

**MONDAY**  
**9 NOVEMBER**

**Titus 1:1-9**  
**Psalms 24:1-6**  
**Luke 17:1-6**

**TUESDAY**  
**10 NOVEMBER**

**Titus 2:1-8, 11-14**  
**Psalms 37:3-5, 30-32**  
**Luke 17:7-10**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**11 NOVEMBER**

**Titus 3:1-7**  
**Psalms 23**  
**Luke 17:11-19**

**THURSDAY**  
**12 NOVEMBER**

**Philemon 7-20**  
**Psalms 146:4-end**  
**Luke 17:20-25**

**FRIDAY**  
**13 NOVEMBER**

**2 John 4-9**  
**Psalms 119:1-8**  
**Luke 17:26-end**

**SATURDAY**  
**14 NOVEMBER**

**3 John 5-8**  
**Psalms 112**  
**Luke 18:1-8**

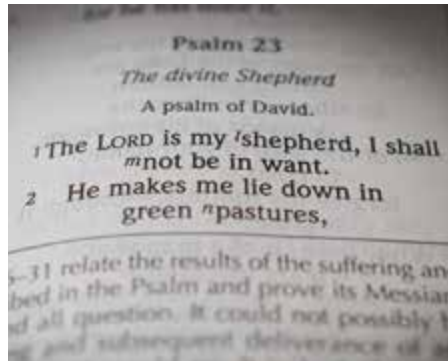
# REFLECTION

If we are looking for guidance on how to live godly lives, we could do worse than read the psalms set for this week. Each takes a slightly different angle on the what God wants from us in our everyday lives, and together they provide a kind of instruction manual for holy living.

On Monday, Psalm 24 praises holiness and purity of heart, honesty and truthfulness. Seek the Lord in that state of mind, the psalmist says, and you will be blessed.

The theme of Tuesday's psalm is trusting in the Lord, who is just and will protect you. Wednesday's psalm, 23, is so familiar that we may need reminding that it is about the Lord who is always with us, whatever our situation, in life and in death.

Thursday's psalm exhorts us to put our faith in the Lord, who is faithful to us, while on Friday we are invited to walk in God's way, according to what the scriptures teach us about God's will for us. And on Saturday the psalmist reminds us that those who live rightly, according to God's way, will be blessed.



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PRAYER

Faithful and loving God,  
we thank you for the scriptures which teach us about you,  
and about how you would have us live in the world  
you have created.  
Help us each day to walk in your way,  
trusting in your love and faithfulness.

# THE CHURCH FATHERS

## PART II – MARTYRDOM AND MISOGYNY

Richard Gunning continues his series on some of the Church Fathers.

The fact that Christianity was a capital offence seemed actually to encourage some of the early Fathers to provoke the authorities. Ignatius (c. 35-108), Bishop of Antioch, ordered that his friends should not try to obtain his release from Roman captivity as he wanted to suffer as Jesus had. His friend Polycarp (c. 69-155) had been a disciple of the apostle John, who had ordained him Bishop of Smyrna. Some scholars believe that Polycarp ("much fruit" in Greek) was responsible for the assembly and publication of the New Testament. When he was hauled before the authorities and asked to renounce his faith, the old man said this: "These eighty-six years I have been the Lord's servant, and he has never let me down. Shall I revile him now?" They burned him at the stake but had to finish him off with a sword when the fire failed to do its job.

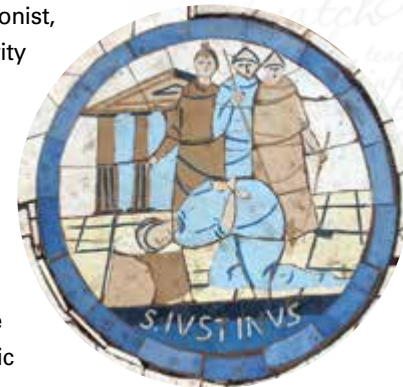
Justin Martyr (c. 100-165) was born into a pagan family before converting to Christianity. A professional philosopher and Platonist, he soon became convinced of the moral and spiritual superiority of Christianity. Travelling widely, he spread the word that Christianity was the "true philosophy" and famously wrote: "Whatever has been uttered aright by any men in any place belongs to us Christians; for, next to God, we worship and love the reason (Word) which is from the unbegotten and ineffable God." Justin was executed as a martyr in Rome.

Of all the early Fathers, Tertullian (c. 160-225) was probably the most fierce and uncompromising. A strict disciplinarian, ascetic and misogynist, he wrote that fornicators should not be forgiven and women should conform to St Paul's teaching and know their place. Most significantly, in his teaching on the Trinity, he claimed that the Son was subordinate to the Father. Tertullian was never martyred and, because of his extreme views and occasional heresy, he fell away from the Church and has never been called a saint.

# LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by  
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and  
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St Justin Martyr, mosaic at the church on the Mount of Beatitudes

Third week  
before Advent

Monday 9 November to  
Saturday 14 November  
2020

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