

**LECTIONARY TEXTS**

**RCL** (Revised Common Lectionary)  
Isaiah 61:10—62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

**Suggested ReClaim texts**  
(same)



**COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Grant, almighty God, that the joyous birth of your Son in human flesh may set us free from the old bondage of sin; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Optional Supplications for)**

**ON THE GOSPEL READING • Luke 2:22-40**

Gracious Father, help us to wait with expectation, as did Simeon and Anna, knowing by faith that there will be fulfillment of your promise. Summon us anew, O Lord, to station ourselves where your glory is proclaimed and your Word is known. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, O God, that he may direct us according to your will, comfort us in all afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth, that we, steadfast in faith, may ever increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR THE CHURCH**

Grant to your church, O Lord, your Holy Spirit, and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that we may serve you in steadfast faith and, in the confession of your name, abide to the end. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR OUR ADVERSARIES**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have commanded us to love our enemies, and to pray for those who persecute us. We pray for our adversaries who assault our faith throughout the world. Grant us wisdom and strength to stand firm, to speak the truth in love, and to accept the cost of being faithful witnesses. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FROM CALAMITY AND ATTACK**

Gracious God and Father, you have taught us that, "Unless the Lord watches over the city the watchmen guard it in vain." Watch over America, as we contend with the threat of terrorism and destruction from enemies within and enemies without. Our trust is in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we thank you that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us to keep your Word in pure hearts, so we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and in death. **Amen.**