



(Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment*)

Daily Offices Week Five

Daily Office for Monday

Begin with 30-45 seconds of silence as you seek to collect yourself before the Lord.

Daily Psalm Reading

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! (Psalm 123:1)

Praise God for one blessing in your life or one aspect of his character.

Confession

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.¹

Ask God to forgive you for one disobedient act, thought, or attitude.

Assurance of Pardon (to be read or sung)

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, What can avail to wash it away? Look! There is flowing a crimson tide; Whiter than snow you may be today. Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin. (Julia H. Johnston)

Assured of God's love and grace, ask God for help in one struggle in your life.

Reading

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 ESV)

When it comes to the topic of the return of Jesus, there is an endless amount of speculation about the timing and the exact sequence of details. It is doubtful, however, if Scripture provides the amount of information which many would like about our future hope. Paul wants the Thessalonians to know two things in these verses: it will happen and it will happen suddenly and surprisingly for those who are not paying attention. The best application of Scripture is not a reconstruction of events but a growing awareness that the entirety of our lives are spent under the authority of and in the presence of Jesus. What is one area of your life that might look different if you began to recognize the constant presence of our loving and holy God? How do you think Jesus would like to mold you and shape you in this regard?

¹ From PCUSA Book of Common Worship.

Doxology (to be read or sung)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise him all creatures here below / Praise him above ye heavenly host/ Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost/ Amen.

Ask God for one thing in your community or workplace for which the kingdom of God is needed.

Ask God for “daily bread” in one area of life for yourself and for someone else you know.

Ask God for wisdom or peace in one relationship in your life.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (King James Version)

End with 30-45 seconds of silence as you seek to follow God in the midst of your daily life.

Daily Office for Tuesday

Begin with 30-45 seconds of silence as you seek to collect yourself before the Lord.

Daily Psalm Reading

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. (Psalm 123:2)

Praise God for one blessing in your life or one aspect of his character.

Confession

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.

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Reading

While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:3-5 ESV)

The return of Jesus will be sudden and surprising for those who have persistently refused to pay attention to God and his purposes for the world. Followers of Jesus need not have this fear; however. We have already been called out of darkness and into the light of the love and mercy of God. Yet even for us, it is easy to live with dim vision and to constantly distract ourselves with other things. What is one thing that could be dimming your vision of God today and distracting you from his purposes? How does God want to bring light to you in this matter?

Doxology (to be read or sung)

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Daily Office for Wednesday

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Daily Psalm Reading

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough

of contempt. Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud. (Psalm 123:3-4)

Praise God for one blessing in your life or one aspect of his character.

Confession

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.

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Reading

So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 ESV)

Paul's language in this text is similar to the famous passage about the armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-17. If you have not read that passage, or if you have not read it recently, take a few moments today to do so. Notice how Paul teaches that followers of Jesus are caught up in a real struggle with spiritual powers. Also notice how God has made provision for his people that they might be protected from the schemes of evil. Satan's great objective is to stop men and women from hearing the words of God. We are called to be sober-minded soldiers who are decked out in God's truth. What is one verse of Scripture or truth of the faith which has aided you in not believing the lies and deceptions of our enemy?

Doxology (to be read or sung)

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needed.

*Ask God for “daily bread” in one area of life for yourself and someone else you know.
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Daily Office for Thursday

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Daily Psalm Reading

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. (Psalm 128:1-4)

Praise God for one blessing in your life or one aspect of his character.

Confession

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.

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Reading

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 ESV)

When Jesus returns, he will establish perfect justice upon the face of the earth. He will keep his promises, both to judge evil and to bring salvation to those who have taken refuge in him. In fact, Christ died upon the cross in order to guarantee that his people will live with him forever. Jesus bore the greatest pain imaginable that we might “live with him” forever. Take a moment to think of the area of struggle about which you have already prayed today. Then take a moment to reflect on the truth that Jesus endured the cross because he loved you and desired to free you from that very thing. How does this truth help you in your struggle?

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Daily Office for Friday

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Daily Psalm Reading

The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel! (Psalm 128:5-6)

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Confession

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and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.

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Reading

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Jesus is not returning to save isolated individuals but to save a people. We are the people of God. It is our calling not only to rejoice in our private hope but to encourage our brothers and sisters in the hope we share with them. Is there someone in your family or church who needs encouragement today? What could you do for them or say to them to encourage their faith?

Doxology (to be read or sung)

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