

DEVOTIONS FOR WEDNESDAY

The Cross of Christ: Reconciliation and Human Relationships

Opening Sentence

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. (*Psalm 19:14*)

Opening Words

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit.

Canticle — The Song of Isaiah (*Isaiah 12:2-6*)

- 1 Surely God is my salvation;
I will | trust, and will not be afraid.
- 2 for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
- 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
- 4 Make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- 5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
- 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Reading — Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint

against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions — The Cross of Christ: Reconciliation and Human Relationships

Loving Father,
you have reconciled us to yourself in Christ;
by your Spirit you enable us to live as your sons and daughters.

INTERCESSION

We pray for PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
the home, and family life ...
children deprived of home ...
friends, relations and neighbours ...
relationships in daily life and work ...
those who are estranged ...
those who feel unloved ...
all ministries of care ...

THANKSGIVING

Loving Father, we give you thanks
for the obedience of Christ fulfilled in the cross,
his bearing of the sin of the world,
his mercy for the world, which never fails ...
for the joy of loving and being loved,
for friendship,
the lives to which our own are bound,
the gift of peace with you and with one another ...
for the communities in whose life we share
and all relationships in which reconciliation may be known ...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Help us to share in Christ's ministry of love and service to one another; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the unity of the Holy Spirit is one with you for ever. Amen.

Collect

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God,
we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day:
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger,
and in all things guide us to know and do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Words

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen. (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

Intercessions and some of the other elements are from the Church of Ireland *Book of Common Prayer*
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