

PRAY EVERY DAY July 4, 2021 Resource

*Magnify the Lord from Psalm 48:1 (NRSV)*

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.

*A Prayer For Our Country from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of the government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)*

July 5: Psalm 108 – 114

July 9: Psalm 120 – 132

July 6: Psalm 115 – 118

July 10: Psalm 133 – 139

July 7: Psalm 119:1-88

July 11: Psalm 140 – 145

July 8: Psalm 119:89-176

*Small Group or personal study*

Read Mark 6:1-13

- Nazareth was the hometown of Jesus where he had grown up. Jesus taught in the hometown synagogue, spoke to people, and healed a few sick people. Jesus brought the grace of God right to the community he grew up in. How are you following Jesus in sharing the grace of God in the community you call home now?

- Jesus was amazed at the unbelief in his hometown. Jesus was familiar to them as “carpenter, Mary’s son, brother of James, Joses, Judas, Simon, and his sister” (v. 3). They were offended by the wisdom and power of God in Jesus. Jesus appeared as the human they had grown up with who was sharing the grace of God. When we appear to be people where we live, they will often see our place, history, and roles in the community. It may be difficult for people to recognize God’s grace coming through us. Though Jesus was rejected many times, Jesus continued to share grace. When you are rejected, what will help you continue to share the grace, ministry, and good news of God?

- We can certainly also be like people in Jesus’ hometown. When have you been offended at someone you knew sharing the things of God because you thought it was not their place, or role, or privilege to do so?

- Jesus appointed 12 disciples (followers) to be apostles (sent ones) in Mark 3:13-19. In today’s passage Jesus sent those 12 out with his authority. Those apostles would not only tell

others what they had seen but they would share the ministry of Jesus themselves by proclaiming repentance of sins, casting out demons, and healing the sick. Throughout the scriptures God does not only invite humanity to see what God can do. God empowers humanity to partner with God in God's actions. How are you opening your faith to see what Jesus Christ is doing around you in the Word, Church, and people around you? How is God empowering you to join in sharing the saving actions of Jesus Christ?

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*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 it this week in small group for support and prayer.

*Praise Going to the Ends of the Earth from Psalm 48:9-10 (NRSV)*

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.