

MONDAY
15 NOVEMBER

1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64 or Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5
Psalm 79:1-5 or 1 Luke 18:35-end

TUESDAY
16 NOVEMBER

2 Maccabees 6:18-end or Revelation 3:1-6, 14-end
Psalm 11 or 15 Luke 19:1-10

WEDNESDAY
17 NOVEMBER

2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31 or Revelation 4
Psalm 116:10-end or 150
Luke 19:11-28

THURSDAY
18 NOVEMBER

1 Maccabees 2:15-29 or Revelation 5:1-10
Psalm 129 or 149:1-5
Luke 19:41-44

FRIDAY
19 NOVEMBER

1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59 or Revelation 10:8-11
Psalm 122 or 119:65-72
Luke 19:45-end

SATURDAY
20 NOVEMBER

1 Maccabees 6:1-13 or Revelation 11:4-12
Psalm 124 or 144:1-9
Luke 20:27-40

REFLECTION

“All the people were spellbound by what they heard” (Luke 19:48) – and we too might hang on to Jesus’ words this week. His personality and passion are vividly portrayed in everything he says and does.



Jesus makes time for a blind man who is desperately calling for him. In full view of the large crowd he restores the man’s sight – a miracle for which the people around them praise God.

Many devout people would undoubtedly have offered Jesus hospitality in Jericho, but he chooses to call on Zacchaeus, a despised tax collector. In that calling Jesus brings Zacchaeus into the kingdom of God despite the grumbling disapproval of the crowd.

Jesus shows his love for Jerusalem and his grief at the destruction he sees hanging over it. The Son of Man is not afraid to weep in the face of tragedy. Nor is he afraid to be furiously angry when he sees the Temple being used as a den of robbers. And he’s not afraid to stand up to chief priests and anyone else who opposes or tries to trick him by their questions.

Jesus still holds people spellbound and he waits for our response.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we ask forgiveness for those times we lose sight of you. When we grumble, when we’re uncharitable and judgemental, remind us of your personality and passion, remind us to turn to look at you, spellbound.

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PRAYER AND HEALING

PART III – HOW DO WE PRAY FOR HEALING?

It is a great privilege to be asked to pray for someone’s healing, either as a gathered congregation or as a smaller group. But how do we go about it?

In a time of worship, a congregation will often pray together for people who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. We may not know each person named, but together we ask God to be with them in their troubles. Or we might be part of a smaller group praying for others, some of whom may be known to us, in which case we may have a greater understanding of their circumstances.

In his book *Pastoral Care Revisited*, Frank Wright suggests that prayer for healing is, “a partnership in which being prayerful and being practical go hand in hand... God and the person who prays are... partners in the enterprise.” He also suggests that when we pray for someone’s healing we simply hold that person alongside us in the loving presence of God and that it can make a huge difference to someone to know that they are being prayed for in this way, held and supported by others in the light and warmth of God’s love.

But what do we pray for? Again, Frank Wright offers some thoughtful guidance. He believes that rather than praying for a specific outcome for somebody, we need only name that person before God, praying in a time of silence that he or she will be made whole, thus aligning ourselves with the will of God who wants us all to receive the gift of wholeness.

We’ve considered many aspects of prayer for healing over the last three weeks, and perhaps we can see a little more clearly that although a cure for a specific illness may not happen, our faith in God’s love will bring us and the person for whom we pray the gift of “shalom” – the wholeness of being for which we are created.



LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by Caroline Hodgson and Heather Smith

Second week before Advent

Monday 15 November to Saturday 20 November 2021

WEEK