

**LECTIONARY TEXTS**

RCL (Revised Common Lectionary)

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

**Suggested ReClaim texts**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11



**COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son, so that by his coming we may be made ready to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, 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 • Matthew 11:2-11**

Tune our hearts to your humble comings, O Lord, so that we do not question who you are, but believe that God is present in you, even if not in a way we expected. Forgive us when we still doubt that you are the One. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR THE BLESSINGS OF REDEMPTION**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give you thanks that in your great mercy you sent your only Son to become incarnate, and to redeem us from sin and everlasting death. We pray that you would so reign in our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may give thanks always for your grace, and may comfort ourselves with the same in every time of trial and temptation. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR THE CHURCH**

Merciful Lord, cast the bright beams of your light upon your church, that being instructed by the teachings of the Apostles we may walk in the light of your truth, and may at last enter into the light of eternity. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR MISSIONS**

O God, you gave your only Son for the redemption of all people. We pray that from the rising to the setting of the sun, your name may be proclaimed to the nations, and that in every place holy hands may be lifted up to you in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Almighty God, you have given us this land in which we are free to hear your Word and confess your name. We pray that you safeguard this liberty, that it may continue to our children's children, and that the proclamation of the Gospel may here abound, to our blessing and the blessing of all nations, and to the glory of your name. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**FOR THE SICK**

Visit and relieve, O Lord, your servants who are ill, for whom we now make supplication, naming them in our hearts. Comfort them with a sure confidence in your care, defend them in danger, and keep them in your lasting peace and safety. 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.**

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