

June 1

God's Table

Psalm

*Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.*

Psalm 47:1-4

Meditation

How precious the life which this spiritual food imparts. How just and striking the relation between this life and the food by which it is sustained. As the life must correspond with that by which it is maintained, celestial life can be nourished only by the bread of heaven.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 19

Scripture

And you shall eat there in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your households together, rejoicing in all the undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you. You shall not act as we are acting here today, all of us according to our own desires, for you have not yet come into the rest and the possession that the Lord your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 12:7-9

Prayer

Father, give me this day my daily bread. Feed me at the table of Jesus with the living bread.

June 2

Room in Our Hearts

Psalm

Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

Psalm 49:5-6

Meditation

Humans charged with such responsibilities as that involved in the making known of the way of salvation, would not, could not, fail to realize their weakness and seek Divine help, and in view of the vastness, urgency, and almost boundlessness of the harvest, they would naturally feel their incapacity, their utter helplessness in view of the task, and cry to the Lord of the harvest for help.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 140

Scripture

Make room in your hearts for us; we have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. I often boast about you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with consolation; I am overjoyed in all our affliction.

2 Corinthians 7:2-4

Prayer

Father, help me to open my heart and share the good news with others.

June 3

Prayer

Psalm

*Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.
Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.*

Psalm 50:14-15

Meditation

These Scriptures, and numerous others with which the word of God abounds, show that the followers of Christ, in this wilderness of sin through which they are passing, need every encouragement and support they can have; indeed, that they are in a dangerous land, making a perilous pilgrimage, and need help.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 179

Scripture

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

June 4

Celebration

Psalm

*You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you.*

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

Psalm 40:5

Meditation

It also follows that whenever a company is called together, all of which are disciples of Christ, to eat and drink, and to be cheerful, such a feast is a system of means which is wisely adapted to enliven Christian affection, and prepare us for the entertainments of heaven.

Alexander Campbell, *Christian Baptist* (1826), 75

Scripture

When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Deuteronomy 26:6-11

Prayer

God of deliverance, may I celebrate your gifts to me with all around me this day.

June 5

Children

Psalm

*Give ear to my prayer, O God; do not hide yourself from my supplication.
Attend to me, and answer me; I am troubled in my complaint.
I am distraught by the noise of the enemy, because of the clamor of the wicked.
For they bring trouble upon me, and in anger they cherish enmity against me.
Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you;
he will never permit the righteous to be moved.*

Psalm 55:1-3, 22

Meditation

Let parents remember and do their duty, bring up their children in the nurture, fear, and admonition of the Lord, by teaching them his ways; and by their admonitions and example, encourage them to do them. Were they to spend the Lord's Day in this exercise, and in worship, they would see the fruits of their labors.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1835), 18

Scripture

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:15-17

Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I receive the kingdom as a child. Father God, may I lead children in the right paths as you have led me.

June 6

The Kingdom of God

Psalm

*The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!*

Psalm 29:10-11

Meditation

The supreme law of this kingdom is love—love to the King and love of each other. From this law all its religious homage and morality flow.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 157

Scripture

“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.”

Revelation 12:10-11

Prayer

God of love, King of the universe, reign in my heart today. May I triumph over evil through the blood of the Lamb.

June 7

Sight

Psalm

*Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.*

Psalm 65:4

Meditation

Happy they who are permitted thus to approach to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ as he appears in his holy temple, and to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Who can behold without loving him? Who can love him without joy?

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 62

Scripture

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

Luke 18:35-43

Prayer

Lord Jesus, have mercy on me and let me see your face. Give the joy of glorifying God.

June 8

The Word in Our Hearts

Psalm

*On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.*

Psalm 62:7-8

Meditation

All know that wonderful something exists in them—no matter what you call it—that never was fully satisfied with what they are and what they have. There is continually in them that craving, aspiring, and unsatisfied something, reaching forward. Looking ahead, anticipating, hoping for and desiring happiness never yet attained.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 155

Scripture

Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Prayer

God of love, may your word rest continually in my heart today, through your Holy Spirit.

June 9

Suffering

Psalm

*Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.*

Psalm 72:1-4

Meditation

It is the mission of suffering not only to test faith, produce patience, work out probation, and intensify hope, but also to mellow the heart, widen our sympathies, burn out the dross in our nature and purify the gold, and qualify us for helpful ministries to all other suffering ones of earth.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 109

Scripture

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the skillful; but time and chance happen to them all. For no one can anticipate the time of disaster. Like fish taken in a cruel net, and like birds caught in a snare, so mortals are snared at a time of calamity, when it suddenly falls upon them.

Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

Prayer

Lord, save me when calamity falls upon me. Mellow my heart through suffering so I may be a help to others.

June 10

Crying Out to God

Psalm

*O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!
Let my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
let those who seek to hurt me be covered with scorn and disgrace.
But I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more.*

Psalm 71:12-14

Meditation

Prayer, I have said, is the vice of penitence, of helplessness, of wretchedness, crying to God for help, for deliverance. But it is infinitely more than this. It is the voice of faith pleading the promises of God. It is the voice of the child rehearsing to his Father the Father's own pledges of support, comfort, and peace.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 158

Scripture

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Prayer

Lord, this day may I rely on your grace and power. I rejoice in my weakness, for then I am strong.

June 11

Prayer

Psalm

*My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all day long,
though their number is past my knowledge.
I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord God,
I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.*

Psalm 71:15-16

Meditation

So many and so great are the benefits of prayer, that no one who appreciates them can fail to be interested in the question as to what are some of the chief hindrances to its exercise. It is a common experience with most of us, that when we have tried to pray, there has been the absence of that joy, comfort and peace which true prayer always brings to the soul. For this there must be some cause, and the reason will always be found in us, not in God, who is always gracious, and whose ears are ever open to the cry of the righteous.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 81

Scripture

*Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there;
and he said, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer';
but you have made it a den of robbers."*

Luke 19:45-46

Prayer

Father, remove all barriers to prayer. May I approach you with a humble heart so my entire life will be a house of prayer, a living temple.

June 12

Self Examination

Psalm

*Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!*

Psalm 27:7-9

Meditation

Let us live and walk in the Spirit every day, every hour, and then our labors of love will prove effectual, not only to make proselytes, but also Christians.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 37

Scripture

For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed.

2 Corinthians 13:4-6

Prayer

Lord Jesus, through your Holy Spirit examine my heart. Live in me this day.
Do not hide your face from me.

June 13

Humility

Psalm

*Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*

Psalm 34:11

Meditation

This humility is not a mere momentary accident of Christian character. It is not like a garment that can be put on, or that may be laid aside to suit the occasion. It must be a habit of mind, manifesting itself as a permanent characteristic of the heart and of the life of its possessor, or it is not worth a farthing.

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 86

Scripture

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'

Matthew 18:1-5

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me true humility, so I may receive the kingdom like a child.
May I welcome children in your name this day.

June 14

The Ascension

Psalm

*He built his sanctuary like the high heavens,
like the earth, which he has founded for ever.*

Psalm 78:69

Meditation

This is the great secret. A loving and obedient heart has eyes that can see and recognize Jesus, even when He comes to us as a spiritual and invisible Presence. The world is blind to such a manifestation of Christ, but not the loving, loyal heart.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 116

Scripture

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:8-11

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you ascended to give marvelous gifts, the greatest is your presence through the Holy Spirit. Open the eyes of my heart to see you today.

June 15

Poverty

Psalm

*You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.*

Psalm 77:14

Meditation

So the elect of God humbly and earnestly cry to him day and night, and perseveringly pray to their heavenly Father for constant supplies. They always feel their poverty, and that all help must come from God alone; therefore in him alone they trust.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 205

Scripture

*The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.*

*He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.*

*For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
and on them he has set the world.*

1 Samuel 2:7-8

Prayer

Father, help me know my poverty so I may rely on you alone.

June 16

Sending of the Spirit

Psalm

*Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
Raise a song, sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.
Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our festal day.*

Psalm 81:1-3

Meditation

The Spirit of God is therefore often used for his power; though it is not an impersonal power, but a living, energizing, active, personal existence.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 24

Scripture

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1-4

Prayer

Father, let me experience this day the personal energy of your Holy Spirit.
Then I will sing aloud and shout for joy.

June 17

Money

Psalm

*Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.*

Psalm 86:1

Meditation

You may toil, as you think, for your children, and it will in all probability turn out that your savings will be a curse to them for time and for eternal years. It will be better far to teach them the life of trust and leave them with the rich heritage of the example of a father and a mother who were not afraid to bear witness in their lives, in temporal things, to the faithfulness of God to his promises in this generation even if the whole world goes the other way.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 184

Scripture

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.'

Luke 21:1-4

Prayer

Father, increase my faith! Let me be like this poor widow and put my whole trust in you alone.

June 18

Renovation

Psalm

*They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God.*

Psalm 92:13

Meditation

But Christianity is very far from being a mere system of redemption from sin, or salvation from punishment, or selfish rewards for obedience. It designs not only to bestow remission of sins but to effect a renovation—a regeneration of the soul.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 102

Scripture

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Prayer

Lord Jesus, save me! Renovate my heart so I will share all I have with others.

June 19

Second Coming

Psalm

*Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

Psalm 90:1-2

Meditation

Thus will be consummated the work of human redemption; but the influence of the Scheme will be as enduring as the throne of God, and will, in all probability, be forever felt throughout his vast domains.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 577

Scripture

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Luke 21:25-28

Prayer

Lord Jesus, come quickly! Bring our full redemption so we can praise you forever.

June 20

Faith and Prayer

Psalm

*But truly God has listened;
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.*

*Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.*

Psalm 66:19-20

Meditation

Can anyone believe with all the heart and not pray? Is not prayer a natural and necessary consequence of faith? Is it not as natural for the believer to adore and bless the Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer as it is to love him or to serve him in any other way?

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 42

Scripture

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

James 1:5-8

Prayer

Generous God, give me the wisdom I so much need for this day. May I trust your steadfast love.

June 21

Signs and Wonders

Psalm

*O Lord God of hosts,
who is as mighty as you, O Lord?
Your faithfulness surrounds you.*

Psalm 89:8

Meditation

An apostle with the miraculous gifts of the Spirit could effect more in one day than all the missionaries in the field can for scores of years. I have for many years indulged in this cheering hope, that such gifts may yet be restored.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 333

Scripture

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Acts 5:12-16

Prayer

Father, increase my faith in your power, even when I do not see signs and wonders.

June 22

Psalm

*O Lord our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.*

*Extol the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy.*

Psalm 99:8-9

Meditation

In the flesh of Jesus, on the cross especially, we see the love of God preeminently displayed.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 113

Scripture

But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Acts 5:29-32

Prayer

God of resurrection, I praise you for your love and power, clearly shown in Jesus. May I be a witness to your love along with your Holy Spirit.

June 23

Purity

Psalm

*I will sing of loyalty and of justice;
to you, O Lord, I will sing.
I will study the way that is blameless.
When shall I attain it?
Psalm 101:1-2*

Meditation

In this there is no excuse for indifference, inefficiency, or carelessness in keeping the church in order, purging out the old leaven, or maintaining purity, but an encouragement to those who labor for the highest degree of purity and perfection but cannot reach it.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 419

Scripture

*Then Samuel said to all the house of Israel, 'If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Astartes from among you. Direct your heart to the Lord, and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.'
So Israel put away the Baals and the Astartes, and they served the Lord only.*

1 Samuel 7:3-4

Prayer

Lord, remove every idol from my heart and my life, so that I serve you and you alone. Give me the gift of a pure heart.

June 24

Service

Psalm

*Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.*

Psalm 105:5-6

Meditation

But if to enrich ourselves is the law of nature, the law of religion and society, Christ has showed us, is rather to enrich others; yea, and if necessary, to die for the brothers and sisters.

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 344

Scripture

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table?

But I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 22:24-27

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me a servant heart, as you have yourself. May I keep your service to me constantly in mind this day, so I may serve others.

June 25

Sin and Forgiveness

Psalm

*For I eat ashes like bread,
and mingle tears with my drink,
because of your indignation and anger;
for you have lifted me up and thrown me aside.*

Psalm 102:9-10

Meditation

The reason why we would have the reader to attend to this account of the state of misery is , because it is a principle of the gospel, of which we shall immediately speak, to excise or cut out of the conscience this intolerable burden—the sense of guilt, and to replant in the human heart, as in its native seat, the joys of innocence, the joys of the Spirit of God.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 38

Scripture

'Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.' And he said to him, 'Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!' Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.'

Luke 22:31-34

Prayer

Lord Jesus, like Peter, I have denied you with my words and life. Forgive!
Restore me as your disciple.

June 26

Gethsemane

Psalm

*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*

Psalm 33:18-19

Meditation

Most assuredly has it been the work of Christ to deliver souls from death in this, its highest and true sense—a death in trespasses and sins—a state of separation of the soul from the favor and fellowship of God. This separation he endured on our account—a separation which probably took place from the moment in which he was “delivered up by the determinate and foreknowledge of God,” and the near approach of which wrung from him the bloody sweat in the Garden of Gethsemane and the plaintive appeal: “O my Father! If it be possible, let this cup pass from me”; as well as that pathetic exclamation upon the cross: “My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken me?”

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 123-124

Scripture

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.”

Luke 22:39-42

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you endured so much for me. Through your obedience, God will hear my cries of pain and separation.

June 27

Change of Heart

Psalm

*My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.*

Psalm 145:21

Meditation

When our affections are won from sin to holiness, a love of Satan to God, and all the purposes of our hearts are submissive to the will of God as far as we know it, we have all the change of heart that God requires of us prior to obedience.

T.W. Brents, *The Gospel Plan of Salvation*, 225

Scripture

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21:28-32

Prayer

Loving Father, move my heart today to do your will. May I go beyond good intentions to actual obedience.

June 28

The Glory of God

Psalm

*Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.*

Psalm 106:47

Meditation

What a vision of immortal beauty awaits the transition of God's children from the body, with its pains and temptations, into the paradise of God! What radiant forms of celestial dignity shall pass before us! We shall see the King in his beauty, and look with unveiled faces upon the divine glory.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 111

Scripture

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Acts 7:54-60

Prayer

Lord, come quickly, so I may see your face and your glory. Receive at the time of my death into that eternal vision of God.

June 29

The Holy Spirit

Psalm

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Psalm 126:3

Meditation

As the apostles and first Christians received aid from the Holy Spirit for their special tasks and responsibilities in the times in which they lived, why may we not expect His gracious aid to quicken our spiritual powers and to fit us to do the particular work or bear the special burden which God has laid upon us? If the apostles and first Christians needed the divine Comforter to strengthen them in their struggles and to comfort them in their sorrows so that they might not feel like orphans in the world, why may we not expect the same gracious Spirit to comfort us in our sorrows, to strengthen us in our conflicts and to save us from the feeling of spiritual orphanage?

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 90-91

Scripture

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17

Prayer

Lord Jesus, strengthen, comfort, and help me through your Holy Spirit. Let me know that you are with me and I am never orphaned.

June 30

Intercessory Prayer

Psalm

*O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.*

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Psalm 130:7-8

Meditation

Who, then, can estimate the amount of good that has been secured to humanity through the humble, earnest, and penitential supplications of the closet? Who can recount the various individual, social, ecclesiastical, and national blessings that have been poured out of the windows of heaven in answer to secret prayer? Who can tell how many poor wandering prodigals have been brought back to their Father's house, and made heirs to immortality and eternal life, through the earnest and repeated prayers of a pious brother, or sister, or mother?

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 25

Scripture

Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord, and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you.

1 Samuel 12:23-24

Prayer

Lord, this day I pray for those on my heart who particularly need your grace, comfort, and help. May others intercede for me!