

# **Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone**



**Prayers and Reflections  
for use at home**

**Sunday 12 October 2025  
Trinity 17**

Welcome to this week's prayers and reflections. Our Gospel reading is a beautiful story of the healing of ten lepers. Leprosy is such a painful, disfiguring and debilitating disease. Sufferers are set apart from families, friends and neighbours. It is no wonder that Jesus was filled with compassion at their plight. He healed them.

Enjoy entering into the joy and delight of this passage.

Every blessing,

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*As you prepare to be filled with joy and delight at our Lord's compassionate actions, open your heart to him.*



O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**Prayers and Reflections**  
**for use at home on Trinity 17**  
**Joy and Delight!**

**PREPARING OURSELVES**

*Take a moment to be still in God's presence and feel his love. If you are indoors, you may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in your room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.*

Lord, as I sit and wait in silence,  
I place my hopes and dreams,  
my fears and concerns,  
into your safe and loving hands.  
Enfold me with your love,  
make my heart beat in time with yours;  
in Jesus' name,  
I pray. **Amen.**

**LETTING GO**

*If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And then, reflect on the words of this next verse.*

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*



*If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.  
Feel God's forgiveness.*

*Growing up with this uplifting hymn, I always pictured the opening verse as a desire to be a part of a one thousand strong choir in church singing God's praises. In fact, it is a desire to swell my poor little voice so that it is as loud and as bold as one thousand people singing in time with me. It is a prayer to increase the heartfelt volume of my praise by 1,000 times as I praise our Lord's generous love and gracious forgiveness. He has done so much for me that I cannot over praise him.*

*Our next verse highlights all that he has done for us. He walks with us through life's sorrows and struggles. He offers us hope when life looks beyond bleak - there is life beyond this life, a glorious life! Even if (when) we mess up, all is not lost. God the Father and God the Son forgive us, our sins are washed clean and we can begin again. He is our source of inner peace. As you ponder this verse, and how you have received of our Lord's gifts of love and peace, healing and grace, offer your love, your joy and your praise.*



He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free:  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

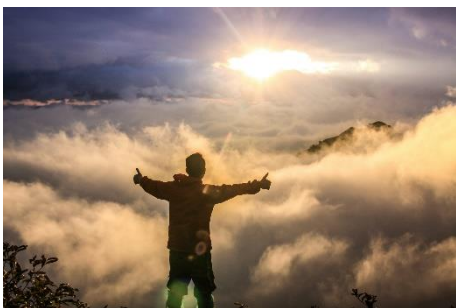
## **PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER (The Collect)**

*Across our villages and the worldwide Church, this prayer is being said today. Add your voice to this earthly circle of prayer to our God whose love is unbreakable.*

Gracious God,  
you call us to fullness of life:  
deliver us from unbelief  
and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Our prayer honours God's gift of life in all its fullness that Jesus offers to all who accept him into their lives. It recognises that things can happen in our lives that can diminish our joy in life and our faith in Jesus. Think about how you are feeling at this time. Do you feel like a glass full to overflowing? Or, a glass that is neither full nor empty? Or, a glass that is almost empty with just has a few dregs left at the bottom? Why is this? Share your thoughts with God's Spirit and listen for his still small voice. What is it you need of him? Strength and hope... trust and resilience... reassuring signs of light in the darkness... peace to live with what is, wisdom to cope with what will be... an opportunity to share life's joys and blessings with those who are struggling... Spend as much time as you need with him.*

*When you are ready, turn to our next verse and give thanks for the gifts our Lord has provided for the coming week. Trust that he will keep on providing as your prayers and your needs change. For, at his departing, Jesus said that he will be with us always and everywhere. Even when life feels impossible or unbearable, he is there. We have to have the courage and the faith to tune into his presence and trust in his promise of life - in this life and beyond this life - and lean into him. He will catch us.*



He speaks; and, listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.

From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

*John 14:6-7*

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

### Ten healed, one gives thanks

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!'

When he saw them, he said, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him - and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'

*Luke 17:11-19*

### Joy and Praise...

*Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and the cross, and we find him between Jewish Galilee and non-Jewish Samaria. It is therefore not a surprise to find a group of ten lepers that includes at least one Samaritan. Leprosy broke down the religious barriers that separated Jews from Gentiles, making both unclean and unwelcome in their communities.*

*Do take a moment to ponder this.*

*On the outskirts of a village - set apart from the villagers - this band of lepers see Jesus and recognise him as the healer from Galilee. Notice how they call him 'Master'. It is a sign of their faith in him and of their hope of a life without leprosy. They believe he can cleanse them of this disease and make them whole again. We hear this in their cry, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!'*

*Of course, Jesus does have compassion.*



*He sends them to the priests, who can evidence that their skin is pure, white and free of all signs of this dreadful condition. Such is their faith in Jesus and the power of his words. All ten walk off towards the village. None waited to see if the change would happen. What faith is this! Perhaps, we have much to learn from them.*

*Do take a moment to contemplate this.*

*As the leprosy leaves them, nine walk onwards towards the priests who can certify that they are disease free. Once certified, they can return to family and friends, and pick up the threads of their pre-disease life.*



*One - only one - is full to bursting with joy and praise so he turns around and first goes to say a huge, huge 'Thank You! to Jesus for this priceless gift of life in all of its fullness.*

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;  
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Praise and delight are natural human reactions to generous and amazing acts of kindness. What Jesus gave to these ten men is so life-changing, 'Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!' would have bubbled up in each one of their hearts. Only one chose to go and say this to Jesus. He reminds me of the shepherds who were so overjoyed at the news of the birth of Jesus that they left their sheep and raced off into Bethlehem to see him. Joy should be at the heart of our worship. It delights Jesus and is infectious!*



My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of thy name.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## OUR PRAYERS

*Feel free to use one or more of these prayers and to add your own.*

Lord Jesus, you have filled my life with life and love, joy and hope, and the strength to keep on living each day as it comes. Sometimes, I forget to say 'Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!' Accept, my praise...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, as the ten lepers show me, suffering can unite us rather than divide us. Jews and Samaritans were unhappy neighbours, but this mixed band of lepers forgot their differences. Teach this lesson...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, in faith and hope, the lepers turned to you for healing, and you responded with compassion. You see the pain of the sick, the anxious and the lonely. You are there for them. Open the eyes...

Lord, hear my prayer.

*Offer your own heartfelt prayers and yearnings, praise and thanksgivings.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

*A closing prayer of blessing for this week.*

O God, you search me and you know me,  
all my thoughts and feelings are open to your gaze,  
you see the paths I will take before I take them. Guide my daily living.  
Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**