

# Church of the Redeemer

Lent 2014

## An Order for Daily Prayer

Fifth 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 5 to the Saturday Following

April 6 to April 12

*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*

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,

O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you;

therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;

in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy;

With him there is plenteous redemption,

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

*Psalm 130*

*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 ~ The Lord's Servant***

He was despised; he was rejected,  
    a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.  
As one from whom people hide their faces,  
    he was despised, and we esteemed him not.  
Ours were the sufferings he bore,  
    ours the torments he endured,  
while we thought he was being punished,  
    struck by God and brought low.  
He was pierced for our sins,  
    bruised for no fault but ours.  
His punishment has won our peace,  
    and by his wounds we are healed.  
We had all strayed like sheep,  
    all taking our own way;  
but the Lord laid on him  
    the guilt of us all.

*Isaiah 53.3-6*

### ***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**

### ***Fifth Sunday in Lent***

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ created humanity anew: Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may be transformed according to the power of his victory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### ***Monday***

Be gracious to your people, O Lord; that they, repenting day by day of the things that displease you, may be filled more and more with love of you and of your commandments; and, being supported by your grace in this life, may come to enjoy all the fullness of eternal life in your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Tuesday***

Almighty God, through the incarnate Word you have caused us to be born anew of an imperishable and eternal seed. Look with compassion upon our efforts to live the life that we received in Holy Baptism, and grant that we may continue to be built as living stones into a spiritual temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Wednesday***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, renew in us the gifts of your mercy; increase our faith, strengthen our hope, enlighten our understanding, widen our charity, and make us always ready to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Thursday***

O God, you have called us to be your children, and have promised that those who suffer with Christ will be heirs with him of your glory. Arm us with such trust in his love, that we may ask no rest from his demands, and have no fear in his service; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Friday**

O Lord, you relieve our needs and necessities out of the abundance of your great riches. Grant that we may accept with joy the salvation you bestow, and manifest it to all the world by the quality of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Saturday**

O Lord, in your goodness you bestow abundant graces upon your chosen people. Continue to favour us, we entreat you, as we enter into the great mystery of him who is our Passover; through the same 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

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

#### *Reading*

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Ezekiel 37.1-8

#### *Focus*

Is there a dry place in your life that is coming alive? Rattling and noise, things coming together but not yet breath. Where is God in this experience?



## Monday

### Reading

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

*Ezekiel 37:9-14*

### Focus

Breathe in. Breathe out.

God.

Simply here. God in the breath. God in the sinew of your being.

Breathe in. Breathe out.

God.

## Tuesday

### Reading

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

*John 11.1-10*

### Focus

How would you have felt if you were Martha and Mary and the message you sent was seemingly dismissed? "He whom you live is ill..." was met with "he stayed two days longer in the place where he was." Jesus knows that this is not the final word. Jesus knows there is more. There is light.

## Wednesday

### Reading

After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

*John 11.11-17*

### Focus

Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep.

We do not understand.

Lazarus is dead.

We do not understand.

Together we go to the place. The place where he has been in the tomb four days.

Will we believe?

## Thursday

### Reading

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

*John 11. 18-29*

### Focus

A proclamation of faith.

I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe and die, will live.

Those who live and believe in me, will never die.

Do you believe this?

## Friday

### *Reading*

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

*John 11.30-43*

**Focus**

Lazarus come out.

In the midst of the emotion...

Angry words

*if only you had been here*

Grief

*where have you laid him?*

Sorrow

*Jesus began to weep*

Confusion

*if he could open the eyes of the blind man...*

A statement that will change it all...

Lazarus come out.

## Saturday

### Reading

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

*John 11.44*

### Focus

Unbind him, and let him go.

That you may love him.

That you may welcome him.

That you may re-clothe him.

That he may be restored.

That he may be made whole.

That he may have new life—resurrection.

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