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## ORDINARY 24C

14th September 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

Lord of the dawn,  
Your love rises to greet me, new every morning,  
And I come to you now, trusting in your mercy,  
And not in any goodness of my own.  
Come, by your all-embracing Spirit,  
O God, and transform my heart today I pray.

*[Pause]*

Lord of all creation,  
As Saul fell to the ground on the Damascus Road,  
I pray that I will be overwhelmed by your love and Spirit  
And join with the chorus of angels proclaiming:  
“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honour and glory and praise!”

I offer all I am to you.

Amen.

**You many now wish to say the Lord’s Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.**

**Reading:** Luke 15:1-10 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

In Luke 15:1–10, we find Jesus doing what he often does best: turning expectations upside down through stories. The religious leaders are grumbling because Jesus is spending time with people they consider sinners and outsiders. And so, he tells them two short parables: one about a lost sheep, and another about a lost coin.

In both stories, something precious goes missing. A sheep wanders off. A coin is misplaced. And in both cases, the response is not apathy or blame: it’s a passionate search. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to go after the one that is lost. The woman lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches carefully until she finds her missing coin. And when do they succeed? They don’t just move on, they throw a party. They gather others to share in their joy.

Jesus tells us: This is what God is like.

God isn’t passive or indifferent. God doesn’t shame or scold. God notices what’s missing and goes after it with care and persistence. And when that which is lost is found, God rejoices—not quietly, but extravagantly.

For those of us seeking to follow Jesus, these stories speak powerfully. They remind us that no one is beyond the reach of grace. That God’s love is not reserved for the few who

“get it right,” but extends endlessly to those who wander, struggle, doubt, or are pushed to the edges. And not only that, these parables invite us to take part in this divine pattern of seeking, including, and celebrating.

Discipleship, then, is not just about personal piety. It’s about joining the search. It means opening our hearts and our communities to those who feel forgotten, overlooked, or lost. It means noticing who’s missing from the table, and going out to find them—not out of obligation, but out of love.

And it also means recognising the times when we are the ones who are lost—emotionally, spiritually, or socially—and trusting that God will not give up on us either. God’s love is not dependent on our performance, but on our belovedness.

So today, ask yourself:

- Who in my life or community might be feeling lost or left out, and how can I reflect God’s persistent love toward them?
- Where have I felt lost in my own journey, and how might I receive the joy of being found?
- What does it look like to be a person who throws parties for grace rather than keeps score?

May we be bold enough to seek, humble enough to be found, and joyful enough to celebrate the wideness of God’s love.

### **Hymn / Song**

83 STF – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

May you go out from here,  
And follow in the way of God’s grace and peace and love,  
By the Spirit of God who goes with, before and beyond you.  
May you join in with the big divine story of love, today and everyday,  
Amen.

# Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

- In many island and coastal communities, there are strong traditions of drawing comparisons between the presence of the divine, and the vastness of the sea. If you've ever spent time on, or near, the ocean, it is easy to see why!
- Spend some time today looking at the sea, or a picture of the sea, or find a video of waves rolling against the shoreline (or just use your imagination!) – what do you think these visuals can teach you about God?
- Pray about your reflections.

## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

- Lord of all faithfulness,  
Today I take a moment to look back at my story,  
To notice your hand at work in my life at various points.  
Carry me, this day, I pray.  
Amen.

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

- Use one of the monotonous tasks of today as a prayer – it might be that you are washing up, or ironing, or sweeping up leaves in the garden. Let your brain be still, and listen for God's calm voice in the midst of the ongoing monotony of the task.

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

- Today, let our prayers be for all those working in tackling cancer in all its forms – supporting those affected by the disease, researching cures and treatments, and providing for families and carers.
- Thank you, Lord, for their patience and service.

## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September

- At the end of this week, I give you thanks, O God, for the little glimpses of glory across the last few days. Amongst all that has happened, I take a few moments to notice my own gratitude and to give you the praise and the glory.
- Thank you Lord, Amen.

## Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September

- Today, let your prayers be for all involved in providing humanitarian aid – particularly where they are putting their own lives at risk to help those in need after an emergency or war. Perhaps there are some particular organisations or people you know involved in this work, hold them in prayer today and consider making contact with them to let them know you are in their thoughts and prayers.