

PRAY EVERY DAY August 23, 2020 Resource

A Call to Prayer from Psalm 105:1, NRSV

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deed among the peoples.

A Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Give us, O Lord,
steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward,
unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out,
upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.
Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,
understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

August 18 – September 8 “Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness”

August 24: 2 Timothy 2:24-26

August 28: 1 Timothy 6:6-12

August 25: 2 Corinthians 10:1-3

August 29: 1 Peter 2:17-19

August 26: Galatians 5:22-23

August 30: 1 Peter 3:1-6

August 27: Galatians 6:1-2

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 13:51-52.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- Matthew 13:51-52 ends a large section where Jesus spoke in parables (13:1-52). The disciples said they understood what Jesus had been teaching but within the chapter there were several times the disciples asked Jesus questions because they did not understand (vv. 10, 36). Understanding did not come from hearing alone, but engaging with Jesus. The disciples did not only seek to understand the meaning of a lesson, but they continued to follow and seek Jesus. How do you follow and engage Jesus with things you have questions about?

- What are some of the things you would tell Jesus you understand?
- What are some of the things you would tell Jesus you do not understand?
- In the parable, one who understands the kingdom of heaven brings out its treasures to share, old and new. God has done treasured things in the past (old) to share. God is doing new things that are treasures to behold and share. What are some areas where you still need to learn more about the kingdom of heaven and Jesus Christ?
 - How is God helping you to grow in your learning about the kingdom of heaven at this time, or calling you to begin to do so?
 - What are some of the old things that God has done are treasures that you need to share with someone today? How could you share that old treasure with them?
 - What are some of the new things that God is doing that you need to share with someone today? How could you share that new treasure with them?

Spend time in silence
Prayer for others and yourself
The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
AMEN.

A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. Amen.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

Sing and Share What God Has Done from Psalm 105:2, NRSV

Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.