

# IN HIS DAYS JUSTICE WILL FLOURISH

PSALM 71(72)

A six-part reflection series inspired by the readings of Advent and Christmas Year A and "Dilexi Te", Pope Leo XIV's Apostolic Exhortation to all Christians on 'Love for the Poor'.

**ADVENT WEEK ONE**

# From The Scriptures

**Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord ...  
He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war. *Isaiah 2:1-4***

**For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
'Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!' *Psalms 121(122):6-7***

## Gospel

**"So stay awake,  
because you do not know the day when your master is coming ...  
Stand ready because the Son of Man is coming  
at an hour you do not expect." *Matthew 24:42,44***

## From Pope Leo and other Wise Teachers

**Thus, in a world where the poor are increasingly numerous we paradoxically see the growth of a wealthy elite, living in a bubble of comfort and luxury, almost in another world compared to ordinary people ... a culture still persists ... that discards others without even realising it and tolerates with indifference that millions of people die of hunger or survive in conditions unfit for human beings.**

**Pope Leo XIV on 'Love for the Poor' in "Dilexi Te", 11.**





**God is merciful love ...** Wanting to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity, God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest.

Pope Leo XIV on 'Love for the Poor' in "Dilexi Te" 16

**... Charity is not optional** but a requirement of true worship ...

Pope Leo XIV on 'Love for the Poor' in "Dilexi Te" 42

**An old rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun.** "Could it be," asked one of his students, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?" "No," answered the rabbi. Another asked, "Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it's a fig tree or a peach tree?" "No," answered the rabbi. "Then when is it?" the pupils demanded. "It's when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that it is your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night."

Joan Chittester, *Songs of the Heart*, 45-46

**Holy breathing God, I feel you stirring ...** winning the hearts and hands of the caring: Each in her chosen path, each with his special gift, take their stand to create a world more fit for living, more just and more humane.

Dom Helder Camara, *Essential Writings*, 126-127

## For Thinking and Praying

- **What words or phrases stand out for you in these readings and insights?**
- **What intention and hope might you take into tomorrow?**

## For Peace and Justice

**Be ready** to act as a peacemaker  
if the need arises,  
praying for guidance to be wise,  
fair and just.



# Prayer

**Come, God of Justice,**

and complete the special work of love  
which you began in Jesus of Nazareth.

Many are cast down with spiritual needs,  
thirsting for the peace of your forgiveness  
and the warmth of your healing love.

Come to them with the grace they desperately need.

*At evening or midnight, morning or midday*

– Come, Lord Jesus.

**Many are in despair** through physical hardship,  
seeking relief from their burdens

and hope in the midst of their cares.

Come to them with the help they desperately need.

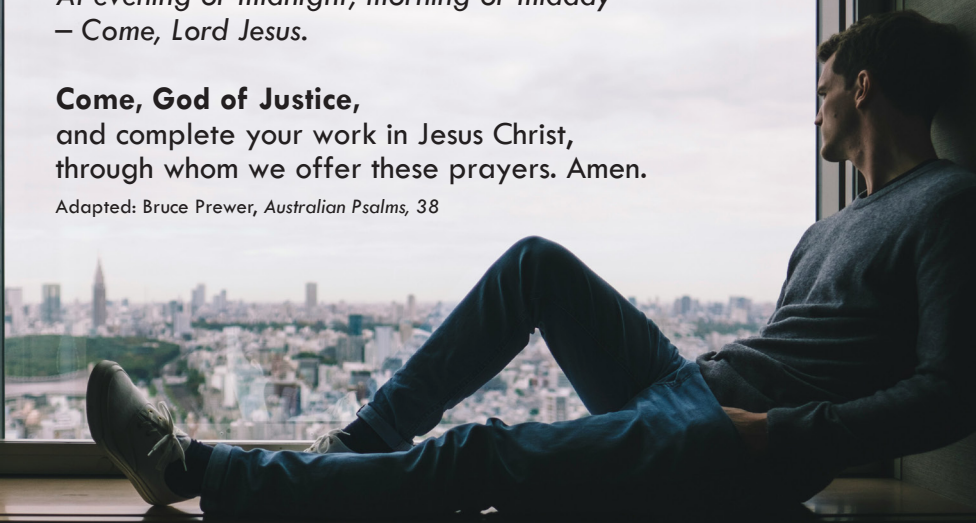
*At evening or midnight, morning or midday*

– Come, Lord Jesus.

**Come, God of Justice,**

and complete your work in Jesus Christ,  
through whom we offer these prayers. Amen.

Adapted: Bruce Prewer, *Australian Psalms*, 38



**Prepared for Advent and Christmas Year A 2025 by:** Mission and Pastoral Life Sandhurst,  
PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552. Email: [mpl@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:mpl@sandhurst.catholic.org.au).

**Acknowledgements:** Pope Leo XIV, “Dilexi Te”, Apostolic Exhortation to all Christians on ‘Love for the Poor’, Oct 2025; Prewer, Bruce D. *Australian Psalms*, Kingston Springs: Lutheran Publishing House / Westview, Fourth Edition 2018; Chittister, Joan, *Songs of the Heart: Reflections on the Psalms*, New London: Twenty-Third Publications, 2011; Camara, Dom Helder, Dom Helder Camara: *Essential Writings*, Selected by Francis McDonagh, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2009.