

**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.**

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**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH****ON THE GOSPEL READING - *The Birth of Jesus***

Tune our hearts to the mystery of your birth, O Lord, that we may welcome you as Emmanuel, God in flesh with us abiding, whose coming is our salvation. 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 enlighten 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 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. 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.**

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