he has given us.

A Collect for the Presence of Christ: "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." (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 30**Trust and Courage**

Where do you look for salvation? Where do you place your trust? How do you summon courage in the face of fear? Where do you get your strength?

There are many times when we need salvation in this broken and sin-filled world. We need the trustworthiness of God in the face of our uncertainty and the unreliability of a broken and sinful world. We need courage in the face of our fears. We need God and his strength and salvation.

The Prophet Isaiah prophesied of his trust in God, saying, “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” (Isaiah 12:2, ESV).

God’s provision of salvation, trustworthiness, courage, and strength leads us to confident assurance, security, and worship. The LORD GOD is our strength and our song, and he has become our salvation.

May we trust in God and be courageous in the face of our fears, and in our time of need, and may we be strengthened and receive the salvation we need in him.

A Collect for Faith: “Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies’ sake. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

Day 31

Remembering

Is it easier to remember the bad things or the good things in life? What takes up most of your thinking and attention, the good or the bad, or what you have, or what you do not have?

We can remember the deficits in life, or we can remember the blessings. We can remember what we have lost, or we can remember what we have been given.

The Psalmist writes, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” (Psalm 103:2, ESV).

When we remember God’s blessings, it is worship. We bless God and worship him when we remember all his benefits.

May we remember God and all he has given us and worship him with all our days.

A Collect for the Eve of Worship: “O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 2019).

A Thanksgiving Prayer

“Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks that demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments that satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he conquered death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.”

(#117., Book of Common Prayer, 2019)

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About Robbie



Pastor Robbie is from Columbia, SC and moved to Northern Virginia with his wife, Irene, in 2004, to continue his calling of pastoral ministry. He and his family live in Ashburn, Virginia, where Robbie is the Rector (Pastor) at an Anglican Church in Fairfax, Virginia. He and his family have also lived in Alexandria, Virginia, where Robbie was the Director of Youth Ministry and Pastoral Associate for four years, and in Port-au-Prince, Haiti for five years, where Robbie was the High School Bible Teacher at a Christian school. Robbie has his Master of Arts in Theology from Columbia International University, a Diploma in Christian Ministry from Trinity School for Ministry, and a B.S. in Bible, with an emphasis on youth ministry, also from CIU. Robbie and Irene have four children, Grace, Hannah, Simeon, and Jacob. Robbie enjoys spending time with his family, mountain biking, hiking, concert going, studying the Bible and Biblical context, writing poetry, and writing about theology, leadership, and discipleship.

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