

LECTIONARY TEXTS

RCL (Revised Common Lectionary)

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Suggested ReClaim texts

**COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Absolve your people, O Lord, from their offenses, that by your bountiful grace we may be delivered from the bonds of sin, which our own frailty has brought upon us; 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**ON THE GOSPEL READING • Matthew 25:14-30**

Gracious God and Father, you entrust us with the stewardship of all that you own, and command us to love you and our neighbor. By your Word and Holy Spirit, instruct and inspire us in faithful stewardship. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day of international prayer for your persecuted body, the Christian church, we pray that the political struggle in Ethiopia and Egypt may be resolved without further bloodshed, and that the new governments will protect the rights and freedoms of Christians who are under threat from family members, neighbors, and the Islamic majority. Give courage and perseverance to pastors and all who are working to strengthen the churches, to stand firm for Christ in their suffering. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR OUR MILITARY

Almighty God, our refuge and strength, be with all who serve in the military forces, especially _____. Give them courage and strength, and spare them from harm and destruction. Grant that they may find in you, refuge, and in Christ, mercy. Let hope and comfort attend their families, and grant a speedy resolution with a just and lasting peace. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD

We give you thanks, O Lord, for you are good and your mercy endures forever. You create and you sustain. You redeem and you sanctify. You give bread for the body and refresh our souls. You take away the burden of our sins, comfort us in sorrow, and answer us before we can ask. To you be glory forever. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THOSE IN AFFLICTION

O Lord, comforter of the sorrowing and strength of the weak, hear our prayers for all who suffer illness and distress that, whatever their needs, they may receive and know your help and comfort. 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.**
