

Service for Week 12th – 18th October
2026 By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, it's hard when we are faced with challenges, to find new reserves and fresh inspiration to keep battling on. Renew us then, through your Holy Spirit, and give us the courage to walk in your footsteps to lead us safely through the difficulties that we face in our lives.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive them who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading 1 Thessalonians 1-10

Paul, Silas and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:
Grace and peace to you.

We always thank God for all of you,
mentioning you in our prayers.
We continually remember before our
God and Father your work produced by
faith, your labor prompted by love, and
your endurance inspired by hope in our

Lord Jesus Christ. For we know,
brothers loved by God, that he has
chosen you,
because our gospel came to you not
simply with words, but also with
power, with the Holy Spirit and with
deep conviction. You know how we
lived among you for your sake.

You became imitators of us and of the
Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you
welcomed the message with the joy
given by the Holy Spirit. And so you
became a model to all the believers in
Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's
message rang out from you not only in
Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in
God has become known everywhere.
Therefore we do not need to say
anything about it, for they themselves
report what kind of reception you gave
us. They tell how you turned to God
from idols to serve the living and true
God, and to wait for his Son from
heaven, whom he raised from the
dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the
coming wrath.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Thessalonica in northern mainland
Greece, now called Thessaloniki is the
second-largest city after Athens.
It was a city that Paul visited on his
second missionary journey around 50
years after Christ's crucifixion. He
established there an early Christian
church -that was a group of believers
who met in one another's homes. Paul

faced a great deal of opposition there from those who worshiped the Greek gods and idols. So much so he was forced to move on to Berea.

So, to support and encourage this early Christian church Paul wrote the two books to the Thessalonians that we can read today in the New Testament of the Bible. His letter, is not formal, it is personal and he thanks God for everyone who meet together there to spread the message of God's saving love through Jesus Christ.

Paul tells them that despite the opposition that they face, which was why he had to leave them, they are strengthened and are joyful because the power of the God's Holy Spirit is with them. This he says is something that is noticed by others people throughout the region. What is more it is being talked about and it is encouraging more people to turn away from worshiping idols and believe that Jesus is the Son of God who God raised from the dead.

In thinking about those early Christians in Thessalonica I wonder what view those who don't believe or those who follow other religions have of Christians in our society today and of us. Do we show to others that we turn away from the false idols of today such as being ruthless in our pursuit of power and financial gain. Rejecting the shallow materialism that places objects and

money above human relationships. Of thinking only of ourselves and not caring for the person next to us. Or seeking power to manipulate others into doing what we want instead of what they want.

Can those around us see, like those that talked about those early Christians in Thessalonica, that we have a different way of thinking and a different way of life? That we have found true spiritual values? That we have changed perhaps from our previous ways and are living moral lives? But most importantly can they see we have we found a true relationship with God through learning about Jesus Christ? That being led by God's Holy Spirit within us has brought meaning and purpose to our lives.

Paul writes in his letter 'We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.' May these words give us the same encouragement as I am sure they gave to that early gathering of Christians in Thessalonica.

Amen

Closing prayer Lord Jesus, help me to follow your example, pursuing the way of love. Not allowing myself to become distracted, or to lose heart so that I wander away from you, but keeping faith to the end. **Amen**

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett