

# twelvebaskets

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## ORDINARY 32C

9th November 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

Sit down, close your eyes and breathe three deep, slow breaths.

Keeping your eyes closed – pay attention to your breath for a minute or more and in doing so, when you breathe in, imagine you are breathing in the love of God.

When you open your eyes look around you, what do you notice in your room that reminds you of the love of God?

If this is something you can hold, hold it, if it is to be looked at, look at it. As you do so, remember that you are in the presence of God.

When you are ready, offer this time of worship to God, and you might like to say these words out loud:

“Around me and within me, Spirit of God I thank you for your presence here.

I offer each breath in worship to you.

Amen”

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

**Reading:** Luke 20:27-38 – [Click on the reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

In this passage, a group of Sadducees come to Jesus with a question. But it’s not a genuine inquiry, it’s a trap. The Sadducees don’t believe in resurrection, so they present an elaborate hypothetical situation meant to make belief in life after death seem ridiculous.

They describe a woman who marries seven brothers (according to the law at the time), and they ask: “In the resurrection, whose wife will she be?”

Jesus doesn’t take the bait. Instead, He shifts the whole conversation. He tells them they’re thinking too small, too literally. The resurrection, he says, is not a continuation of the same old systems. It’s not just more of this life, extended indefinitely. It’s something altogether new.

He says, “God is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to God all are alive.”

It’s a breathtakingly hopeful vision. The God Jesus reveals isn’t preoccupied with rules or legal puzzles. God is the God of now and forever, the God who brings life where there was death, meaning where there was confusion, and hope where there was despair.

For us, this story is a reminder that God’s ways are bigger than our categories. The Sadducees were stuck in systems of marriage, inheritance, and legal status. But Jesus invites them – and us – into a wider imagination. Resurrection life is not just about what happens after we die. It’s about what kind of life we are living now.

Do we live as if God is the God of the living?

Do we see each person – especially those who are excluded, questioned, or diminished – as beloved and fully alive in God's eyes?

Do we believe that transformation is always possible, that the systems and patterns that bind us are not the end of the story?

In a world that can feel cynical, transactional, and small-minded, this passage challenges us to live with deeper hope. To believe in the sacredness of every life. To trust in a God who transcends death, not just biologically, but spiritually, socially, and morally. A God who is always working to bring life.

So today, reflect on this:

- Where do I need to expand my imagination about God, life, or others?
- Where might I be clinging to outdated systems or assumptions?
- How can I live more fully now, with resurrection hope at the centre?

May you be a disciple of the living God, not stuck in what has been, but alive to what is possible through love.

### **Hymn / Song**

46 STF – Everlasting God, the years go by - [YouTube](#)

### **Responding in prayer**

God of yesterday, today and all the days that are to come  
Today, I pray for the Church, for its leaders and all its members  
That they may work together to make the gospel known,  
That the Church may reach out, demonstrating and embodying your love.

God of history, of the now, and of all that which is to be  
I pray for the communities of which I am a part.

For my friends and families  
For colleagues with whom I work  
For those whom I meet at the social club, the gym, the shops,  
on public transport or at the health centre...

Wherever I encounter others,  
Help me to build bridges, to offer the hand of friendship,  
the listening ear and the open heart.

I hold before you those whose particular needs I know,  
Some are awaiting medical assessment or treatment  
Some will receive difficult diagnoses  
Others will anticipate the restoration of good health.

Lord, hear my prayer,  
Amen.

## **Blessing**

May you go with the courage to join in with God's prophetic, transformative work, here in this community, in your home, in your life, and throughout the world.

May you go, knowing that the Spirit of God goes with you.

Amen.

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## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week**

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

- Light a candle if you have one, and sit quietly for a moment.
- God of love, I remember today those without a safe place to call home. Bring comfort to those who are cold or afraid, and stir my heart to work for justice and shelter for all. May your light guide me to a person of welcome and hope. Amen.

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

- Be still.
- Be still and know that I am God.
- Be still for the presence of the Lord is in this place.
- Find spaces for stillness today. Be still, with no objective or intention, other than stillness, which is an end in itself.

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

- Hold your hands open on your lap.
- Lord Jesus, friend of the lonely, be close to those who feel forgotten. Fill empty hearts with your peace, and remind us that no one is ever beyond your love. Amen.

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

- Draw a picture of your local church.
- Include on the picture all the ways you see God at work, and all the things you want to ask God to work in. Pray about it.

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

- Place your hand on your heart.
- God of justice, open my eyes to the needs around me.  
Give me courage to speak out and hands ready to serve.  
May your kingdom of peace and fairness grow among us, here on earth. Amen

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

- Sit quietly and take a deep breath in and out.
- Merciful God, I lay before you my mistakes and regrets.  
Wash me clean with your grace,  
and help me to begin again in love this weekend. Amen.