

**Prayer for these difficult times:**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for our Community:**

Loving God, we thank you for your many blessings since our church fire. We ask that as the months progress we will stay united as your body. Protect us from distraction as we seek to rebuild your beautiful House of Prayer, and grant us courage to witness to your generous love to all whom we meet. Amen.

**COLLECT**

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**A Reading from the Book of Psalms**

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The Lord looks down from heaven;  
he sees all humankind.  
From where he sits enthroned he watches  
all the inhabitants of the earth—  
he who fashions the hearts of them all,  
and observes all their deeds.  
A king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.  
The war horse is a vain hope for victory,  
and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
to deliver their soul from death,  
and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and shield.  
Our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.  
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

*Psalm 33: 12 - end*

This is the word of the Lord

**All:            Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All:    Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said:

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

*Luke 12:32-40*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands that have taken holy things;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love  
shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body  
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;  
glory to you for ever.

**Amen**