

Prayer for Illumination

Living God,

Your Word is living and active.

Open our ears that we may hear Your voice.

Open our minds that we may understand Your truth.

Open our hearts that we may receive Your grace.

**Open our hands that we may put Your Word into
practice.**

**May the Holy Spirit speak through the Scriptures
today and transform us into faithful disciples of Jesus
Christ.**

Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 24:10-22

¹⁰ When you make a loan of any kind to your neighbor, do not go into their house to get what is offered to you as a pledge. ¹¹ Stay outside and let the neighbor to whom you are making the loan bring the pledge out to you. ¹² If the neighbor is poor, do not go to sleep with their pledge in your possession. ¹³ Return their cloak by sunset so that your neighbor may sleep in it. Then they will thank you, and it will be regarded as a righteous act in the sight of the Lord your God.

¹⁴ Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your

towns. ¹⁵ Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

¹⁶ Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin.

¹⁷ Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. ¹⁸ Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this.

¹⁹ When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for

the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. ²⁰ When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. ²¹ When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. ²² Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

Second Reading: Psalm 112

¹ Praise the Lord. [\[b\]](#)

Blessed are those who fear the Lord,

who find great delight in his commands.

² Their children will be mighty in the land;

the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,

and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴ Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,

**for those who are gracious and compassionate and
righteous.**

**⁵ Good will come to those who are generous and lend
freely,**

who conduct their affairs with justice.

**⁶ Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered forever.**

**⁷ They will have no fear of bad news;
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.**

**⁸ Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

**⁹ They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn^[c] will be lifted high in honor.**

**¹⁰ The wicked will see and be vexed,
they will gnash their teeth and waste away;
the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.**

Third Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

⁹ There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. ² For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. ³ But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴ For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you

in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”^[a]

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them

**and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for
you their hearts will go out to you, because of the
surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to
God for his indescribable gift!**

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.