

## **Prayer Calendar**

### **December 2022**

#### **Bible Reading Plan for Luke**

We conclude our Bible Reading Plan for the New Testament with the profound book of Luke. The words of Luke the physician draws a portrait of Jesus the Savior, who brings the love of God to earth and draws the people of God to heaven. Here we see a man of prayer and action, who could be continually mindful of God and yet be fully present with people as an attentive, empathetic healer.

#### **Wednesday, December 1**

*Luke 3:21-22 | Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*

~ Lord God, through the baptism of Jesus we are also known as beloved, and you are well pleased with us as your children. This grace is amazing, and we are grateful and filled with hope for our lives. Help us remember we are called beloved.

#### **Thursday, December 2**

*Luke 4:40 | As the sun was setting all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them.*

~ Loving Lord, you heal the sick in body, mind, and spirit. Help me give myself in humility to your healing touch and participate in your healing of my wounds and brokenness. Today, I need healing for \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Friday, December 3**

*Luke 5:16 | But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.*

~ Lord Jesus, you knew your limits and what you needed to be restored. Help us know our limits and what we need to be spiritually filled. Like you we need to go out to deserted places to pray – help us find the time, show us the places to go and guide us in prayer to restore our souls.

#### **Saturday, December 4**

*Rest | Today sit in silence for a few minutes. Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Listen to the sounds around you and give thanks for the moment, the place, the people and the activity that surrounds you.*

#### **Sunday, December 5**

*Reflect | Review the readings of the past week. What one scripture stuck with you. Read it again and reflect on its meaning for your life. In what ways can you take action to let go of sin and embrace wholeness?*

#### **Monday, December 6**

*Luke 6:12 | Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God.*

~ Holy One, there are times we need to spend all night in prayer with you. Sometimes we cannot sleep, and our spirits are uneasy. It is at these times we can find comfort and assurance, forgiveness, and guidance in your arms. Help us chose this path of prayer in the late hours of the night rather than going to our t.v.s, internet, or our phones. It is in you and in times of prayer we can find true peace.

### **Tuesday, December 7**

*Luke 7:48-50 | “Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven. But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”*

~ Lord Jesus, when we trust you enough to confess our sins you are faithful and just to forgive us our sins. Thank you for this gift of grace and hope. Today I confess \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Wednesday, December 8**

*Luke 8:22-25 | Read the story of Jesus calms the storm several times. Reflect on these words, ‘He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.’*

~ Lord God, we can trust you in the many unexpected storms of our lives. They come upon us every day – sometimes overpowering, sometimes just little squalls. When we are overwhelmed all the storms feel like hurricanes. Help us trust your voice that speaks out over the winds to be quiet and be still within ourselves, so we do not become overpowered by fear. You are with us.

### **Thursday, December 9**

*Luke 9:12 | The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; or we are here in a deserted place. But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.”*

~ Lord Jesus, you want us to participate in the healing, feeding, and comforting of the world. You want us to take the power you have given to us and use it in your service. Are we able to do this? You say yes. Give us the nudge and encouragement to be your hands and feet in the world for you have empowered us through your Holy Spirit.

### **Friday, December 10**

*Luke 10:38 | Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.*

~ Jesus, like Martha we want to want to welcome you into our homes, but sometimes it is just easier not to. We want you to be in our homes, but you expect too much, and it is less demanding to ignore your knocking at the door. Hospitality means we must set our own will aside to make room for you. This is hard to do – help us.

### **Saturday, December 11**

*Rest | Today sit in silence for a few minutes. Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Listen to the sounds around you and give thanks for the moment, the place, the people and the activity that surrounds you.*

### **Sunday, December 12**

*Reflect | Review the readings of the past week. What one scripture stuck with you. Read it again and reflect on its meaning for your life. In what ways can you take action to let go of sin and embrace wholeness?*

### **Monday, December 13**

*Luke 11:1-4 | Read the Lord's Prayer over several times, stopping to reflect on each phrase.*

~ Loving God, you give us a plan, an outline for prayer. We have memorized it and can recite it, but praying this prayer is harder; much harder. Help us soak up each phrase and take it into our hearts and minds to absorb them fully and embrace what you are leading us to pray. Slow us down as we pray so we can listen to your voice.

### **Tuesday, December 14**

*Luke 12:22 | He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing."*

~ Jesus, we love to worry – it is our “go to” place. I wonder why, when we say, “we trust you,” we take it back in worry and anxiety? Perhaps we do not trust what we cannot see. Help us grow in our spiritual maturity and trust you are with us and will provide for our every need.

### **Wednesday, December 15**

*Luke 13:20-21 | And again he said, 'To what should I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.*

~ Loving Jesus, we are a people who work best in the concrete reality, yet you tell us stories and parables where we must use our imaginations and rely on the Holy Spirit to help us understand. It seems the Kingdom of God is what gives life to this world, energy, hope, taste, and fragrance. It is not visible and is ordinary but works in powerful ways to make life whole and complete. Reveal more to us.

### **Thursday, December 16**

*Luke 14:27 | "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."*

~ Lord God, these are strange words from Jesus. What does it mean to us in this time and place? What cross does Jesus want us to carry? How do we live out this command in today's world. Today I sit in silence and ponder these words. Reveal to me what you would have me understand.

### **Friday, December 17**

*Luke 15:8-10 | 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had*

*lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'*

~ Jesus, your stories illustrate great truths to those who listen and are willing to become part of the story. Help us understand your messages for us today, in our world, so that we may be more faithful and true disciples witnessing your goodness and grace in the world.

### **Saturday, December 18**

*Rest | Today sit in silence for a few minutes. Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Listen to the sounds around you and give thanks for the moment, the place, the people and the activity that surrounds you.*

### **Sunday, December 19**

*Reflect | Review the readings of the past week. What one scripture stuck with you. Read it again and reflect on its meaning for your life. In what ways can you take action to let go of sin and embrace wholeness?*

### **Monday, December 20**

*Luke 16:13 | No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'*<sup>\*</sup>

~ Jesus, we have read and heard these words from you so many times, but they do not sink in for most of us do not believe we allow the love of money and need for accumulation of things rule our lives. We worry so much about scarcity and do not focus on our abundance. We compare what we have or do not have to others. Forgive us and help us trust only you for our provision and our security.

### **Tuesday, December 21**

*Luke 17:15-19 | Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."*

~ Holy One, forgive us for our lack of gratitude and thanksgiving for your beautiful works of grace and healing in our lives. Forgive us for not paying attention to your action in our lives. Help us to stop everyday and say 'thank you,' for your presence, your action and your love. Today, I thank you for: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Wednesday, December 22**

*Luke 18:1 | Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.*

~ Gracious Lord, you always invite us into prayer – you never close your ears to us or turn your backs on us, even when we separate ourselves from you. Here is the heart of prayer – pray always and do not lose heart. Do not give up in prayer. Help us, especially when we are grieving and in sorrow, when we are afraid, when we feel alone and abandoned, when we think you do not hear, help us wait on you and listen carefully to the answer to our prayers. Help us

understand your ways are not our ways. Show us how to breathe into prayer and sit with you paying attention to your still small voice.

#### **Thursday, December 23**

*Luke 19: 5 | When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."*

~ Lord Jesus, you see us! You see us no matter where we hide or where we go; you see us and invite yourself into our lives. It is up to us to allow you into our homes and our hearts with joy and thanksgiving to receive your blessings. Today, help us to respond to your grace and rejoice in the hope and promise that you see us as we are and love us.

#### **Friday, December 24 | Christmas Eve**

*Luke 20:24-25 | "Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "The emperor's." He said to them, "Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."*

~ Jesus, Host of the Table, here we speak of giving on Christmas Eve, but you spoke of giving and generosity continually. Give us the energy and the trust to be generous with your people, the church, to give our whole selves in our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness to your glory and honor as faithful followers and disciples of the Christ. We are grateful for your love and your grace.

#### **Saturday, December 25**

*Celebrate | Today celebrate the birth of our Savior with joy and love, giving grace and forgiveness and being in harmony with others. Remember why we celebrate this day and allow the Christ Child to find a home within your heart, your mind, and your soul to live fully.*

#### **Sunday, December 26**

*Reflect | Review the readings of the past week. What one scripture stuck with you. Read it again and reflect on its meaning for your life. In what ways can you take action to let go of sin and embrace wholeness?*

#### **Monday, December 27**

*Luke 21:1-4 | He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."*

~ Holy One, help us have the trust and the faith of the poor widow. Show us the value and the peace that comes from submitting all that we are and all that we have to strengthen and renew your church; to fully participate in your glorious kingdom.

#### **Tuesday, December 28**

*Luke 22:19-20 | Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."*

~ Holy God, you are the host of the table of grace. Help us remember your presence, your healing, your grace and your suffering as we come to the table to receive your forgiveness and grace. Help us slow down during this holy meal and taste the bread and juice, allow it to stay upon our tongue so we may remember and sense your presence in this community, in this time and place, embodied in the simple and ordinary elements of bread and juice. May we not take this sacrament for granted, but fully engage in its mystery.

### **Wednesday, December 29**

*Luke 23:3 | Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so."*

~ Gracious God, we don't often ask this question ourselves. Who do we say Jesus is? Who is Jesus to us? To the church? To the world? Give us discernment to know who Jesus is and what it means to follow him; to be his child and his disciple. The end of the year draws near, and we ask you help us reflect on the year of the New Testament and what through your Holy Spirit we have learned. I have learned: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Thursday, December 30**

*Luke 24:29-32 | But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us<sup>[k]</sup> while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"*

~ Holy God, we cry out to you, stay with us! But you are with us all along. You are with us as we walk, you are with us in our families, at our tables, in our grief and sorrow. You are with us as we receive the bread and the juice, as we read scripture, and in our prayers. You are always with us and we are not alone. Thanks be to God!

### **Friday, December 31**

*Remember what you have received from God this year and give thanks. Ask for forgiveness for what is past and receive forgiveness as you stand on the threshold of a new year and a new beginning. Consider listening to God for a word to be placed on your heart for the focus of 2022 and use that word in prayer and in your everyday life living as Jesus called you to live – loving one another as he loves you.*

All scripture is taken from The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer.

**Read the scripture** for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an "ear of the heart" to a word or phrase that strikes you.

**Reflect on that word or phrase** asking yourself the question: "What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?" Spend time in silence with this scripture, mulling it over in your mind and heart.

**Allow God to speak to you in the silence.** Offer a prayer out of your reflection.

**Thank God** for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.

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