

# MAY

## Prayer Devotionals

APR 30 - JUNE 3

DANIEL 10:12  
**THE**   
**FIGHT**  
THE YEAR OF PRAYER  
TAFT AVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Monday, 4/30, John 11:** Jesus loved Mary and Martha very deeply and yet allowed them to experience great sorrow in the death of their brother Lazarus. God, you love each of us deeply as well and yet you allow each of us to experience great pain, sorrow, illness, and hardship. As we go through difficulties, help us to pray to You, Lord, for strength, perseverance and wisdom – not only to cope – but to thrive, to grow and to be used by You to share the good news of your Son, Jesus, to everyone we meet so that they might know and believe that Jesus is truly the resurrection and the life.

**Tuesday, 5/1, John 12:** When Isaiah prophesied about the exalted King and the Suffering Servant, he clearly saw Jesus' glory. He boldly shared his vision and took great joy in looking forward in hope to the day on which You would fulfill Your great promise of the Messiah. And yet when Jesus did come many did not recognize Him because their eyes were blinded and their hearts were hardened. Father, help us to pray as Paul did that You may give us the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of You, having the eyes of our hearts enlightened, that we may know what is the hope to which You have called us.

**Wednesday, 5/2, John 13:** Help us Lord to learn from Jesus' example how to truly love others. Help us to take very seriously the fact that You expect our love for You and for each other to be so strong and so deep and so unusual that it distinguishes us from the rest of the world. We confess, Lord, that this is not always the case. Only through Your power and Your strength and Your love is this even possible for us; in our human weakness it is impossible. Help us to allow Your love to flow back out of us in miraculous abundance onto everyone around us – family, friends, neighbors, strangers and enemies alike.

**Thursday, 5/3, John 14:** Thank you God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, given to all who believe and trust in You and keep Your commandments. We are grateful that the Spirit teaches us those things You would have us learn and brings them to our remembrance at the perfect time when they are needed for our strength and encouragement and to allow us to clearly and boldly share Your message to a world in need. Help us to live in Your peace and know that You love us so that we can know how to love You rightly and share that love with the world for Your glory.

**Friday, 5/4, John 15:** Lord, You have chosen us and called us friends and You ask us to abide in Your love by keeping Your commandments. In doing this, the fullness of Your joy will be in us and keeping Your commands will allow us to abide in Your love so that we will be able to love one another. Help us to remember, when the world hates us and persecutes us for Your sake, that You love us and have called us out of the world to belong to You. What have we to fear from the world?

**Saturday, 5/5, John 16:** Thank you, God, for the gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This gift brings an ongoing joy that can never be taken away from us. We can be secure in the knowledge that nothing that the world can do to us can take away this joy. Help us to find our joy, not in our circumstances, but in our prayerful reliance on Your power and provision. You tell us to ask and we will receive, that our joy may be full. In seeing You at work answering our prayers we become joyful in the knowledge that You are actively at work.

**Sunday, 5/6, John 17:** Jesus manifested the excellence of Your character, God, through the example of His perfect life. He revealed

Your glory for His disciples and all believers to clearly see. Help us to follow Christ's example and strive for Your perfection and excellence in our lives – to live in imitation of Christ. Help us to not be citizens of this world but of Your kingdom and keep us from the evil one. Keep us in unity with one another as we work together in purpose, mission and ministry so that we can be an effective witness for You to the world.

**Monday, 5/7, John 18:** So many unusual things happened during Jesus' arrest. Those who arrested Jesus "drew back and fell to the ground" after Jesus told them who he was. Jesus healed the high priest's servant after the servant's ear was cut off. Caiaphas advised that one man should die for the people. These unusual events occurred when they were arresting the Son of God and preparing to murder him. This was one of many red flags that they missed.

Do unusual things happen in our life, but we fail to take time to appreciate it? Has anything unusual happened in your life that you need to be mindful of?

**Tuesday, 5/8, John 19:** We know the murder of Jesus was the greatest injustice of all time. When we compare Jesus' trial to our own criminal justice system, which is one of the most sophisticated justice systems ever invented, it highlights additional atrocities. Jesus is violently arrested without cause, he is flogged by law enforcement, and he is forced to present a defense in light of bogus charges. He is given the death penalty for his controversial speech and tortured to death. This was an injustice upon injustice upon injustice. All the while, God, who invented justice, orchestrates the whole scandal so that we may be acquitted of our sin.

**Wednesday, 5/9, John 20:** The circumstances surrounding Jesus'

resurrection were, in part, for our benefit. Mary Magdalene wouldn't have known that Jesus was not in the tomb unless the stone was rolled away. If the stone was still there, she could reasonably assume he was still in there. The burial cloth and strips of linen remained in the tomb, which is not consistent with a grave robbery. They would just take the whole body and not bother to leave an inexpensive (and disgusting) burial cloth. Then Jesus put two angels at the tomb because he knew we wouldn't be able to figure it out. Finally, he appears himself to connect the dots.

Jesus wants us to get it.

**Thursday, 5/10, John 21:** In John 21, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him. Love is a big theme for John. Just a few chapters earlier in John 15:17, Jesus commanded his disciples to love each other. The same author then revisits this theme in 1 and 2 John. Father, how can we love you more? How can we love your people more? How can we love non-Christians more? How can we love our bosses, coworkers, spouses, kids, and friends more?

**Friday, 5/11, Luke 1:** After the angel visits Mary, she creates a song praising God. May we also be so familiar with Scripture that when something happens – good or bad – we can turn to God with our own songs based on the Bible. We should be so familiar with Scripture that we can wave our requests and praises into already written psalms. Can you use this verse to create your own praise to God: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”?

**Saturday, 5/12, Luke 2:** Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth in such an ordinary way. You were born in a manger and shepherds came to

worship you. Then, two church regulars saw you at the temple and praised God. This is very different than the royal entrance you deserve. Thank you that you understand the ordinariness of our lives and being human. Thank you for being fully God but also truly human.

**Sunday, 5/13, Luke 3:** John has very clear instructions to those who do not want to be “cut down and thrown into the fire.” He told the crowd, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

Father, thank you for the abundance that you have given us. Thank you that we have food to eat and clothes to wear. Show us the people in our lives who need our help. Give us a burden to help our neighbor. Father, make us wise with how we interact and respond to the homeless in Orange County. May our actions and our thoughts be pleasing to you.

**Monday, 5/14, Luke 4:** Knowing that temptation will come our way again in the near future, ask God ahead of time to rescue you from it. Remember the Lord’s prayer, “...lead us not into temptation?” Satan tempted Jesus to become selfish, that is, to do a miracle that would only benefit Himself (create bread), and by-pass the cross (to get worldly glory). So pray that you keep yourself focused on His will and not get side-tracked by worldly fame, riches or glory.

**Tuesday, 5/15, Luke 5:** In verse 8, Peter perceives that it was Jesus who wrought that fish-catching miracle. And what was Peter’s response? “Woe! Cool!” or, “Can you show me how to do that?” NO. Peter was granted the understanding to compare his sinful nature to Jesus’ perfect righteous nature. So pray that you’ll never forget who you were, or where you came from before you knew Jesus. And pray

that your life will always be filled with gratitude for his great mercy on you. In verse 28, we see Levi (Matthew) leaving everything behind and following Jesus. Let that be such a simple but heart-felt prayer, that is, that you'll have the grace to walk away from anything holding you back from Him.

**Wednesday, 5/16, Luke 6:** Read through the Beatitudes starting at verse 20. Ask God that you would produce the fruits worthy of a child of God: turning the other cheek, loving your enemies, doing good to others, being merciful, and not having a judgmental spirit.

**Thursday, 5/17, Luke 7:** In verse 6 we see a wonderful example of faith in Jesus wrapped in humility, "... I'm not worthy to have you come under my roof ... but just say the word." Pray for continued belief and trust in the one who is all-powerful and able to meet every need. In verse 20, we see John the Baptist have a moment of honest doubt. And how did Jesus respond? In an encouraging way, He spoke of Him in a right and just way "...none is greater than John." Then in verse 29 the average folk declared God to be just over Jesus' remarks. So pray that you'll be an encourager to others who are floundering and stumbling in their faith.

**Friday, 5/18, Luke 8:** Read Jesus' parable of the sower. Pray that your witness to others will fall on good soil and produce long lasting fruit. Also pray to have patience for the people who have, said they "accepted" Christ but fell away shortly afterward (the seed on the rocky soil). Ask God to keep you from being frustrated with them.

**Saturday, 5/19, Luke 9:** In verses 10 through 17, Jesus took his

disciples away for a period of rest and relaxation. But the crowd found out and followed them. Jesus didn't get upset or tell them to go away but instead welcomed them and spoke of the Kingdom (vs 11). In spite of all your worries, anxieties and any pressing issues today, pray that God would give you the strength and courage to love, minister to and encourage others.

**Sunday, 5/20, Luke 10:** Loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength – make this your number one prayer. In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us to love those that society would consider undesirable. Pray to have opportunities to help those in need – to go and do likewise in showing mercy as the Samaritan did.

**Monday, 5/21, Luke 11:** Jesus' disciples sought direction from the Lord on how to pray. We should seek to likewise first honor and glorify our Heavenly Father and then move to request that God's purpose would continually advance in our hearts; that God's kingdom would finally be fully realized here on earth. Pray that we would be persistent in our petitions and that those requests be in alignment with God's will in our lives. Pray that we would hear God's word and not be deceived nor deceive others.

**Tuesday, 5/22, Luke 12:** Pray that we would pursue Christ fully with a realization of both His love and wrath. Thank Him for salvation from an eternity apart from Him. Ask God for strength to tell the truth of who He is and to boldly share the good news, trusting that He will provide the words we need. Seek strength to trust Him for all of our needs. Likewise, ask Him for a willingness to share with the less fortunate; to give without complaint; and, to be diligent in pursuing God's will while we have the strength to do so.

**Wednesday, 5/23, Luke 13:** Father, give us a compassion like Jesus', who healed on the Sabbath and stands ready even now to heal broken hearts and forgive sins. Pray that Jesus would strengthen us to stay the course of sanctification despite a world that accuses us of foolishness and tempts us to disobey. Ask for strength also to pursue the good work Christ has set before us, following the example of Jesus who was obedient to the end. Weep, like Jesus, over our lost family, neighbors and nation. Pray that they would recognize the sin that separates them from God but praise Him that salvation has come through Christ!

**Thursday, 5/24, Luke 14:** Ask for humility and love for others; seek not to lord it over anyone but rather to exercise the fruits of the Spirit. Pray for ourselves and others that we would not allow the cares and pressures of life to interfere with our pursuit of Christ. Ask that Jesus would place on our hearts true love for the unlovely and a willingness to give our time and treasure to the needy. Acknowledge the cost of following Jesus and praise Him that we would be counted as worthy of suffering for His namesake.

**Friday, 5/25, Luke 15:** Thank God for His Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sin and need for a savior. Thank Him that all heaven rejoices over the recovery of a single soul. Pray specifically and persistently for friends and family to repent and recognize what Jesus offers versus the inadequacy of the world.

**Saturday, 5/26, Luke 16:** Ask that God will give us a servant's heart for those in authority over us. Pray that we would honor our employers and work for their benefit and to the glory of God. Seek wisdom and discernment in the discharge of our work so that our employers would

marvel at our integrity and hard work and so be inquisitive as to why we work so diligently. In this way, we can be a witness for Jesus.

**Sunday, 5/27, Luke 17:** Thank God that we have a pastor and elders who are committed to prayer and study in order to properly shepherd our church. Pray that God would ignite a fire for personal bible study, prayer and fellowship so that we will not be deceived or unwittingly deceive others. Thank God for His love and forgiveness and rejoice that He is coming again. Pray that He would come quickly but in the meantime, give us boldness to tell others the truth – that Jesus is Lord and their hope for salvation.

**Monday, 5/28, Luke 18:** We read about a rich ruler who heard Jesus' teaching but did not understand what it took to receive eternal life. Jesus was trying to teach him there is much more than his works of following the commandments to have eternal life. He demonstrated the rich ruler wasn't following the first and last commandments. People thought it would be the wealthy who would have eternal life because they appeared to have their life in order. But it is the humble, the meek, the merciful, who truly put God above all things. Pray that we can humble ourselves, putting others' interests before ours; that we submit ourselves wholly to God; and rid ourselves of our non-essential idols to be more focused on Jesus.

**Tuesday, 5/29, Luke 19:** After his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus wept over Jerusalem. He is sorrowful for His people who have rejected Him for so long, despite His teachings, and His works. Like Jesus, we also need to weep and mourn for those around us who do not know Jesus. Jesus has taught us to love the Lord our God and our

neighbors, and has commanded us to go and make disciples. We don't want anyone to not end up with Jesus. Pray to give us boldness to tell those around us about Jesus; for God to help you to mourn for your sin and for the sins of others and let them know what Jesus has done for them.

**Wednesday, 5/30, Luke 20:** Jesus talks about paying taxes. As much as we disagree many times how our government uses our tax money, God has put various governments in place to control our civil livelihood, which, without government, would be total chaos. In addition to giving to our government authorities, we also must give heartily to our Lord and Savior as a means of worshiping and praising Him. Pray that God would humble us to be subjects to our government as God has put them there for us. Pray also that we have a humble and cheerful heart to also give back to God for what He has provided for us.

**Thursday, 5/31, Luke 21:** Jesus talks a lot of the future. Wars, persecution, earthquakes, famines, and other terrors and calamities have always been around, but we have seen an increase over the last years, and will continue to increase. Jesus said these things will increase. He closes this chapter by warning us to watch ourselves and prepare for that time until He comes again. No one knows that day He is going to come. We need to be awake knowing that He can come at any time. Pray that He will give you strength to endure persecution. Pray that He will open the eyes of your heart as you continue to read and study His Word to know that He is the source of our comfort in times of trouble.

**Friday, 6/1, Luke 22:** Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper so that we have the opportunity to remember what He did for us at the cross. When we take the bread, representing His body, and the cup, representing His blood, we remember that blood was shed on the cross for us, and His body nailed to the cross, which is a punishment He took in place of us. When you take communion, pray that you have an undivided heart, that you take it in a worthy manner so that you are not guilty of a selfish manner that would degrade this Holy sacrament.

**Saturday, 6/2, Luke 23:** As Jesus hung on the cross, a situation arose that showed that God have patience to show He does not want anyone to perish (reference 2 Peter 3:9). As one criminal rebuked Jesus, the other came to know who Jesus is and what He stood for at the last moment, and in return, received salvation. Pray for those around you, who don't know Jesus; that Jesus work in their lives so that they can come to know who Jesus is. God forgives sins and it is never to late to receive Jesus as their Savior, except once they die. Pray for boldness that you can tell others about this wonderful gift of salvation there is for them.

**Sunday, 6/3, Luke 24:** Just as His disciples and other followers struggled to understand what had happened regarding the resurrection, there are so many people around that are in the same boat: who don't understand what the resurrection means or that it even happened. This is the life-blood of being a Christian. Without the resurrection, there would be no eternal life. Jesus has instructed you to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in His name to all nations. Pray that God would fill you with His Spirit to proclaim the gift of salvation to.