

MONDAY

18 OCTOBER
 Luke the Evangelist
 Isaiah 35:3-6
 or Acts 16:6-12a
 Psalm 147:1-7
 2 Timothy 4:5-17
 Luke 10:1-9

TUESDAY

19 OCTOBER
 Romans 5:12, 15,
 17-end
 Psalm 40:7-12
 Luke 12:35-38

WEDNESDAY

20 OCTOBER
 Romans 6:12-18
 Psalm 124
 Luke 12:39-48

THURSDAY

21 OCTOBER
 Romans 6:19-end
 Psalm 1
 Luke 12:49-53

FRIDAY

22 OCTOBER
 Romans 7:18-end
 Psalm 119:33-40
 Luke 12:54-end

SATURDAY

23 OCTOBER
 Romans 8:1-11
 Psalm 24:1-6
 Luke 13:1-9

REFLECTION

God sends us out to tell others the good news, like the disciples that Jesus sends in pairs in Monday's

Gospel. We may find it a daunting prospect, but Isaiah tells us to be strong and not to fear. Our preparation is spiritual, not material. The seventy who are sent are instructed to take no purse, bag or sandals. As the week progresses we learn more of the importance of spiritual preparation, not just to go out to carry the good news, but to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

That coming is portrayed as dramatic. We must be dressed for action, ready for the unexpected. Most of us don't stay up in case a thief comes in the night, but despite our locks and alarms, if we knew that tonight was the night, perhaps we would stay up to chase away the intruder. While Jesus does not expect us literally to go without sleep, we should not go without prayer and searching for God. For those who can read the signs, it will be clear that the day is near.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to draw ever closer to you,
 and not to drift through life aimlessly.
 May our minds be alert to the promise of
 your coming in glory.



PRAYER

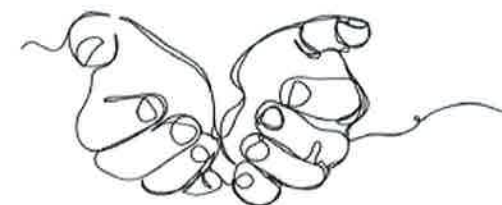
PART IV – POST-COMMUNION

Richard Greatrex concludes his series about prayer.

Once the congregation has received Holy Communion the Eucharist draws quite swiftly to a close. However, before it does so there are two prayers that relate directly to the reception of bread and wine. The first, prayed by the presiding minister, links back to the collect, both in form, and sometimes in theme. There are many of these post-communion prayers, including one for every Sunday, major festivals and some significant saints' days. They begin by affirming God's pre-eminence, acknowledge the divine gift to us of bread and wine, move on to a plea for God's grace to illuminate an aspect of our lives and faith, before concluding in Christ's name.

The second prayer is congregational. *Common Worship* provides six options, the first two of which are the most popular. The first one, beginning "Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us..." echoes well-known phrases from the Book of Common Prayer. After giving thanks for the holy nourishment of Christ's body and blood, the congregation responds by offering their own souls and bodies to God's will, to be sent out, strengthened by the Spirit, to be co-workers for the kingdom.

The alternative, starting "Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home"; was written especially for *Common Worship* and its rich, scripturally allusive, sometimes ambiguous language resonates with many congregations. Those opening words are especially effective, calling to mind the parable of the prodigal son and the sacrifice of our all-forgiving God. The ensuing lines make this explicit, describing Christ's death and resurrection, linking them to the grace received through communion that enriches us as we go out into the world, bringing that same grace to others and all creation. This is the common theme running through all post-communion prayers, preparing us for what might be considered the climax of the service when we are sent out to share the sacrament of God's love.

LIVE
the WORDSUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
 Caroline Hodgson
 and
 Heather Smith

Twentieth week
 after Trinity

Monday 18 October
 to Saturday
 23 October 2021

WEEK