



A Simple service of Daily Prayer for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity!

Day 5

Letting Oneself Be Transformed by the Word

“You have already been pruned by the word” (Jn 15:3)

Gathering to worship God

Welcome and introduction

Greeting

Let us worship God: Creator, Word and Holy Spirit

All **Amen**

God is with you

All **And also with you.**

This is the day that God has made

All **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Opening Prayer

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, you are the vinedresser who cares for us with love.

You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united

to the vine,

the beauty of each person.

And yet, too often the differences in others make us afraid.

We withdraw into ourselves.

Our trust in you is forsaken.

Enmity develops between us.

Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.

Grant us to live from your grace

so that we may be together and praise your name.

All **Amen**

Blessed is the Creator
All for God has heard the voice of our prayer;

Psalm for the day

Psalm 85

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; *
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the offence of your people *
and covered all their sins.
- 3 You laid aside all your fury *
and turned from your wrathful indignation.
- 4 Restore us again, O God our Saviour, *
and let your anger cease from us.
- 5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? *
Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?
- 6 Will you not give us life again, *
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your mercy, O Lord, *
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, *
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together, *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth *
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him *
and direct his steps in the way.

**All Glory to God, Creator, Word, Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And shall be forever. Amen**

Readings

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

¹¹ Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:1-12

⁵When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Meditation

The Word of God is very close to us. It is a blessing and a promise of happiness. If we open our

hearts, God speaks to us and patiently transforms that which is dying in us. He removes that which prevents the growth of real life, just as the vine grower prunes the vine.

Regularly meditating on a biblical text, alone or in a group, changes our outlook. Many Christians pray the Beatitudes every day. The Beatitudes reveal to us a happiness that is hidden in that which is unfulfilled, a happiness that lies beyond suffering: blessed are those who, touched by the Spirit, no longer hold back their tears but let them flow and thus receive consolation. As they discover the wellspring hidden within their inner landscape, the hunger for justice, and the thirst to engage with others for a world of peace, grows in them.

We are constantly called to renew our commitment to life, through our thoughts and actions. There are times when we already taste, here and now, the blessing that will be fulfilled at the end of time.

*Pray and work that God may reign.
Throughout your day
Let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest.
Maintain inner silence in all things
so as to dwell in Christ.
Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes,
joy, simplicity, mercy.*

These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp Community

Affirmation of faith

With the whole church
**All We affirm that we are made in God's image,
Befriended by Christ,
Empowered by the Spirit**

With people everywhere
**All We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

With all creation
**All We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;
The unfolding purposes of God, forever at work
In ourselves and the world**

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Prayers of Intercession

Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places.

Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe".

All **Kyrie eleison** (*Lord have mercy*)

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions, contempt and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May the walls that separate us fall.

All **Kyrie eleison**

Holy Spirit, Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation and bring us back from our wanderings.

All **Kyrie eleison**

Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that we may welcome the unexpectedness of your grace.

All **Kyrie eleison**

Holy Spirit, you never abandon those who are persecuted for their fidelity to the gospel. Give them strength and courage, and support those who help them.

All **Kyrie eleison**

Gracious God,

All **accept these prayers**

In the name of our brother Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect (Prayer for the day)

Blessed are you, God our Creator,
for the gift of your word in Holy Scripture.
Blessed are you for its transforming power.
Help us choose life and guide us by your Spirit,
so that we can experience the happiness
which you long to share with us.

All **Amen.**

The Disciple's Prayer

All **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.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Keep us from the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory, are yours
now and ever. Amen.**

Going out to serve God

Let us go from our prayer to proclaim the good news in all we say and do

Let us go in peace to love and serve our loving God.

All Thanks be to God. Amen.

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (For the website)

1. The Beatitudes are some of the most well-known blessings in the Christian tradition, quoted in movies, political speeches, songs, and on buildings. We are asked to meditate on the Beatitudes. Reading them through at least two or three times, which ones stand out for you today? Why?
2. This year's focus on Jesus as the true vine invites us to think about food and agriculture, to consider communities that are dealing with food scarcity or food deserts, migrant workers, and farmers in Canada. How might these groups of people be connected to the Beatitudes? What would "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" mean in this context?
3. In your context, is there a particular Beatitude that your community acts out in the world? Is there one that your community perhaps does not pay as much attention to?