



Desert Cross Daily Prayer, Scripture, & Devotion
Week of November 9—November 14, 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 week as we preach through Matthew 5 in our November worship, we will reflect upon key scriptures that align with The Sermon on the Mount from the Old and New Testament.

Come, let us pray.

Monday, November 9, 2020

Read Micah 6:6-8

What God Requires

⁶ *“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?*

*Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?*

⁷ *Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?*

*Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”*

⁸ *He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you*

*but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

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 10, 2020

Read Psalm 15

*Who Shall Abide in God's Sanctuary?
A Psalm of David.*

¹ *O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?*

² *Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;*

³ *who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;*

⁴ *in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;*

⁵ *who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.*

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Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

¹⁸ *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."*

²⁰ *Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.*

²⁶ *Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ*

Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. ³¹ *Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”*

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Read Isaiah 58:1-9a

False and True Worship

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

*Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.*

² *Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.*

³ *“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.*

⁴ *Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.*

*Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.*

⁵ *Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?*

*Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?*

*Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?*

⁶ *Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?*

⁷ *Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

⁸ *Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[a] shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.*

⁹ *Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.*

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Thank God for this day . . .

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Friday, November 13, 2020

Read Psalm 112:1-9

Blessings of the Righteous

¹ *Praise the Lord!*

*Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.*

² *Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.*

³ *Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.*

⁴ *They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.*

⁵ *It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.*

⁶ *For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.*

⁷ *They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.*

⁸ *Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.*

⁹ *They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.*

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Saturday, November 14, 2020

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

The True Wisdom of God

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom,

secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

*"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—*

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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