

This Day: 8th June

Opening Prayer

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: Genesis chapter 18 verses 1 - 15 GNB

1 The LORD appeared to Abraham at the sacred trees of Mamre. As Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day, 2 he looked up and saw three men standing there. As soon as he saw them, he ran out to meet them. Bowing down with his face touching the ground, 3 he said, "Sirs, please do not pass by my home without stopping; I am here to serve you. 4 Let me bring some water for you to wash your feet; you can rest here beneath this tree. 5 I will also bring a bit of food; it will give you strength to continue your journey. You have honoured me by coming to my home, so let me serve you." They replied, "Thank you; we accept." 6 Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick, take a sack of your best flour, and bake some bread." 7 Then he ran to the herd and picked out a calf that was tender and fat, and gave it to a servant, who hurried to get it ready. 8 He took some cream, some milk, and the meat, and set the food before the men. There under the tree he served them himself, and they ate. 9 Then they asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" "She is there in the tent," he answered. 10 One of them said, "Nine months from now I will come back, and your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah was behind him, at the door of the tent, listening. 11 Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah had stopped having her monthly periods. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? And besides, my husband is old too." 13 Then the LORD asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Can I really have a child when I am so old?'" 14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? As I said, nine months from now I will return, and Sarah will have a son." 15 Because Sarah was afraid, she denied it. "I didn't laugh," she said. "Yes, you did," he replied. "You laughed."

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| 1 God, who made the stars of heaven,
God who spread the earth,
breath of every living being,
fount of life and birth,
you have formed a servant people,
led us by your hand.
Light of nations, shine in us ;
brighten every land. | 3 Spirit God, equip your people,
all with gifts to share :
messengers to speak the gospel,
ministers of care.
So may valleys rise to greatness,
mountains be a plain.
Come, surprise us ; change our lives ;
heal each heart in pain. |
| 2 Living Christ, the light of nations,
radiant as the sun,
build us up, a growing body ;
knit your Church as one.
May our loving be a witness
all the world may see.
Send your Spirit, bond of peace,
source of unity. | 4 So may nations praise your
greatness,
do your will on earth,
free the captives from their prisons,
treat the poor with worth.
So may desert, coast and village
sing new songs to you.
Light of nations, fill the world,
making all things new. |

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Psalm 112

The Righteous Will Never Be Moved

- 1 Praise the LORD! Happy is the person who honours the LORD, who takes pleasure in obeying his commands.
- 2 The good man's children will be powerful in the land; his descendants will be blessed.
- 3 His family will be wealthy and rich, and he will be prosperous forever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for good people, for those who are merciful, kind, and just.
- 5 Happy is the person who is generous with his loans, who runs his business honestly.
- 6 A good person will never fail; he will always be remembered.
- 7 He is not afraid of receiving bad news; his faith is strong, and he trusts in the LORD.
- 8 He is not worried or afraid; he is certain to see his enemies defeated.
- 9 He gives generously to the needy, and his kindness never fails; he will be powerful and respected.
- 10 The wicked see this and are angry; they glare in hate and disappear; their hopes are gone forever.

Closing Prayer

For those caught up in tragedy and disaster

O Lord our God, source of all goodness and love, accept the fervent prayers of your people;
in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

In troubled times

God of love, turn our hearts to your ways; and give us peace. Amen.

For justice

Living God, deliver us from a world without justice and a future without mercy; in your mercy, establish justice, and in your justice, remember the mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For international unrest

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.