

# Read - Think - Pray

Proper 9A, 4-8 July, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

<b>Monday</b> <b>Psalm 145:8-14</b> <b>Psalm</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Romans 7:15-25a</b> <b>Epistle</b>
<b>Think:</b> 'The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.' - Psalm 145:14 Two things I notice - first - God lifts the fallen and bowed down; second - that God is eternal. We tend to fool ourselves into thinking that everything depends on us; even God's love for us depends on our good behaviour. The Psalmist reminds us that God's love and God's kingdom are eternal in contrast to our unreliability. <b>Pray:</b> Pray that we would not depend on ourselves. Ask God to help us to trust.	<b>Think:</b> These verses sum up our human condition: 'I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.' - Romans 7:19 Paul tells us that 'Law' is powerless over this condition. It is only our saviour Jesus Christ who can rescue us - by changing our hearts and minds. <b>Pray:</b> Jesus save me. I really can't help myself.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Zechariah 9:9-12</b> <b>Old Testament</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>Matthew 11:16-30</b> <b>Gospel</b>
<b>Think:</b> Zechariah anticipates the coming of Jesus - the one who will bring true and lasting peace. All this - because God is faithful. AS 9:11 says 'because of the blood of my covenant with you...' God keeps God's promises. Despite our sin. <b>Pray:</b> Lord, only with your help can I make you Lord of my life. I stumble and fall nearly every step of the way; but you are patient - returning always to pick me up, to strengthen me, to encourage me. Today I remember that it is not because of who I am that I am loved; but because of who you are.	<b>Think:</b> "Come to me all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest." Jesus is what God is like. God gives us rest, shares our burdens, God is 'gentle and humble in heart.' <b>Pray:</b> You may sometimes feel that your burdens are not worth God's attention. But to God - even the smallest matters. Spend some time giving God your burdens. Do your best not to take them back.
<b>Friday</b> <b>Matthew 13:1-23</b> <b>Next week's gospel</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>Matthew 13:1-23</b> <b>Next week's gospel</b>
<b>Think:</b> Are you listening? Do you have ears? <b>Pray:</b> Help us to be better soil.	<b>Think:</b> Are you listening? Do you have ears? <b>Pray:</b> Help us to be better soil.

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