

Mothers' Union Thursday Prayers, 18 September 2025

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Theme: Good Stewardship

Welcome everyone to our Thursday prayers, both here in person and on Zoom.

Introductory Prayer.

Lord, speak to us that we may hear your word.
Move among us that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers that we may learn to trust you. **Amen**

We say together the Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love
through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage
and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship
and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.
In Jesus' name . Amen

and the Monthly Prayer

Father, as we seek to follow your Son, help us to be always aware of
how our actions and words affect others and the world around us.
Give us grace to be peacemakers among people, and good stewards
of your creation. Amen

Our Reading Today is taken from the gospel of Luke 16:1-13, using the New Living translation

16 Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. ² So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

³ "The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. ⁴ Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.'

⁵ "So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' ⁶ The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.'^[a]

⁷ "And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.'^[b]

⁸ "The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. ⁹ Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.'^[c]

¹⁰ "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. ¹¹ And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? ¹² And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?

¹³ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

This morning our Reflection is entitled ‘Good Stewardship’

Thursday Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in the worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers, we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

In our Intercessions today we pray for –

the worldwide work of the Mothers’ Union and our worldwide president Kathleen Snow; for all who work in Mary Sumner House, and all members in our province of Canterbury. For our Diocesan leaders Hazel, Debbie and Jean, for all our Trustees and task group leaders, and for all MU members and clergy within the Ely Diocese.

In our Worldwide Links of the Mothers’ Union we pray for:- Lusaka in Zambia; Shyogwe in Rwanda; Sokoto and Ikka in Nigeria; Karimnager in India; plus diocese to diocese with Kigali and Velore.

Our Wave of Prayer today is for Buye in Burundi; Sebei in Uganda; Abakaliki and Ekiti-Oke in Nigeria; Southwell and Nottingham in England; and Belize.

We give thanks for the sacrificial love of Christ with deeply grateful hearts.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy, peace, help and blessings that you give to us each day.

Thank you for this wondrous world filled with all the wonderful gifts you have given to us.

Thank you for our families, friends and the fellowship of your Church. Help us to be mindful and hold in prayer before you:

those who do not yet know the love of Christ;

those whose lives today will be a struggle to feel joy, find peace, seek or engage with help;

those whose lives do not feel blessed;

those who cannot see beyond the shadows and darkness of unhappiness, hunger, loneliness, isolation, poverty, fear, trauma, oppression, conflict, to see the beauty and wonder of the world you have created for us;

for those who are separated from families and friends;

for those who feel unable or unwelcome to share the fellowship of your church;

and anyone known to us who is ill or unwell, in situations that need our prayers. **Pause**

Lord, we thank you for the privilege of being peacemakers. In spreading your love, may joy abound, healing hearts and reconciling souls. Show us how we can be agents of peace for you in our communities. **Amen**

And we thank you for the most wondrous gift of all – the forgiveness of our sins, bought for us by the love of your most blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

We say together in confidence, 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

Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7

All Stand for our Hymn: O Jesus, I have promised

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me;
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised,
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;

and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow
my master and my friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant my own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend!

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve all people in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Australian Prayer Book

All say The Mary Sumner Prayer together:

All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee, and every life I touch. Do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen

May the blessing of God strengthen and encourage us as we go from here to live lives of gratitude and service. Amen

All Stand and say the Grace together:

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever more.
Amen