

Church of the Redeemer

Lent 2014

An Order for Daily Prayer

Second Sunday in Lent 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.

Lent 2 to the Saturday Following

March 16 to March 22

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

Rend your hearts and not your garments; turn back to the Lord your God who is gracious and compassionate, long-suffering and abound in love.

Joel 2.13

We continue with the Psalm

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 121

We continue with the reading and the reflection beginning on page 8. 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 Humility

Come, let us return to the Lord
 who has torn us and will heal us.
God has stricken us
 and will bind up our wounds.
After two days, he will revive us,
 and on the third day will raise us up,
 that we may live in his presence.
Let us strive to know the Lord;
 his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.
He will come to us like the showers,
 like the spring rains that water the earth.
‘O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you?
 How shall I deal with you, O Judah?
‘Your love for me is like the morning mist,
 like the dew that goes early away.
‘Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets,
 and my judgement goes forth as the light.
‘For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice,
 and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.’

Hosea 6.1-6

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

Second Sunday in Lent

O God, you display your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and passionate faith to embrace and hold fast the abiding truth of Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Word made flesh.

Monday

Let your Spirit, O Lord, come into our midst, to wash us with the pure water of repentance, and prepare us to be always a living sacrifice to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday

O God, who willed to redeem us from all iniquity by your Son: Deliver us when we are tempted to regard sin without abhorrence, and let the virtue of his passion come between us and our mortal enemy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday

O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to reconcile earth with heaven. Grant that we, loving you above all things, may love our friends in you, and our enemies for your sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday

O Lord, strong and mighty, Lord of hosts and King of glory, cleanse our hearts from sin, keep our hands from the works of unrighteousness, and turn our minds from what is passing away, so that at the last we may stand in your holy place, and receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday

Grant, O Lord, that as your Son Jesus Christ prayed for his enemies on the cross, so we may have grace to forgive those who wrongfully or scornfully use us, that we ourselves may be able to receive your forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saturday

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; 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

Second Sunday in Lent

Reading

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Genesis 12.1-4a

Focus

What does it mean to you to be blessed? Do you see yourself as a blessing to others? Today remember one person who is a blessing to you. Give thanks.

Monday

Reading

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

John 3.1-3

Focus

He came to Jesus by night. He makes a statement but perhaps it is really a question. Could it be that Nicodemus was really asking – are you really who I think you are? In the night do you find yourself asking Jesus questions that you aren't certain you want to know the answer to? What question do you have to ask of Jesus today?

Tuesday

Reading

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3.16-17

Focus

There was a time when a parade or a football game didn't happen without someone holding up a sign simply saying "John 3.16". It was seen on television and in newspapers. It was – everywhere. It was a bold statement.

It is a bold statement - *For God so loved the world...* You are part of that world that God loved and loves. Believe.

Wednesday

Reading

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3.10-14

Focus

Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Paul says these words.

Christ Jesus has made me his own.

I can say these words.

Thursday

Reading

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Focus

Light shining out of the darkness guides us on our way. It guides the steps we take. It carries us into the future. God is the giver of that light. Jesus walks alongside us. Shine.

Friday

Reading

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3

Focus

Reveal me. Show me who I am becoming.
Show me the way.

Reveal me. Show me who I am becoming like.
Show me the way.

Reveal. Show. The Way.

Saturday

Reading

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 3.4-8

Focus

Born of

Flesh

Born of

Water

Born of

Spirit

Enter the kingdom of God.

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