

Liturgy for Reflection and Prayers, 23 August (Trinity 11)

(Adapted from Iona Community Morning Worship)

Opening responses

May God be among us throughout this day.

AMEN.

May Christ be beside us throughout this day.

AMEN.

May the Spirit be within us throughout this day.

AMEN.

May we, as God's people,
be at one with the saints in heaven and live in harmony with the Blessed Three
to whom be praise and glory for ever.

AMEN.

Let us pray.

Each thing we have received –

FROM GOD IT CAME.

Each thing we enjoy -

FROM GOD IT COMES.

Each thing we pray for –

FROM GOD IT WILL BE GIVEN.

God of life,

you are the source of all goodness and the satisfaction of all our desires.

Our understanding of you is small; increase it.

Our desire to do your will is weak; enliven it

The seed you have planted has yet to bear fruit; ripen it.

But first, create in us clean hearts as, in your sight, we unburden ourselves of guilt, of anger,
of fear, of pride, of hardness of heart of weakness of intention.

Jesus, Son of the Father,

HAVE MERCY UPON US.

Jesus, Saviour of the World,

MAKE PEACE WITHIN US.

Christ, King of Glory,

BE WITH US AND FOR US WHEREVER LIFE TAKES US.

In the common path of our calling whether it be easy or uneasy to tread, whether it be
bright or dark to follow, let your perfect guidance protect us.

**BE A SHIELD AGAINST ALL THAT MIGHT DECEIVE US,
BE A HEALER FOR ALL THAT MIGHT HARM US,
BE A WITNESS OF ALL THAT MIGHT TROUBLE US,
BE A FRIEND TO ALL WHO ARE DEAR TO US,**

Psalm 138

- ¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
- ² I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
- ³ On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.
- ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.
- ⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
- ⁸ The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

A reading from Holy Scripture

Romans 12

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Let your Word live within us, faithful God
**DAY BY DAY, NIGHT BY NIGHT,
IN OUR THINKING,
OUR SPEAKING,
OUR DOING,
OUR BELIEVING.**

Reflection

Intercessions

Collect for the day

O great and generous God,
graciously set your eye this day on those who know their need of you through pain,
through trouble, through grief, through their own fault.

Nurse the weak,
**BANDAGE THE BROKEN,
CONSOLE THE DESOLATE, FORGIVE THE PENITENT.**

O Christ who shared our flesh,
graciously set your eye this day on those who have no need for you through pride,
through disappointment, through doubt,
through the failure of false friends.

Soften the hardened heart,
**CONFRONT THE ARROGANT WILL,
UNCOVER HIDDEN DEPTHS AND THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE.**

O Holy Spirit, breath of God,
move among us this day.
Open us to the beauty of the earth so that we may become its servants.
Open us to the wonder of life that we may recognise an angel at every corner.
Open to us the storehouse of your grace and we will be made new for Jesus' sake.

AMEN.

Closing responses

Now may God who brought us
into the joyous light of this new day, bring us to the guiding light of eternity.

**GOD ABOVE US, GOD BENEATH US,
GOD BEHIND US, GOD BEFORE US,
GOD IN QUIETNESS, GOD IN DANGER,
GOD IN HEART OF FRIEND AND STRANGER.**

The Blessing