

Church of the Redeemer

Lent 2014

An Order for Daily Prayer

Fourth 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 4 to the Saturday Following

March 30 to April 5

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

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:

In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and trust shall be your strength

Isaiah 30.15

We continue with the Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

In Peace We Pray

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 ~ God's Plan for Salvation

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who has blessed us in Christ
 with all the spiritual blessings of heaven.
God chose us in Christ before the world was made
 to be holy and blameless,
 and to live by his love in his presence.
God planned through Jesus Christ
 to bring us to himself as his children,
that we might praise the glory of his grace,
 his free gift to us in the Beloved.
In Christ we gain redemption;
through his blood our sins are forgiven.
 How rich is the grace of God!

Ephesians 1.3–7

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Monday

O Lord our God, in your holy sacraments you have given us a foretaste of the good things of your kingdom. Direct us, we pray, in the way that leads to eternal life, that we may come before you in that place of light where you dwell for ever with your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday

O God, with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light. Quench our thirst with living water, and flood our darkened minds with heavenly light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday

O Lord our God, who sustained your ancient people in the wilderness with bread from heaven: Feed now your pilgrim flock with the food that endures to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday

Almighty and most merciful God, drive from us all weakness of body, mind, and spirit; that, being restored to wholeness, we may with free hearts become what you intend us to be, and accomplish what you want us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday

O God, you have given us the Good News of your abounding love in your Son Jesus Christ. So fill our hearts with thankfulness, that we may rejoice to proclaim the glad tidings which we have received; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saturday

Most merciful God, whose only-begotten Word came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Reading

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9.1-5

Focus

Jesus, light of the world.

Where do you see that light shining today?

Monday

Reading

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'

Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

1 Samuel 16.1-5

Focus

Samuel did what the Lord commanded. Would you be able to do the same? What is God calling you to do today?

Tuesday

Reading

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Ephesians 5.8-14

Focus

Sleeper awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

As we journey through these days of Lent have you wakened from your sleep. As we draw closer to the cross do you see the light shining a path before you? Awake. Rise!

Wednesday

Reading

He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

John 9.6-12

Focus

Dirt + spit

Mud

Sent

Sight

Dirt + spit

Mud

Sent

Seen Anew

Thursday

Reading

Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion;

and to you shall vows be performed,

O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

Psalm 65.1-8

Focus

You forgive...

When I fall away from you.

You forgive...

When I forget.

You forgive...

When I hold onto things we should let go.

You forgive...

Me.

Friday

Reading

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

John 9.13-23

Focus

They spoke out of fear of the leadership: We do not know.

They spoke out of fear of the leadership: He is of age – ask him.

Deep down – what did they know?

Deep down – what did they believe?

What keeps you from speaking? What is it that you believe deep down.

Saturday

Reading

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

John 9.35-41

Focus

Lord, I believe.

Powerful words of faith. Do you remember when you said these words for the first time? I believe – whispered to be barely heard. I believe - loudly proclaimed. I believe – a feeling that grew and grew until you just knew. I believe – a moment unexpected and suddenly there.

Lord, I believe.

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON
M5S 1M4

416.922.4948
redeemer@bellnet.ca
Www.TheRedeemer.ca

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