

Sentence of Scripture

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Luke 11.9

Prayer of the day

Provident Father,
with the prayer your Son taught us always on our lips,
we ask, we seek, we knock at your door:
help us so to seek that we may truly find,
so to ask that we may joyfully receive,
and so to knock that the door of mercy
may be opened for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings

Hosea 1:2–10

² When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”

³ So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. ⁴ And the LORD said to him, “Name him Jezreel; for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. ⁵ On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.” ⁶ She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the LORD said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. ⁷ But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen.”

⁸ When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹ Then the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God.”

¹⁰ Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.”

(NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalms 85

¹ O Lord, you were gracious to your land:

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people:

and covered all their sin.

³ You put aside all your wrath:

and turned away from your fierce indignation.

⁴ Return to us again, O God our saviour:

and let your anger cease from us.

⁵ Will you be displeased with us for ever:

will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?

⁶ Will you not give us life again:

that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷ Show us your mercy, O Lord:

and grant us your salvation.

⁸ I will hear what the Lord God will speak:

for he will speak peace to his people,

to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.

⁹ Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:

and his glory shall dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth are met together:

righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

¹¹ Truth shall flourish out of the earth:

and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹² The Lord will also give us all that is good:

and our land shall yield its plenty.

¹³ For righteousness shall go before him:

and tread the path before his feet.

Colossians 2:6–19

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ *Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.*

(NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Luke 11:1–13

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;

⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’

⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**