



## WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit [www.wepc.org/lectionary](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary).

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### Sunday, July 28, 2019

*The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time*

[Genesis 18:20-32](#) *Abraham Intercedes for Sodom*

[Psalm 138](#) *Your Right Hand Delivers Me*

[Colossians 2:6-19](#) *Canceling the Record of Debt*

[Luke 11:1-13](#) *Daily Bread & Forgiveness*

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### Monday, July 29

[Psalm 55:16-23](#) *He Redeems my Soul in Safety*

[Esther 5:1-14](#) *He had the Gallows Made*

[Colossians 2:16-3:1](#) *Died & Raised with Christ*

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### Tuesday, July 30

[Psalm 55:16-23](#) *He Redeems my Soul in Safety*

[Esther 6:1-7:6](#) *Who has Dared to Do This?*

[Romans 9:30-10:4](#) *Christ is the End of the Law*

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### Wednesday, July 31

[Psalm 55:16-23](#) *He Redeems my Soul in Safety*

[Esther 7:7-8:17](#) *Vengeance*

[Matthew 5:43-48](#) *Love Your Enemies*

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### Thursday, August 1

[Psalm 49:1-12](#) *No Life through Riches*

[Proverbs 23:1-11](#) *It Is Gone*

[Romans 11:33-36](#) *The Riches of God*

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### Friday, August 2

[Psalm 49:1-12](#) *No Life through Riches*

[Proverbs 24:1-12](#) *Envy & Wisdom*

[Ephesians 4:17-24](#) *Old Self & New Self*

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### Saturday, August 3

[Psalm 49:1-12](#) *No Life through Riches*

[Ecclesiastes 1:1-11](#) *Vanity of Vanities*

[Mark 10:17-22](#) *Treasure in Heaven*

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## Ask, Seek, Knock

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 11:1-13](#).

<sup>1</sup> Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread,

<sup>4</sup> and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I

have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup> or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Jesus wasn't just a teacher on prayer. He prayed.

- 1.) The prayer that Jesus taught is first and foremost centered on God. The first thing is God's name and reputation. We want God to work in such a way that human beings worship Him and that His rule would be extended all over the earth.
- 2.) We pray for what we need today.
- 3.) Forgiveness. God answers the prayers of sinners, not perfect people (13).
- 4.) Persevere. God may have reasons to delay that seem as strange to us as a friend who is in bed! However, you go that friend because he is a friend. You go to him because you believe he will help. If that is so why does make us keep praying?
  - a. He loves to hear us pray
  - b. For our humility
  - c. That the mercy we pray for will be all the sweeter
  - d. Everything is not in place
- 5.) Sometimes we ask for a fish and it seems like we got a snake.

"We must keep this simple fact before us: God is Father and we are children. The Father always keeps the right to do what is best for the children even if they don't understand why it is best. If this were not so, then we would be saying that we should run the Father's house. We should be the Father and he should be the child. Which in this case would mean we should rule the universe and God should learn from us how to do it. Prayer has never meant that God should stop being God. We do not have the wisdom or the grace to run the universe. God is God. And he will continue to decide how to run the universe in the best way. If we ask him for a fish, he will not give us a snake." (John Piper)

"He will give the Holy Spirit. Why the Holy Spirit? To see rightly. To know the real enemy. To strengthen us in the true fight. To teach us to pray. To strengthen us in faith toward God and love toward one another. And especially to point us to Christ and see that in Him the victory has already been won. That's what St. Paul was talking about today in the Epistle: Christ's victory, given us in baptism. Christ's victory through His death and resurrection." (James Douthwaite)