



**Desert Cross Daily Devotion**  
**Week of November 16—November 21, 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.

***This is our final week of preaching through Matthew 5 in our November worship. This week we will continue to reflect upon key lectionary scriptures that align with The Sermon on the Mount from the Old and New Testament.***

Come, let us pray.

**Monday, November 16, 2020**

**Read Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>*Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,* <sup>2</sup>*and he began to teach them.*

*The Beatitudes*

*He said:*

<sup>3</sup>*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,*

*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>4</sup>*Blessed are those who mourn,*

*for they will be comforted.*

<sup>5</sup>*Blessed are the meek,*

*for they will inherit the earth.*

<sup>6</sup>*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,*

*for they will be filled.*

<sup>7</sup>*Blessed are the merciful,*

*for they will be shown mercy.*

<sup>8</sup>*Blessed are the pure in heart,*

*for they will see God.*

<sup>9</sup>*Blessed are the peacemakers,*

*for they will be called children of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of  
evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in  
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**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, November 17, 2020

### Read Matthew 5:13-16

#### **Salt and Light**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

#### 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:

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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."

## Wednesday, November 18, 2020

### Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20

<sup>15</sup> See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup> For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup> This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup> and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

## 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:

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### 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? . . .

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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."

## Thursday, November 19, 2020

### Read Sirach\* 15:15-20

(\*Sirach is part of the "Apocrypha," which are ancient writings considered sacred but not divinely inspired scripture. Martin Luther said, "Apocrypha—that is, books which are not regarded as equal to the holy Scriptures, and yet are profitable and good to read." In many study Bibles, the apocryphal writings are printed between the Old and New Testaments.)

<sup>15</sup> *If you choose, you can keep the commandments,  
and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice.*

<sup>16</sup> *He has placed before you fire and water;  
stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.*

<sup>17</sup> *Before each person are life and death,  
and whichever one chooses will be given.*

<sup>18</sup> *For great is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is mighty in power and sees everything;*

<sup>19</sup> *his eyes are on those who fear him,  
and he knows every human action.*

<sup>20</sup> *He has not commanded anyone to be wicked,  
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.*

## 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:

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### Examen: Share with each other or think to yourself:

Go through your day: what happened this morning? . . .  
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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."

## Friday, November 20, 2020

### Read Psalm 119:1-8

<sup>1</sup> *Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the Lord.*

<sup>2</sup> *Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart—*

<sup>3</sup> *they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.*

<sup>4</sup> *You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.*

<sup>5</sup> *Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!*

<sup>6</sup> *Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.*

<sup>7</sup> *I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.*

<sup>8</sup> *I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.*

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**Saturday, November 21, 2020**

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

***The Church and Its Leaders***

*<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?*

*<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.*

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