

LECTIONARY TEXTS

RCL (Revised Common Lectionary)

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Suggested ReClaim texts

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Matthew 1:18-25



COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, hear our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; through 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 • Matthew 1:18-25

Tune our hearts to the unfathomable mystery of your coming, O Lord, that we may greet you as Emmanuel, God with us, and that we may own the promise that your coming will ransom us from depths of hell, and grant victory o'er the grave. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD

We give you thanks, O Lord, and praise your holy name, for you are good and your mercy endures forever. You create us, and you sustain us. You redeem us and you sanctify us. You give bread for the body and you refresh our souls with your life-giving Spirit. You take away the burden of our sins, comfort us in every sorrow, and bless us with more than we can ask or think. To you be glory in the church forevermore. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THE UNBORN

Creator of life, guard and preserve the unborn, the work of your own hand, and be with mothers who carry them. Bring them both safely through peril to the joy of life. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR DELIVERANCE FROM SIN

Gracious Lord, we pray for deliverance from sin, that in your mercy we may be set free from its power, and rescued from its consequences. 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 in steadfast faith we may serve you, and in the confession of your name, abide to the end. 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, and be their refuge and strength, and to the glory of your name, their very present help in trouble. 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.**
