

Church of the Redeemer

Lent 2014

An Order for Daily Prayer

Ash Wednesday to the Saturday following



Introduction

Lent offers us an opportunity to be more intentional in our prayer-life – to enter more deeply into the conversation with God about who we are as God’s beloved. It is a time to listen to what God might be calling us to do and be and in turn to ask God to be with us as we seek out ways to love and serve God. It is a time to step forward – into something new or renewed. It is a time to step onto the path that God invites each of us to follow. The days of Lent will sometimes bring comfort and sometimes bring challenge as we seek to listen attentively. Perhaps it is helpful to remember that as we step into these days we have as our companions each other and we have Jesus. We can support and uphold one another and we can be supported and upheld by the one in whose steps we walk.

The order is designed such that you may enter into a time of prayer either in the morning or in the evening – whenever it fits the pattern of your day most easily. Please know that as you make time to pause and be with God, others in the parish are also praying alongside you. That is the wonderful thing about this discipline – while we may do this alone, we also do it in community.

Each Sunday a new booklet will be available following the worship service and on our website. You are welcome to keep the booklets each week. In addition we will post a brief excerpt from the daily prayers with an image on our Facebook page. We hope you’ll join us there, too.

It is our hope that this discipline becomes part of your journey from ashes to the cross to the empty tomb. In peace, let us pray.

Ash Wednesday to the Saturday Following

March 5 to March 8

We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer to God our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God.

We begin by saying

Examine me O God and know my heart, test me and discover my thoughts, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139.23,24

We continue with the Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and forget not all his benefits;
Who forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
Who redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord,
in all places of God's dominion;*
bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 103.1-4, 23

We continue with the reading and the reflection beginning on page 7. In silence we ask what the reading has to say to us this day. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God? When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle below.

The Canticle ~ Song of Ezekiel

I will take you from the nations,
and gather you from every country,
and bring you home to your own land.

I will pour clean water upon you,
purify you from all defilement,
and cleanse you from all your idols.

A new heart I will give you,
and put a new spirit within you;
I will take from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.

I will put my spirit within you,
make you walk in my ways
and observe my decrees.

You shall dwell in the land
I gave to your forebears;
you shall be my people
and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36.24-28

The Intercessions

We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God concluding with the prayer for the day, and the Lord's prayer

We offer prayers for the world

We offer prayers for the church, for all in leadership

We offer prayers for our community

We offer prayers for family and friends

We offers prayers of thanksgiving

Prayer for the Day

Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Direct us in all our doings, O Lord, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, attain to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Support us, O Lord, with your gracious favour through the fast we have begun; that as we observe it by bodily self-denial, so we may fulfill it with inner sincerity of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities; and in all our dangers and necessities, stretch forth your right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

OR

God, who cares for us,
The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe,
Let justice, kindness and love shine in our world.
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoing
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and from despair
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.
In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,
while worlds come and go. Amen.

We conclude our time of prayer

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
God lives in us.

The Readings and Reflections

Ash Wednesday

Reading

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Focus

What does it mean to you to be reconciled? Reconciled to another; reconciled to God? As we begin this journey through Lent to Holy Week, the cross and the empty tomb—is there something that you need to make right—with another, with God. Is now the time to start?

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Reading

Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain-offering and a drink-offering
 for the LORD, your God?

Joel 2.12-14

Focus

Return to me...

Why does that sometimes see so hard?

Return to me...

With all your heart.

Return to me...

Grace...

Mercy...

Love...

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Reading

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Isaiah 58.6-9a

Focus

Do you make time to watch the dawn come? To be still and watch as that moment happens when there is a glimmer of light on the horizon? In these days of Lent—pay attention to the moments when light breaks forth. What are you being called to do?

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Reading

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6.5-6

Focus

Pray. From the depths of your being. Pray. Not for all the world to see. Not for all the world to hear. Just pray. In a quiet moment. Just pray. God waits to listen.

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