

St. Stephen's Sunday Forum - November 23, 2025

Luke 6:20-31

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets. "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Prayers for Ourselves and Others (at Celtic services this season)

Leader Let us pray for ourselves and the world.

Leader Lord, when I am famished,

People **give me someone who needs food;**

Leader when I am thirsty,

People **send me someone who needs water;**

Leader when I am cold,

People **send me someone to warm;**
Leader when I am hurting,
People **send me someone to console;**
Leader when my cross becomes heavy,
People **give me another's cross to share;**
Leader when I am poor,
People **lead someone needy to me;**
Leader when I have no time,
People **give me someone to help for a moment;**
Leader when I am humiliated,
People **give me someone to praise;**
Leader when I am discouraged,
People **send me someone to encourage;**
Leader when I need another's understanding,
People **give me someone who needs mine;**
Leader when I need somebody to take care of me,
People **send me someone to care for;**
Leader when I think of myself,
People **turn my thoughts toward another.**
Leader We offer our prayers of hope and concern, and we bring to God
 ourselves, our souls and bodies,
All **that we might be healed**
 and drawn to love each other,
 as God loves us. Amen.