

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



This week and next are two occasions for prayer. This week leads up to our annual elections of elders and deacons. Next week is the National Day of Prayer. Our devotions this week and next will reflect on the sovereignty of God and prayer. God's sovereignty is a huge incentive to our prayers. The sovereign creator of all things ordains prayer for His glory and our benefit.

Scripture Preparing for Sunday's Election of Officers

Matthew 7:7-11 *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"*

Luke 6:12-16 *In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.*

Acts 1:21-26 [Replacement for Judas] *"So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

Acts 13:1-3 *Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Acts 14:23 *And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!

("Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven", Henry Francis Lyte (1834), CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, we begin this prayer by looking not around or looking in, but by looking up to you, the living God, the one true God, the God above all gods seated on the throne of glory over all the universe. You are the God of glory whose glory fills the whole earth. You are the God of power who rules over the entire universe. You are the God of wisdom whose will decides all that happens. We pray to you for there is no other. We ask you to lead all our prayers and to hear and answer for the sake of your glory and we will give you all the praise and honor due your name.

Lord, you know the hearts of all, show us the leaders you have chosen. Lead us by your Holy Spirit to have your mind and heart in this most important matter. For the sake of the flock, please hear and answer. For the sake of the witness of your church in this community please hear and answer. For the sake of your glory and honor and for the sake of the glory and honor of Jesus Christ and His church, please hear and answer. We ask for your will to be done on earth and in your church and in this church as it is in heaven. We ask you to choose and set apart those who are most fit to serve in the offices of elder and deacon at this time in your church. We ask for your physical and spiritual protection around each leader and their families. Glorify your name and build your church for the sake of Jesus. This is our earnest prayer. Have mercy on us and help us we pray, in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.