

**MONDAY**  
27 JUNE  
Amos 2:6-10. 13-end  
Psalm 50:16-23  
Matthew 8:18-22

**TUESDAY**  
28 JUNE  
Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12  
Psalm 5:8-end  
Matthew 8:23-27

**WEDNESDAY**  
29 JUNE  
Peter and Paul, Apostles  
Zechariah 4:1-6a.  
10b-end or  
Acts 12:1-11  
Psalm 125  
Acts 12:1-11 or  
2 Timothy 4:6-8.  
17-18  
Matthew 16:13-19

**THURSDAY**  
30 JUNE  
Amos 7:10-end  
Psalm 19:7-10  
Matthew 9:1-8

**FRIDAY**  
1 JULY  
Amos 8:4-6. 9-12  
Psalm 119:1-8  
Matthew 9:9-13

**SATURDAY**  
2 JULY  
Amos 9:11-end  
Psalm 85:8-end  
Matthew 9:14-17

## REFLECTION

In this week's readings from Matthew we see some powerful examples of unhesitating obedience to Christ's will – the kind of obedience that comes with clarity.

In Tuesday's reading the wind and waves obey Jesus while the disciples panic. The elements are not rational, but when the God, who spoke them into existence, speaks again, they obey.

On Wednesday Simon Peter cuts through the muttering indecision of the disciples with his powerful response to Jesus' question: "who do you say that I am?"

On Friday Matthew the tax collector, the outsider, leaves everything at a word of invitation from Jesus. There's a beautiful simplicity about his action.

Peter and Matthew could be our inspiration for the coming week – to find clarity and simplicity in our faith. Peter's stark declaration makes a good prayer of affirmation: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," while Matthew's decisive act – "And he got up and followed him" – could inform our actions.



PRAYER

Lord God,  
thank you for the examples of Peter and Matthew.  
Grant us clarity of vision and firmness of purpose,  
that when we are hesitant or uncertain  
we may walk in your footsteps with confidence  
and joyful obedience.  
We ask this in the name of your son Jesus Christ.

## SHARED PRAYER

### PART III – PRAYER PARTNERS

Over the past weeks we have been considering different ways to pray together, and prayer partnerships are one particularly supportive and encouraging way to pray with others. While whole church prayer meetings are important, they are rarely the place to share personal worries and issues. Prayer partnerships enable two or three people to meet regularly, share the ups and downs of life and support each other through prayer. So how can we form successful prayer partnerships?

Here are some tips:

- Pray for God's guidance about suitable prayer partners. They need to be people you feel comfortable with, can relate to and trust.
- Everyone involved needs to think carefully about whether they have the time to meet regularly and, if so, how often (weekly or fortnightly is usually best) and for how long – an hour is often ample. Not being clear on this can cause hurt later. If someone regularly fails to attend meetings, for instance, or if sessions go on longer than one of the group expects.
- The meetings need to offer a safe environment where people can share openly without feeling judged and criticised. Everyone involved needs to treat whatever is shared in the meetings, in all but the most exceptional of cases, as confidential.
- Be patient. It may take a while before people trust each other enough to share openly in the group and for everyone to feel confident about praying in front of someone else. Build things up slowly. You may need to start by simply having a chat and getting to know each other first. Later, you could introduce prayer by sharing one thing each you would like prayer for and using short, simple prayers.

Prayer partnerships, like all relationships, need working at, but they are worth the effort. We all go through tough times in life and having a prayer partner's support and knowing you, in turn, have been a support to someone else is very special.

LIVE  
theWORD

SUSTAINING YOU  
THROUGH THE WEEK

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Second week after Trinity

Monday 27 June to  
Saturday 2 July  
2022

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