

LECTIONARY TEXTS

RCL (Revised Common Lectionary)

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

Suggested ReClaim texts
(same)**COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Merciful and gracious Father, only because of your self-giving gift to us in Jesus Christ can we render to you true and laudable service. Help us to faithfully serve you in this mortal life, and forever in your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Optional Supplications for*)**ON THE GOSPEL READING • John 6:56-69**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, your words cause offense, not because they are hard to understand, but hard to accept. Grant us always the life-giving work of the Spirit, that we may come to you and believe your Word, for there is no one else to whom we can go who has the words of eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR LOVE TO GOD

Gracious Father, fill our hearts with such love for you, that when you awaken in us new spiritual desires and spiritual longings, we are not turned away by any seductions of the world or of the flesh. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR DIVINE GUIDANCE AND HELP

Heavenly Father, enable us to will and to do those things which are good and acceptable in your sight. Let your Holy Spirit lead us in knowledge and obedience to your Word, that we may come to eternal life now and forever. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THE UNITY OF THE FAITH

Gracious Father, you restore those who err, and gather those who stray. Preserve your church in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Pour out upon it your gift of unity that all divisions may be healed, and your flock, united with the true Shepherd, may serve and worship you. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THE RESTORATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE ERRED

Gracious God and Father, we pray for all who have wandered from the faith, or who are in doubt or temptation. By your Word and Spirit open to them the way of return, that they may again find delight in you, and walk again on the way to life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THOSE IN AFFLICTION

Almighty God, hear the prayers of those who turn to you in their time of trial. Be their refuge and strength and, to the glory of your name, their very present help in trouble. Gracious Father, hear our prayer for your servants who are ill, for whom we implore your help and mercy that, being restored to health, they may give you thanks and praise with your whole church. 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.**
