

LECTIONARY TEXTS

RCL (Revised Common Lectionary)
 Malachi 4:1-2a
 Psalm 98
 2 Thessolonians 3:6-13
 Luke 21:5-19

Suggested ReClaim texts
 (same)

**COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty, everlasting, and merciful God, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, you established your everlasting kingdom of grace, that here in your holy church we should believe in the forgiveness of sins, and know you have no pleasure in the death of sinners, but only that they turn from their wickedness and live. Pardon all our sins, 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**

Lord God, heavenly Father, save us from speculating about the end of the world, and from false teachers who pretend to read signs. By your Word prepare and equip your church to expect and endure persecution for the sake of your name. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Our Father in heaven, you have made us to be one Body in Christ, so that when one suffers all suffer. We join hands on this International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, and pray for all who suffer for your name's sake. Grant them the inner strength of your presence, the peace that passes all understanding, and the joy of being partakers in your suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR STEADFASTNESS

Heavenly Father, in your love for sinners you sent your Son that we might believe in him and have eternal life. Help us, by your Holy Spirit, to continue steadfast in this faith to the end that we may come to everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR OUR ENEMIES

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you have commanded us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who persecute us. We pray for the enemies of our faith who seek our harm, that by your gracious visitation they may be turned from their way and be of one mind with us and with the whole church. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR OUR MILITARY

Almighty God, our refuge and strength, be with all who serve in our 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.

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.**
