

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives.

May you never give up praying.

When you pray, may you keep alert and be thankful.

Pray that together we may make the message of the mystery of Christ as clear as possible.

Amen

(Based on Colossians 3 and 4)

Welcome to our meeting. Our meetings are designed so that we may grow together spiritually in a relaxed atmosphere of mutual respect and honour, recognising that we are all on a journey. Doubts and questions are welcome. We trust in God's unconditional love.

We begin by sharing time together then we pray, sometimes sing, read the scriptures, there is a short message and discussion.

We then pray for one another and for what is on our hearts.

We finish by praying together the prayer Jesus taught.

¶ TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -- PROPER 17 ¶

August 31, 2025

Year C, Revised Common Lectionary

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the LORD, who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look; send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there

has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked; be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

- * Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
- * I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
- * Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- * "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.
- * So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.
- * O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!
- * Then I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.
- * Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever.
- * I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of

money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Luke 14:1, 7-14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Let us pray (Psalm 19)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, Lord, my rock, and my redeemer. Amen

Short talk and discussion

Listen carefully to these words from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 5:46-48

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine
upon you, and be gracious to
you; the LORD lift up his
countenance upon you, and give
you peace.

Please join us to find a place of prayer and rest in a busy week. From intimacy in prayer God is able to do many things. Wednesday at 8pm.

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