

Lent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer
Lent Two to the Saturday Following

Introduction

We invite you to enter into a time of intentional prayer during these 40 days of Lent and through Holy Week. 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 other times bring challenge as we seek to listen attentively. It is helpful to remember that as we journey through 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 morning, noon or night, whenever it fits the pattern of your day. Please know that as you make time to pause and be with God, others in the parish are also praying alongside you and that as you go about your day, others are offering their prayers. 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.

In Peace we pray...

Lent Two to the Saturday Following

March 1 to 7

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

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man

Luke 21.36

We continue with the Psalm

You who fear the LORD, praise him! *

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor *

the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me, *

but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; *

my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; *

those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember *

and turn to the LORD;

and all the families of the nations *
shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, *
and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; *
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; *
future generations will be told about the Lord,

and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, *
saying that he has done it.

Ps 22.23-31

We continue with the reading and the reflection beginning on page eight. In silence we ask what the reading has to say to us today. 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 Jeremiah

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; *
tell it on the far-off shores:

“He who scattered Israel will gather *
and guard them as a shepherd his flock.”

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, *
redeemed them from a foe too strong.

They will come and sing for joy on Zion's height, *
radiant at the bounty of the Lord:

the grain, the new wine, the oil, *
the young of flock and herd.

Their life like a watered garden, *

they will never want again.

Then will maidens show their joy in the dance; *
men, young and old, will rejoice.

I shall turn their mourning into gladness, *
give comfort and joy for their sorrow.

I shall satisfy the priests with abundance, *
and fill my people with my bounty.

Jeremiah 31.10–14

We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions) and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.

The Intercessions

We offer prayers:

For God's creation...

For peace in the world...

For the Church and all who serve in Christ's name...

For our catechumen and those who are their companions during this time of study and preparation...

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer...

For forgiveness from those whom we have injured or offended...

For those who have gone before us in faith...

We conclude our prayers

God of Sarah and Abraham,
long ago you embraced your people in covenant
and promised them your blessing.

Strengthen us in faith
so that, with your followers in every age,
we may proclaim our deliverance in Jesus Christ
to generations yet unborn. Amen

[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]

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. Amen

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.

In the morning

Eternal God,
Grant to us this day and every day
Such readiness and delight in following Christ,
That whether our lives are short or long
We shall have lived abundantly. Amen.

In the evening

God of peace,
Be with us through this night which waits for us;
Bless us if it brings us sleep;
Support us if it brings us pain or anxiety,
Till we come once more to the morning light of another day. Amen.

The Readings and Reflections

Second Sunday in Lent

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

Reflection

From generation to generation...

This was God's covenant with Abraham

It is God's covenant with us.

Those before us, with us, after us...God with us.

How awesome is that?

Monday

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

Luke 18.9-14

Reflection

Sometimes I think I'm rather like the Pharisee. I feel rather smug about the time I give; the practices I keep; the abundance I share. There is nothing wrong with being generous and faithful. That is a good thing. But when my value becomes tied to what I have to offer, it is time for me to look around. It is time for me to climb down off the pedestal I've created for myself. It is time for me to remember in whose name I offer my time, my gifts. It is time for me to remember in whose name I love, I pray.

Jesus, remember me...a sinner.

Tuesday

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Luke 19.1-10

Reflection

You never know
when you will be asked
to welcome the guest
The One who will challenge you
to
see
Salvation comes!

Wednesday

Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Mark 2.13-17

Reflection

There he is again.

Hanging out with those whom many would rather not see. They don't understand.

Why would he hang out with the least?

Do I understand? Do I get it? Who will I 'hang out with' today?

Thursday

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5.23-24

Reflection

This is so hard.

Is there someone who I need to be reconciled? Am I the one who needs to leave my gift at the altar? What keeps me from going?

If someone comes to me seeking to be reconciled, can I do that? What keeps me from welcoming?

Be reconciled. It is hard. But. You need to do this.

Friday

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Mark 8.31-34

Reflection

Get

Behind

Me

Harsh words for someone to say. Harsh words for someone to hear.

When I lose focus and set my sights, my mind on things that are not about God what happens?

Do I need this reminder today?

God of all compassion, focus my sights on you. Remind me to seek you. I lose my way some days. I need your help.

Saturday

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Mark 8.34-38

Reflection

I will
take up my
cross
and I
follow
you

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