



Desert Cross Daily Prayer, Scripture, & Devotion
Week of October 19—October 24, 2020

*You are encouraged to gather with the members of your household and join the members and friends of the Desert Cross community; though we be in separate locations, let us worship together at **6pm**.*

Daily Spiritual Examen

The Daily Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern God's direction for us. The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work in our whole experience. Come, let us pray.

This week we will reflect upon our upcoming appointed worship texts for October 25th as we anticipate meeting in-person and our new livestream so the scriptures are in our minds and hearts throughout the week before we gather.

Come, let us pray.

Monday, October 19, 2020

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ *The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,^[a] says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.*

Daily Spiritual Examen

Gather together! If able, light a candle as a way of asking for God's light as you look over the day . . . Say a prayer that you all know, such as the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Examen: Share with each other or think to yourself:

Go through your day: what happened this morning? . . .
What happened at lunch time . . . and in the afternoon? . . .

How was the evening meal? . . .

What else do you remember about today? ...

What was good about today? . . .

What was difficult about the day? . . .

What are you finding hard about having to stay inside at the moment? Or what is difficult about needing to go out?

Where did you see God in your day?

Ask God for what you need for tomorrow . . .

Pray for anyone who might be feeling lonely or sick at this time . . .

Thank God for this day . . .

Closing: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Read Psalm 46:1-5

- ¹ *God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^[a] help in trouble.*
- ² *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;*
- ³ *though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah*
- ⁴ *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*
- ⁵ *God is in the midst of the city,^[b] it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.*

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Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Read Psalm 46:6-10

- ⁶ *The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.*
- ⁷ *The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.^[a] Selah*
- ⁸ *Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.*
- ⁹ *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.*
- ¹⁰ *"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."*

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Thursday, October 22, 2020

Read Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

Righteousness through Faith

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ ^[a] for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement ^[b] by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ^[c]

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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Friday, October 23, 2020

Read John 8:31-36

True Disciples

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

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Saturday, October 24, 2020

Read Hebrews 4:12-16

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Jesus the Great High Priest

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested^[d] as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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