

Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Sirach 35: 12–14, 16–19; Psalm 32: 2–3, 17–19, 23; 2 Timothy 4: 6–8, 16–18; Luke 18: 9–14.

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Source: [Jubilee Resource Pack for Parishes](#)

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years...

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believed that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wanted everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).



For this reason, the most striking part of the logo for this jubilee is the cross: bending towards humanity and forming an anchor, it depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19).

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love, and one that carries us together in pilgrimage towards heaven.

Preparations for Daily Prayer

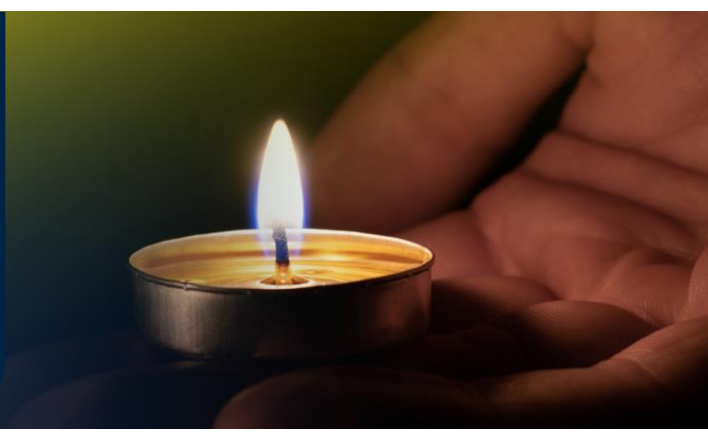
The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities, and days of special cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a Sacred Space for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a crucifix, a candle, and flowers. Additional resources (apps, websites, music, videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.



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The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



The Year of Luke

The Gospel readings for this Year C are taken from the Gospel of Luke and the Church is in the Thirtieth Week of Ordinary Time.

Overview of the Week

| Day and Liturgical Colour | Daily Prayer | Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers, and Forms of Prayer |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Monday – Violet | All Souls Day <i>Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace!</i> | Gospel for All Souls Day: Widow of Nain Eternal Rest Prayer The ritual of lighting prayer candles |
| Tuesday – Green | The Living Rosary | Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be |
| Wednesday – Green | <i>‘Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your home today!’</i> | Gospel Imaginative Meditation |
| Thursday – Green | <i>The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.</i> | Responsorial Psalm Lectio Divina |
| Friday – Green | <i>You are merciful to all, because you can do all things!</i> | First Reading Act of Contrition Sign of Peace |

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#) and All Souls.



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Wisdom 11: 22 – 12: 2; Psalm 144: 1–2, 8–14; 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 – 2: 2; Luke 19: 1–10

Monday

Today's Daily Prayer – The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)

Today the Church invites us to pray for our loved ones and the members of the Christian community who have died, as well as all those who have died. The Gospel story of today is the Widow of Nain.

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle/s. Provide a copy of the closing prayer for all.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the candle is lit,
let us *be*
in the silence ...
in the stillness ...
in this holy place ...

Leader: November is a special time to remember and pray for all those who have died. Burying the dead is a physical work of mercy and praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy. Within the Catholic tradition, prayer candles are often lit to honour those who have died. This practice happens in chapels, cathedrals, churches and in homes as families and friends gather to remember and give thanks for those whom they have loved and lost.

Let us watch and pray as the candle/s are lit.

(Light candle/s and pause.)

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a Lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: Let us prepare our minds and hearts to hear the Word of God.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Mindfully trace the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, the lips and the heart.

Reader: Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

(Pause)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

*For the month of November a suggestion is to provide **A Book of Remembrance** where people can be invited to write the names of loved ones whom they want to remember in prayer.*

A Book of Remembrance

Leader: In this reading, we see Jesus filled with compassion as he reached out to the grief-stricken widow saying to her the simple but heartfelt words, 'Do not weep'. When people die we often are lost for words when we see those who are sad and grieving.

Think of some ways that you reach out to others when they are sad because someone they loved has died. *(Pause)*

Take time to name a family member or a friend who has died. Let us remember them in the silence of our hearts for one minute.

(Pause)

(Silence for one minute)



All Saints- Abstract Halos

Go Forth

Eternal Rest Prayer – from the Final Commendation of Christian Funerals

Leader: Let us pray a very old traditional prayer that Catholics pray for those who have died.

All: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



(Extinguish candle and pause.)

Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Wisdom 11: 22 – 12: 2; Psalm 144: 1–2, 8–14; 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 – 2: 2; Luke 19: 1–10

Tuesday

Today's Daily Prayer – The Living Rosary

Preparation: Choose a reader, someone to light the candle and copies of the prayer for all to respond. Today we will pray with the Rosary, which includes the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. You may provide rosary beads to participants to use or ask them to bring their own beads or use their fingers to count the Hail Marys.

Gather

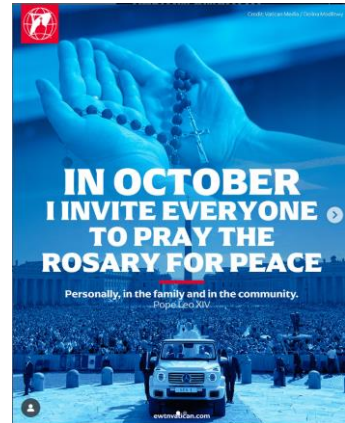
Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer.

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(Light candle and pause.)

Leader: The Church has set aside this month of October as a time for praying the Rosary. Pope Leo XIV invites us to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God's gift of peace.



Listen

Rosary Stories

Invite those gathered to share the story of their Rosary beads. The teacher or Prayer Leader might tell their story to begin this sharing. The Hail Mary is prayed all over the world in many different languages. This may be an opportunity to invite people from diverse cultural backgrounds to pray the Hail Mary in their own language.

Leader: **The Five Sorrowful Mysteries** are traditionally prayed on the Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays of Lent:

Today we remember

1. [The Agony in the Garden](#)
2. [The Scourging at the Pillar](#)
3. [The Crowning with Thorns](#)
4. [The Carrying of the Cross](#)
5. [The Crucifixion and Death](#)



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Listen to people share their story about their Rosary Beads.

Listen to those gathered who accept the invitation to pray the Hail Mary in a language other than English.

Respond The Living Rosary

Teachers or Prayer Leaders may wish to invite those present to lead one of the prayers. One person prays the Our Father, the next ten people pray a Hail Mary each, one after the next ending with the Glory Be. This practice is called a Living Rosary.

Leader: Let us pray one decade of the Rosary for peace in our hearts and our homes.

Our Father

Leader: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

All: **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. Amen.**



Rosary and Bible, [Pixabay](#) (CC0 Public Domain)

Ten Hail Marys

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

All: **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: **As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

You may like to print off the following prayer cards [Link](#) or,

Pray a Virtual Rosary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Siu8clv8ds4>



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The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Go Forth

Leader: May God's love and peace fill our hearts and surround our families and homes.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Pope Francis told us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." [Source](#)

Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.**

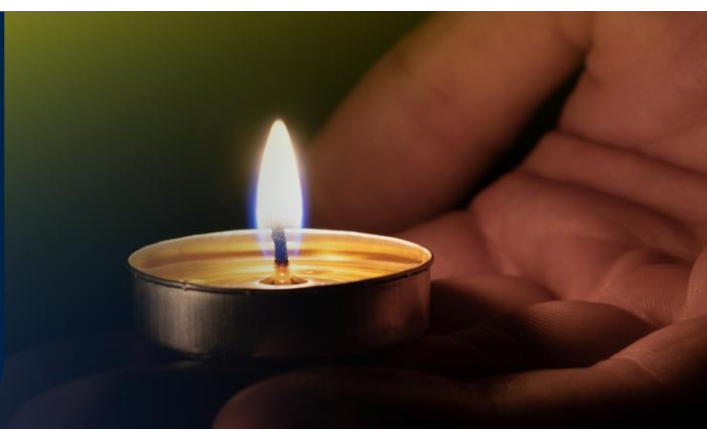
Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Wisdom 11: 22 – 12: 2; Psalm 144: 1–2, 8–14; 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 – 2: 2; Luke 19: 1–10

Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Praying for Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Today we listen to the Sunday Gospel about forgiveness and reconciliation.

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: As the candle is lit,
let us be
in the silence ...
in the stillness ...
in this holy place ...
(*Light candle and pause.*)

Background to the Gospel: Jesus Meets Zacchaeus

Leader: Today we gather in God's name to listen to the gospel that the Church has chosen to help us reflect on forgiveness and reconciliation in our lives. In the times of Jesus, a tax collector was not a popular person. The Romans imposed heavy taxes on the people and they employed one of the townspeople to do the 'dirty work' of collecting the taxes from the people. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector so the people did not like him at all, but on the day that he met Jesus, all of this changed.

Listen

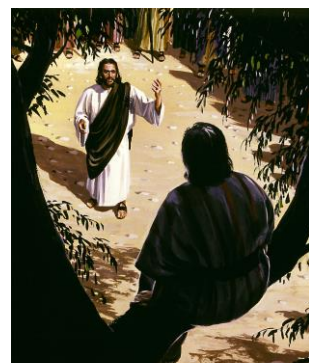
If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: Let us prepare our selves to listen to the story about how Zacchaeus met Jesus.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Mindfully trace the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, the lips and the heart.



Zacchaeus, by J Brent Bill, from Holy Ordinary: Brent Bill's Blog (CC BY 3.0 US)



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Reader: Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way.

When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.'

And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully.

They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.'

And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

(Pause for silence.)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Imaginative meditation on the Gospel story of Zacchaeus

Imagine you are entering this Gospel scene in the busyness of the town of Jericho.

What do you see? What are the smells and sounds in the crowded market ?

Imagine you are Zacchaeus climbing the tree to catch a glimpse of this man called Jesus.

How do you feel when Jesus stops to call your name and invite himself to your home?

Imagine yourself walking along the dusty road with Jesus to your home.

What does Jesus say to you?

What do you tell him?

(Time for quiet reflection)



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Go Forth

Leader: May we go forth to be people who forgive others and allow them to make a new start.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#) Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Wisdom 11: 22 – 12: 2; Psalm 144: 1–2, 8–14; 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 – 2: 2; Luke 19: 1–10.

Thursday

Today's Daily Prayer – *Lectio Divina*

Today we will listen to Psalm 145 and respond using a form of prayer called *Lectio Divina*.

Preparation: Choose 4 readers, someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer.

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

As the candle is lit,

let us *be*

in the silence ...

in the stillness ...

in this holy place ...

(Light candle and pause.)

Listen

Leader: Today we will be invited to participate in an ancient prayer form called *Lectio Divina*. These are Latin words that translate as 'Divine Reading'. We will listen to one verse of the psalm being read slowly and prayerfully and then choose a word or phrase that speaks to us. We will hold this word or phrase gently in our minds and hearts.

The Psalm

Reader 1: I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Reader 2: The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

Reader 3: All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God.

Reader 4: The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down.

Time for silent reflection.

Respond

Lectio Divina (Divine Reading)

Leader: As a response let us follow the five steps of *Lectio Divina*.

1. Listen to your breath and notice the air entering and leaving your body.
2. Listen to these words read slowly and prayerfully.
 - The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
 - slow to anger, abounding in love.
 - How good is the Lord to all,
 - compassionate to all his creatures.
3. Listen to the verse read again and listen for a word or phrase that speaks to your heart. Pray with this word and ask yourself what God is saying to you through this word or phrase. Listen!
4. Read and Respond: Respond in prayer to this word or phrase. Speak to God in your own words.
5. Rest: Let the word or phrase rest in your heart.

Go Forth

Leader: As we end this time of prayer let us leave this sacred space knowing that our God of kindness and compassion goes with us.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)



Order and Chaos, by Eric Baggett, [Flickr](#)
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Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

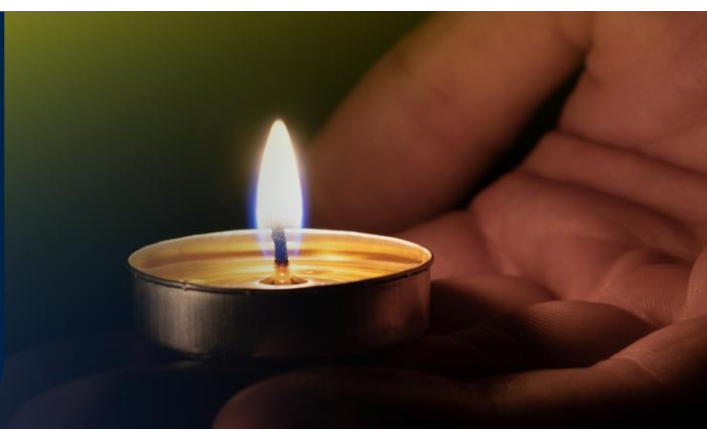
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All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Readings: Wisdom 11: 22 – 12: 2; Psalm 144: 1–2, 8–14; 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 – 2: 2; Luke 19: 1–10

Friday

Today's Daily Prayer – First Reading from the Book of Wisdom

Today we will pray with a reading from the Book of Wisdom about forgiveness and reconciliation.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle. Provide a copy of the prayer for all to respond.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God and each other... (Pause)
Let us take time to be still and become aware of our breath ... (Pause)
Let us begin our daily prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross slowly and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

As the candle is lit,

let us *be*

in the silence ...

in the stillness ...

in this holy place ...

(Light candle and pause.)



Sea Grass, [Pixabay](#) (CC0 Public Domain)

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

The Book of Wisdom

Leader: Let us prepare to listen to the Word of God.
(Pause)

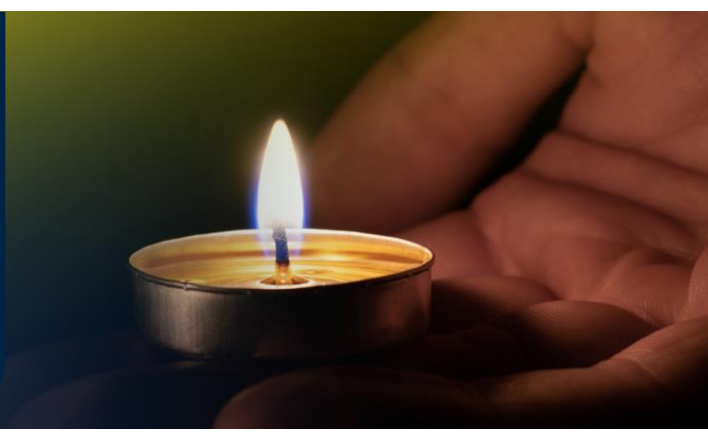
Reader: A reading from the book of Wisdom.

You have mercy on all things because you love everything that exists. In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.



Daily Prayer

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things
and overlook people's sins so that they can repent.
You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life,
you whose imperishable spirit is in all.
Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend,
you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned,
so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: In the reading we heard about the immensity of God's love for each of us and God's readiness

to forgive us for the times that we sin.
Let us stand before our merciful God and pray a Litany of Forgiveness.
Our response will be: Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

All: Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Reader: For the times we have ignored people who were calling out to us for help.

All: Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Reader: For the times we have used hurtful words or body language to bully or exclude others.

All: Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Reader: For the times we have failed to speak the truth.

All: Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Reader: For the times we have chosen to show disrespect for creation.

All: Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Reader: For the times we have turned away from God's call to listen and pray.

All: Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

Leader: Let us bring our prayer to a close by praying together a short Act of Contrition.

**All: O my God, I am very sorry
that I have sinned against you,
because you are so good,
and with your help
I will not sin again.
Amen.**



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Go Forth

Leader: Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)
Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Leader: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord in your life.
Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

