

CHRIST WORK

Thursday 21st August

Bernard
Abbot of Clairvaux,
Teacher of the Faith
AD 1153

William and Catherine Booth
Founders of the Salvation Army
AD 1912 and 1890

You may read this straight through ;
you may wish to pause or repeat
certain parts ; it may vary from day-to-
day. Please allow it to lead you and
work with you, so make it your own.

Preparation

Lord open our lips, and our
mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all
that is within me bless his holy
name. ...

Who redeems your life from the
Pit and crowns you with faithful
love and compassion.

Who satisfies you with good
things, so that your youth is
renewed like an eagle's.

Psalm 103: 1, 4 - 5

Prayer

As we rejoice in the gift of this
new day,
so may the light of your presence,
O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for
you ;
now and for ever.

Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 51 : 7 - 12

Behold, you desire truth deep
within me
and shall make me understand
wisdom in the depths of my
heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall
be clean ;
wash me and I shall be whiter
than snow.

Make me hear of joy and
gladness,
that the bones you have broken
may rejoice.

Turn your face from my sins
and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your
presence
and take not your holy spirit from
me.

**Take away, good Lord,
the sin that corrupts us ;
give us the sorrow that heals
and the joy that praises ;
and restore by grace
your own image within us,
that we may take our place
among your people ;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Scripture

Matthew 22 : 1 - 14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in
parables, saying : ²The kingdom
of heaven may be compared to a
king who gave a wedding banquet
for his son. ³He sent his slaves to
call those who had been invited to
the wedding banquet, but they
would not come. ⁴Again he sent
other slaves, saying, "Tell those
who have been invited : Look, I
have prepared my dinner, my
oxen and my fat calves have been
slaughtered, and everything is
ready ; come to the wedding
banquet." ⁵But they made light of
it and went away, one to his farm,
another to his business, ⁶while the
rest seized his slaves, maltreated
them, and killed them. ⁷The king
was enraged. He sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and
burned their city. ⁸Then he said to
his slaves, "The wedding is ready,
but those invited were not worthy.

⁹Go therefore into the main
streets, and invite everyone you
find to the wedding banquet."
¹⁰Those slaves went out into the
streets and gathered all whom
they found, both good and bad; so
the wedding hall was filled with
guests. ¹¹But when the king came
in to see the guests, he noticed a
man there who was not wearing a
wedding robe, ¹²and he said to
him, "Friend, how did you get in
here without a wedding robe ?"
And he was speechless. ¹³Then the
king said to the attendants, "Bind
him hand and foot, and throw him
into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth." ¹⁴For many are
called, but few are chosen.'

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

Response

*Take a little time to reflect on the
reading, and on whatever it brings to
you today.*

Cast me not away from
your presence
and take not your
holy spirit from me.

Prayer

Bring yourself, your day to God.

*Bring those upon your heart to God :
people, or places, or situations.*

*You may wish to include some from
these concerns :*

- *The tasks of the day ;*
- *Family, friends, those in our heart
and mind ;*
- *Colleagues and neighbours, those
among whom or for whom we
work ;*
- *All who suffer abuse or violence ;*
- *For Ukraine & Russia ; Israel, Gaza,
Iran, USA ; Sudan ; _ : _ - for
people, and for peace ;*
- *All victims of earthquake, wildfire
and storm ;*
- *Those who serve in all emergency
services ;*
- *Those receiving exam results ;*
- *All within the Salvation Army ; all
who live in Religious Community ;*
- *Peace ;*

- *IF YOU wish to share particular
requests for prayer with Matthew
(or through him with others who
receive 'CHRIST at WORK') please
EMAIL Matthew on
christ.work01@gmail.com*

Collect Prayer

Merciful redeemer,
who, by the life and preaching of
your servant Bernard,
rekindled the radiant light
of your Church :

grant us, in our generation,
to be inflamed with the same
spirit of discipline and love
and ever to walk before you
as children of light ;
through Jesus Christ
your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The LORD's Prayer

Either :-

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.

Or :-

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name ;
thy kingdom come ;
thy will be done ;
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation ;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us
and preserve us from all evil
and keep us in eternal life.
Thanks be to God.

Amen.

