

LECTIONARY TEXTS

RCL (Revised Common Lectionary)

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Suggested ReClaim texts
(same)



COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy upon our infirmity, and in every danger and necessity defend us with your mighty hand against all enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 4:12-23

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light for all who sit in darkness in the shadow of death. We pray that by your epiphany, you will repent our hearts from darkness to the light, to follow you, and to labor in your Kingdom, bearing the light to others. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR THE CHURCH

Look in mercy upon your church, O Lord, and grant it unity and strength. Awaken those who are asleep. Bring back those who have strayed, and gather into your fold people of every tongue and race. 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.

FOR OUR ENEMIES

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you have commanded us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. We pray for those who denigrate our faith and would deny us the practice of it. Grant us strength to stand firm, to speak the truth in love, and to accept the consequences in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THE ISLAMIC PEOPLE

Lord Jesus Christ, obedient to your command to go into all the world and make disciples, we pray for the unbelieving world, especially the Islamic peoples. Help us to learn how to speak truth to each another in love, so that many may come to the truth, and believe the Good News that in Jesus Christ our redemption has come. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE DEPARTED

We give thanks, everlasting Father, for your servants who have departed this life in faith and now share the joys of your heavenly Kingdom. We humbly ask that, with them, we may live in Christ and die in him, and finally awaken in his likeness in the resurrection to life everlasting.

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.**