

PRAY EVERY DAY October 31, 2021 Resource

*Call to Praise from Psalm 146:1-2 (NRSV)*

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

*Morning and Evening Prayer with the Shema from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NRSV)*

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

*A Prayer of Martin Luther*

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.

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

November 1: Luke 19 – 20

November 5: John 3 – 4

November 2: Luke 21 – 22

November 6: John 5 – 6

November 3: Luke 23 – 24

November 7: John 7 – 8

November 4: John 1 – 2

*Small Group or personal study*

Read Mark 12:28-34

- What is the rule, commandment, or directive that guides your whole life? How would you put it into words? How does this thinking direct your doing?
- Jesus and the scribe agreed on what the first commandment which interprets and guides all the other commandments in the Bible: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength....You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (vv. 29-31, NRSV). This is sometimes called “The Great Commandment.” How is The Great Commandment similar or different from the principles that have guided you?
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 contains the first part of The Great Commandment. It is known as the Shema after the first word “Hear” or “Obey.” In ancient times and today there are Hebrew and Jewish people who recited those words in the morning and evening, memorized them and kept those words in their hearts, placed the words in small boxes on their heads or had them written on doorposts. In short, those words were in their hearts and before their eyes many times each day. How have you put important words in your heart or before your eyes regularly? How might you put the words from The Great Commandment before you this week?
- Leviticus 19:18 contains the second part of The Great Commandment. It comes in a very social chapter where there are many commands that relate to neighbors, kin, the poor, and immigrants. John Wesley wrote in 1739 *Sacred Hymns and Poems*, “The gospel of Christ knows

no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness." Much earlier in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Augustine wrote, "Whoever, therefore, thinks that he [or she] understands the divine Scriptures or any part of them so that it does not build the double love of God and of our neighbor does not understand it at all." Christian faith is seen in the love of God and neighbor. Read through Leviticus 19 and note the different ways to love God and neighbor.

- The only way to truly love God and neighbor is through the grace of Jesus Christ. From God's love, God gives us grace, so that we are able to love. In what areas of your life do you need the grace of Jesus to truly love God and neighbor?

*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.

*Happiness in God from Psalm 146:5-7 (NRSV)*

Happy are those whose help is the LORD their God,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.