A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn – CMP 641

The day Thou gavest, Lord is ended,
the darkness falls at Thy behest;
to Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – 1 Thessalonians C5:1-11

1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Verses 2-3 *"for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape*" "The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" This phrase highlights the unpredictability of Christ's return. It echoes Jesus' own teachings in **Matthew 24:43-44**, emphasizing that no one can predict the exact time when Jesus will return. Paul uses this expression to refer to Christ's return and the coming judgement, the day of the Lord will come when no one expects it.

Verses 4-5 *"But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief".* Though the day of the Lord will overtake the unsaved world, unexpectedly, it will not overtake believers, because they are looking forward to Jesus' return and expecting it.

Verses 6-7 **"***So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night".* Because as Christians, they have been informed about future events, they should not be spiritually asleep, but should watch and be sober, we are called to be alert to spiritual realities, as we serve the purposes of God in the places we live. Regular prayer, studying scripture, and engaging in community worship are ways to stay spiritually alert and prepared.

Prayer. Lord God, we thank You for the Word of Truth and the promise of Christ's return to take us to be with Himself. We pray that we will not fall into apathy or wrong thinking, but that, day by day, Jesus will be the focus of our hearts, as we wait for His return. In Jesus' name we pray. **AMEN**

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, we look for you, we long for you, we watch for you, we wait for you. Give us wisdom to know you and courage to serve you, in you Lord whom we serve is perfect freedom, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Lord God, we ask you to give strength to all who are weary; strengthen our faith in times of trouble, when there are wars and rumours of wars, when there is famine and earthquakes. May we continue to put our trust in you and to work for the coming of your kingdom.

The Lord is our strength – **He alone is our salvation.**

Lord God, guide all who deal with world crises, protect the peacekeepers and maintainers of the law, let all who work for justice and freedoms know you care. Give wisdom to the wok of world organisations, United Nations, World Health Organisation, Save the Children fund and C.A.P. – Christians against Poverty, who bring relief, help and hope for the many in our world.

The Lord is our strength – **He alone is our salvation.**

We pray for homes where it is hard to be a Christian, where there is enmity and strife and violence, for homes where there is neglect and abuse. We give thanks for all agencies and people that support families in their needs. We pray for our own homes and loved ones.

The Lord is our strength – **He alone is our salvation.**

We pray for all who are victims of war, earthquakes, floods, famine, poverty, injustice and tyranny, for the homeless and unemployed. We pray for all who have lost hope, Jesus touch their lives we pray.

The Lord is our strength – **He alone is our salvation.**

Lord, we thank you that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour. Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life. It is in Him, that we have our being, may we live each day, studying, praying and keeping our eyes always fixed on Jesus.

Finally,….take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask you're blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort and help those in need we pray.

Pray the LORD'S Prayer

Peace

The Lord keep you from all evil, shelter you from all troubles,
and guide you into the ways of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

A prayer of blessing

The glory of God the Father be about you and within you.
The love of Christ our Lord sustain you and fill you.
The power of the Holy Spirit inspire you and guide you. ***AMEN***