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Suggestions For Sunday 12th July by Revd John Elliott

Passages from Scripture

Isaiah 58:12,13

Jeremiah 17:19-27

Matthew 12:1-14

and/or John 5:1-17

Teachings of the New Church

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; for six day you are to labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath for Jehovah your God For this commandment, see Exod.20:8-10; Deut.5:12,13. In the natural or literal sense this means that six days are for man and his work, and the seventh is for the Lord, and for Him to give man rest. Sabbath in the language of the original means rest. Among the Children of Israel the Sabbath was the holiest of observances, because it represented the Lord. The six days represented the Lord's toils and battles against the hells, the seventh His victory

over them, and so rest. Since that day represented the completion of the Lord's whole act of redemption, it was for that reason the height of holiness. When, however, the Lord came into the world, so that representations of Him ceased, that day became a day for instruction in Divine matters, and also a day of rest from work, for meditation about matters conducive to salvation and everlasting life, and a day for love towards the neighbour. It's being a day for instruction in Divine matters is plain from the fact that the Lord taught in the Temple and in synagogues on that day (Mark 6:2; Luke 4:16,31,32; 13:10). Also from His saying to the man He had cured, 'Pick up your bed and walk', and to the Pharisees, that His disciples might pick ears of grain and eat them on the Sabbath day (Matt.12:1-9; Mark 2:23-end; Luke 6:1-6; John 5:9-19). All these details mean in the spiritual sense being instructed in matters of doctrine. The things the Lord did and taught show that that day also became a day for love towards the neighbour (Matt.12:10-14; Mark 3:1-9; Luke 6:6-12; 13:10-18; 14:1-7; John 5:9-19; 7:22,23; 9:14,16). Both of these sets of passages make it plain why the Lord said that He was also Lord of the Sabbath (Matt.12:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5). It follows from His saying this that that day was to represent Him.

[Paragraph 301 of True Christian Religion](#) pub 1988 tr John Chadwick

For more,, please see paras 302-304; and for yet more, para 10360 of [Arcana Caelestia](#)

Hymns

402 This is the day of light tune Dominica or St George SM

151 Heal us, Immanuel! tune Belmont CM

456 Your arm, O Lord, in days of old tune St Matthew DCM

Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, we have no power of our own. Our own light is but the darkness in which we see our own advantage. Our own love is the hatred that rejects all others that we may possess all things. Our own strength is the weakness that enjoys the moment and destroys all lasting human happiness. Lord, You alone can give us light to see Your way in the dark places of our own living. You alone can give us the joy of love towards others in place of the anxious desires of our own selfishness. As we confess our dependence on You and obey Your law, enter into us that we may know the service and joy of Your life.

Your Word, O Lord, shall endure for ever. At all times it abides with us to instruct, guide, and support us in the way everlasting. Grant us a true perception of our needs, so that Your word may reveal its purpose for us.

Lord, we come to You trusting in Your Divine mercy and compassion which You show to all Your children. We remember before You all those who are in pain, sickness, and disease. Especially those known to us who are now in our thoughts.

We commit them into Your hands and pray that Your presence may be with them, giving them comfort and peace. We ask that their faith may be strengthened. Help them to know that, under Your providence, nothing but good can come to those who trust in You. Let not their faith be weakened by any assault upon the mind or body, but bring them close to Yourself whom to know is perfect freedom and joy.

Traditional Gaelic Blessing

Peace of the running waves to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the shades of night to you,
Moon and stars always giving light to you,
Deep peace of Christ, the Son of Peace, to you.