



# FOR I WAS HUNGRY

Matthew 25:35-37



## Readings for 2023 Anglicare Sunday

Readings for 22/29 October 2023:

Psalm 139:1-6  
OT Ezekiel 34:1-6, 17-19  
NT Matthew 25:31-45;  
Gospel Luke 10:25-37

### Psalm 139:1-6 The All-Knowing, Ever-Present God

For the choir director. A Davidic psalm.

<sup>1</sup> LORD, You have searched me and known me.  
<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I stand up;  
You understand my thoughts from far away.  
<sup>3</sup> You observe my travels and my rest;  
You are aware of all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue,  
You know all about it, LORD.  
<sup>5</sup> You have encircled me;  
You have placed Your hand on me.  
<sup>6</sup> This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me.  
It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.

### Ezekiel 34:1-6, 17-19 A Paraphrase of the text.

A chilling criticism on society's leaders failing those people they were tasked to care for. Selfishness will be judged – eating the curds and clothing yourselves while the weak, sick and injured lie abandoned. A vivid example of mismanagement of resources – trampling pasture so that, even though there is enough for all, it is unusable for many.

### Matthew 25:31-46

The Sheep and the Goats

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels[a] with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations[b] will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for



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you from the foundation of the world.

<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry  
and you gave Me something to eat;  
I was thirsty  
and you gave Me something to drink;  
I was a stranger and you took Me in;  
<sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me;  
I was sick and you took care of Me;  
I was in prison and you visited Me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink?' <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?'

<sup>40</sup> "And the King will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.' <sup>41</sup> Then He will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!

<sup>42</sup> For I was hungry  
and you gave Me nothing to eat;  
I was thirsty  
and you gave Me nothing to drink;  
<sup>43</sup> I was a stranger  
and you didn't take Me in;  
I was naked  
and you didn't clothe Me,  
sick and in prison  
and you didn't take care of Me.'

<sup>44</sup> "Then they too will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help You?'

<sup>45</sup> "Then He will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me either.'

<sup>46</sup> "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



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## Liturgy for 2023 Anglicare Sunday

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

We gather to give thanks to the God who sustains the weak and loves the poor and whose heart bleeds for the vulnerable. We ask you to pray for the work of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & the ACT, to pray for its ministry in our communities and hear anew the call of God on our lives to be people who love in deed as well as in word. We seek to encourage each other to put Christ's Love into Action.

Let us pray:

Christ who fed the hungry:

**Stir us, to put love into action that we might nourish the lives of others.**

Christ who welcomed the outcast:

**Stir us, to put love into action that we might be a community of acceptance.**

Christ who touched the leper:

**Stir us, to put love into action that we might reach out to the lonely and the broken.**

Christ who overturned the money-changers' tables:

**Stir us, to put love into action that we might stand against injustice.**

Christ who offered living water:

**Stir us, to put love into action that we might share the precious gift of faith.**

### Collect:

God of love,  
you call us to care for the widow and the orphan,  
to support the weak, and strengthen the fainthearted.

We give thanks for the work of Anglicare,  
which brings your love to those in need  
and embodies hope in action.

Enable us to work together to build communities of  
respect and compassion, integrity, fairness and inclusiveness;  
that your kingdom might be present on earth. Amen



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A Justice and Peace Commitment for churches in Anti-Poverty Week

The Gospel compels us to seek peace founded on Christ's justice and that costly reconciliation is at its heart; that is Peace with God and Peace with each other: that work for justice, peace and an equitable society is a matter of urgency; that God has given us partnership as stewards of creation and that we have a responsibility to live in a right relationship with the whole of God's creation; that, handled with integrity, creation can provide for the needs of all, but not for the greed which leads to injustice and inequality, and endangers life on earth; that everyone should have the quality and dignity of a full life that requires adequate physical, social and political opportunity, without the oppression of poverty, injustice and fear; that social and political action leading to justice for all people and encouraged by prayer and discussion, is a vital work of the Church at all levels; We pray and act towards this Love in Action, this day.

## **Confession and Absolution:**

Lord Jesus, you came with compassion for all.  
When we have seen others in pain and turned away.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you showed us healing in your loving embrace.  
When we have been in pain and refused the care of others.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in you we are called to live in unity and peace.  
When we have recognised injustice and failed to speak out.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution:**

The Scriptures reminds us that we serve  
a God of mercy and forgiveness.  
May you know God's forgiveness in your lives,  
and go forward to be bearers of forgiveness in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Intercessory Prayers:**

Let us pray to our God who welcomes all, in whose image we are made and who hears the desires of our hearts.

Faithful God, you have entrusted us to share with you the mission of your Church.  
We pray for Church throughout the world and in our place...



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Bless us with wisdom and grace to do our work well.

Open our eyes, stir our hearts, and teach us how to act justly and to love mercy and to walk Humbly with you today.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for the pioneers and benefactors of Anglicare who began the work that continues today.

Make us all faithful in keeping their vision alive.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for the skills and service of Anglicare Board members, praying for them and their Chair Lynette Glendenning.

Bless them with insight and energy as they work together.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We pray for the CEO Brandon Howard and give thanks for the dedication and compassion of Anglicare staff as they work closely with clients.

Bless them with fairness, resilience and love.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for all volunteers who contribute so richly to the work of Anglicare, and for the time, skills and care they offer.

Bless them with strength and refreshment in their labours.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We pray for the clients of Anglicare and especially those who are most vulnerable and most in need.

We give thanks for everything that is received and learnt from them.

Bless us all with grace that we may see Christ's face in all your children.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for the contribution parishes make to the life and work of Anglicare, in addressing the needs and hopes of local communities.

Strengthen these relationships and bless them with a common sense of your love for all people.

Generous God,

**pour out your love.**



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We give thanks for Anglicare partners in government and community who shape policy and direct resources, particularly as funding is so crucial and limited. Bless them with understanding, integrity, inclusiveness, and justice.

Generous God,  
**pour out your love.**

We give thanks for others who support the work of Anglicare, financial donors, those who pray, and for their desire to reach out in loving service. Bless them with empathy, courage and passion.

Generous God,  
**pour out your love.**

**We make our prayer through the one who came among us as the friend and Saviour of sinners high and low alike, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

A blessing on you who are poor,  
Yours is the kingdom of God.  
A blessing on you who mourn,  
You shall be comforted.  
A blessing on you who hunger for justice,  
You shall be satisfied  
A blessing on you who make peace,  
You shall be called children of God.  
A blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right,  
Yours is the kingdom of Heaven. Amen

### **Greeting of Peace:**

Blessed are those who make peace, they shall be called children of God.  
We meet in God's name and share God's peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offertory Prayer:**

God of mercy and compassion,  
your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
Accept all we offer you this day;  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



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Eucharistic Preface:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, faithful God,  
always and everywhere;  
for you see the plight of the oppressed  
and your ears are open to the cries of the poor.

Throughout the ages you have called your people  
to reach out in compassion  
to the widow and the orphan,  
to provide for the poor and for the dispossessed.

In your great love you entered our humanity,  
embracing our poverty and knowing our frailty.  
Son of God, born of Mary, Jesus lived our human life  
and loved with your divine love.  
He welcomed sinners and outcasts  
and proclaimed that the little and the least  
are great in the Kingdom of God.  
Though rulers and powers turned against him  
and he was killed, you raised him to new life.  
And now you have called us to follow him,  
walking his way of compassion and justice  
and drawing others into your love.

And so we praise you,  
joining with your faithful people of every time and place,  
singing the eternal song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.  
[Blessed is he/the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.]**



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### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Merciful God  
may we who have gathered at your table, be nourished by your life.  
We who have tasted of your love, bear witness in the world.  
Inspire us by your Spirit, that celebrating the work of Anglicare today,  
our eyes may be opened, and our hearts stirred,  
that we may go forth to [local community name] your kingdom on earth. Amen.

### **Anglicare Prayer for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT:**

God grant us the compassion to care deeply for others; the wisdom to discern how best to help; the energy to transform emotion into action, and the joy of wholehearted, loving service. For Christ's sake. Amen.

### **Song – God of the Poor Graham Kendrick or something similar**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO1G-o7Yj-c>

### **Anglicare Australia Prayer:**

God of Life Giving Creation,  
You call us to act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with you.  
We pray for the member organisations of Anglicare Australia  
working across this vast and ancient land.  
Enable us as we strive to meet human need through loving service  
and to build communities of resilience, hope and justice.  
Encourage us to work in mutual partnership to effect positive change.  
Empower the people we serve to reach their full potential,  
especially those who experience disadvantage and injustice.  
Guide us in our advocacy for social justice  
and strengthen our determination to respond with compassion.  
Remind us to care for ourselves and each other  
as we face the challenges of our work,  
and as we seek reconciliation, healing and community transformation.  
All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our servant leader and friend.  
Amen.





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## **Final Blessing:**

(A Franciscan Benediction as adapted at Anglicare Australia National Conference 2016)

May God bless you with discomfort:

At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships  
so that you may live a life of depth.

May God bless you with anger:

At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people  
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears:

To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and violence,  
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness:

To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
and bring justice and kindness to all.

May God bless us with delight:

At our diversity, in the richness of the cultures of our ancient land,  
so that we may all dance the spirit of our dreaming  
expecting to be surprised at the beauty of the other.  
And may the blessing...