

*FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE*



## ORDINARY 25B

22nd September 2024

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

## Opening Prayers

When all around is noisy and busy, help me in this moment to be still with you.

*Silence*

When my mind is chaotic and full of wondering, help me in this moment to be sure of you.

*Silence*

When my soul is troubled, help me in this moment to be calmed by you.

*Silence*

If you feel able speak these words aloud:

Still, calm and sure I come to worship you. Amen.

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation that is familiar to you.**

**Reading:** Mark 9:30-37 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

How committed are you to your discipleship journey? Does it define you? How do you respond to Jesus' teachings?

Today's gospel reading takes us deeper into Jesus the Teacher and we explore themes of humility, service, and the true nature of greatness. What do these themes, and what do Jesus' words mean to you today? What do you need to take away from this time of prayer and reflection. You might like to make some notes about your initial responses...

As Jesus and his disciples travel through Galilee, he teaches them about his impending betrayal and resurrection, subjects they do not fully understand and are afraid to question. Instead, they argue among themselves about who is the greatest. Jesus' response to their debate is a typically-Jesus-style inversion of social values: "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." This teaching challenges our cultural norms that often equate greatness with power, status, or dominance. As usual, Jesus is inviting us to turn the whole thing on its head.

Reflect on your own perceptions of what makes you feel important, or great. How do societal standards shape your ambitions? Are there ways you strive for recognition or influence that might conflict with the servant-hearted model Jesus presents? Consider how you can embody Jesus' definition of greatness in your daily interactions and commitments.

Jesus further illustrates his point by placing a child among the disciples, embracing the child, and telling them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent

me." In Jesus' time, children had little social status and no power, making his action and words even more counter-cultural.

This act is a powerful reminder of the importance of welcoming and valuing those who are often overlooked or undervalued in our society. Reflect on the 'little ones' in your own community – those who might be marginalised or powerless. How can you actively welcome and serve those who are considered the least? How does this practice of radical hospitality reflect your discipleship?

It's worth noting that the disciples' argument about greatness follows immediately after they exhibit fear and misunderstanding about Jesus' teachings on his suffering and death. This suggests that their quest for greatness might be a diversion or a way to cope with their fear and confusion about the future.

Consider how your own fears or misunderstandings about faith, the future, or your life's circumstances might lead you to grasp at control or status. How can you surrender these fears to God and find true security in being a servant, as Jesus calls you to be?

As you meditate on this passage, let the themes challenge you to transform your understanding of what it means to be great in the eyes of God. This week, make a conscious effort to serve someone else in a way that goes unnoticed, to welcome someone who is typically excluded, and to replace a fear with an act of faith.

May this reflection inspire you to live out your discipleship with a focus on humility, service, and the radical, inclusive love of Jesus. Embrace the lowly position, find greatness in service, and see the face of Christ in everyone you meet.

### **Hymn:**

455 STF – All my hope on God is founded - [YouTube](#)

OR

611 STF – Brother, sister, let me serve you - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

You rise from this moment, part of movement of people, seeking to shape the future together.

As you go about your day, and your week, may you encounter others who are on this path, may they bless you, may you encourage them,

And let us build a kin-dom where all are equal, all are flourishing, none are discriminated against.

And let that world of justice, begin with you, today,

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

# Prayers and Prayer Pointers

## Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

- Lord, in this moment:  
Hold me,  
Accept me,  
Validate me,  
Inspire me,  
Guide me,  
Renew me,  
Challenge me,  
Strengthen me,  
In Jesus' name, Amen

## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

- Sit with your feet flat on the floor.  
In your mind name five things you can feel,  
Four things you can see,  
Three things you can hear,  
Two things you can smell,  
One thing you can taste.
- Where do you notice God's goodness amongst these things? Give thanks.

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September

- Phone or text message a friend and ask them if they've got anything they'd like you to pray about. Offer up their request in prayer to God.

## Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September

- Try to find three separate times throughout the day where you can be still, for as long as you dare, and prayerfully meditate in silence. Even if its only for a minute each time, seize the opportunity of stillness to listen – to yourself, to the world around you, to God.

-

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

- God of all grace, come into my conversations this day, that all who hear from me or encounter me, whether in person, online, through the phone or in some other way, will encounter something of your love, your grace, your peace.  
Amen.

-

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September

- Living God, as we head into this weekend, I pray for all the people and situations that have been on my mind this week. The stories known to me personally and the ones I've picked up on the news and from elsewhere.
- I pray that I may know what it is that I am called to do as part of the response, and how I can enable and equip others to respond too.
- Show me what is mine to do, Lord God. Amen.