

# Lent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer  
Lent Four to the Saturday Following

## Introduction

**W**e 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 Four to the Saturday Following

March 15 to 21

*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 in trust shall be your strength.

*Isaiah 30.15*

*We continue with the Psalm*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their sins.

They abhorred all manner of food \*  
and drew near to death's door.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
and saved them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

*Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22*

*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 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*

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 catechumens 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*

Steadfast God,  
you reach out to us in mercy.  
When we rebel against your holy call  
and walk in disobedience,  
soften our hearts with the warmth of your love,  
so that we may know your Son  
alive within us, redeeming us  
and raising us up into your eternal presence. 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*

God of work and rest and pleasure,  
grant that what we do this week  
may be for us an offering  
rather than a burden;  
and for those we serve,  
may it be the help they need. Amen.

*In the evening*

Be present, merciful God,  
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,  
that we, who are wearied  
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness. Amen

## The Readings and Reflections

### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*Numbers 21.4-9*

### **Reflection**

In my impatience I complain about those things that don't measure up to my expectations.

In my impatience I turn away from God.

What the snakes that bite me; that cause some part of me to die?

Oh that I will turn to God and live.



## **Monday**

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.'

*Luke 15.1-7*

## **Reflection**

Much has been made in recent years about the one-percent. We hear about those who have the greatest wealth, the best opportunities. And, we hear about the ninety-nine; those who have less and are surviving on less all the time.

Here we have a different one-percent. This one has great value, too. But the value is not monetary or in status. This one is the lost who is sought until found. This one is the cause of welcome and celebration. Will you go and search for the one who is lost?

## **Tuesday**

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

Luke 15.8-10

## **Reflection**

In the invitation to observe a holy Lent we are reminded of our need for repentance and for mercy and forgiveness. In your marking of the days through Lent—in your prayer, your fasting and your almsgiving—have you also taken time to consider what you may need to seek forgiveness from? There is still time. Jesus waits to rejoice in the one lost but now found.

## **Wednesday**

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

Luke 15.11-24

## *Reflection*

Welcome home! Lost child of mine.

You have travelled far and seen much. You have tasted the richness life has to offer and you have drunk the tears of sorrow.

You have stooped low and cannot imagine more.

Oh lost child of mine. You are home. I welcome you. Let me wrap the cloak of forgiveness around you.

Come...child of mine. Home.

## Thursday

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

*Luke 15.25-32*

## Reflection

Who do you identify with in this story?

The son who has worked hard all this time and received little recognition?

The father who knew that one son was safe and had the security of all that he had to offer and another son who could be dead but was certainly lost.

Do you find yourself feeling that this isn't fair?

Do you find yourself rejoicing for the return of the one who was lost and is not found?

Today carry with you the one whose story you don't identify with. What do you learn about yourself today? Offer that up to God in your prayers.

## **Friday**

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

*Romans 12.14-18*

## **Reflection**

This is quite the list we are called to consider. Some things seem easier than others to do.

Bless or rejoice.

Weep.

Live in harmony.

Be mindful—of who you associate with and what you claim.

Note your actions and your thoughts.

Pick one and throughout your day, live your life with this in mind.

If we do this together, might we live peaceably with one another?

Shall we try?

## **Saturday**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

*John 3.14-21*

## **Reflection**

God so loved the world.

But at what cost?

Light

Darkness

Seek the light.

God loves.

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