

MONDAY

4 JULY

Thomas the Apostle

Habakkuk 2:1-4

Psalm 31:1-6

Ephesians 2:19-end

John 20:24-29

TUESDAY

5 JULY

Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13

Psalm 103:8-12

Matthew 9:32-end

WEDNESDAY

6 JULY

Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12

Psalm 115:3-10

Matthew 10:1-7

THURSDAY

7 JULY

Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9

Psalm 105:1-7

Matthew 10:7-15

FRIDAY

8 JULY

Hosea 14:2-end

Psalm 80:1-7

Matthew 10:16-23

SATURDAY

9 JULY

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 51:1-7

Matthew 10:24-33

REFLECTION

The pace of Jesus' life is frantic in the readings set for us this week in Matthew's Gospel. Healing after healing, crowd after crowd, questioner after questioner, people muttering in corners, people weeping in gratitude, people desperate for Jesus' attention – movement, drama, demands at every turn.



We are given two swift insights into Jesus' own reaction to what is going on. In Tuesday's reading Jesus feels compassion for the crowds, "**because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd**". He sees the sheer scale of the work to be done – so much need, so few people to meet it.

In direct response to that, he sends his followers out to widen the scope of his work. Like him, they are to cast out spirits, heal people, and even raise people from the dead. But if the disciples felt excited at the thought of such a mission, Jesus' instructions must have sobered them a bit. To share Jesus' ministry is not just to wield power like his, but also to provoke hostility, as he does.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
show us how you want us to continue your
work on earth
how we can heal,
how we can be agents for change in the lives
of your sons and daughters.
We ask this in your name.

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SHARED PRAYER

PART IV – PRAYING AS A CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Over the past few weeks we have been looking at shared prayer and today we are thinking about how we can pray together as a church throughout the week. Not everyone can make a mid-week prayer meeting, so here are a few other things to try:

- A prayer diary all church members can use. This can be a booklet of thirty-one pages, each page representing a different day of the month and headed "**Day One**", "**Day Two**", etc. On each page are written prayer suggestions covering areas such as individuals in your congregation, church activities, community organisations etc. As not every month has thirty-one days, it is best to keep the thirty-first page for more general prayer pointers such as thanking God for answered prayer; this avoids some individuals being prayed for more than others. A simpler alternative to a diary is to list a week's worth of prayer suggestions in the church notice sheet.
- A prayer chain. This is used for urgent prayer situations such as a sudden hospital admission. A group of people commit themselves to this ministry, one of whom acts as co-ordinator. Someone with a prayer request rings up the co-ordinator who, as well as promising to pray themselves, contacts the next person in the chain to pass on the message. That next person passes the message on too, so that very soon there are a number of people praying – a great comfort to someone in need.
- A prayer board. This is simply a board in church to pin prayer requests on either for ourselves or for someone else. If the request is for another, it is wise to ask that person's permission beforehand. People can be encouraged to look at the board regularly to see what needs praying for, or the requests can be compiled into a weekly list which is copied and made available to all in church so they can pray at home.

LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Third week after Trinity

Monday 4 July to
Saturday 9 July
2022

WEEK