

Lent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer
Fourth Sunday in Lent 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 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 through social media. **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.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fourth Sunday in Lent to the Saturday Following

March 26 to April 1

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

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

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

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 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

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you reveal yourself to the world, even when we are blind to your grace. Open our eyes to see your transforming love in our midst, so that we may see your world anew; through Jesus Christ, the savior who shows compassion. 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

Holy and enabling Spirit,
Give wings to our morning prayers.
May those we support and cherish with our love
Receive your grace to help them in their need. Amen.

In the evening

Preserve us, O God, while waking,
And guard us while sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ,
And asleep may rest in your peace. Amen.

The Readings and Reflections

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Reflection

Light to reveal

Light to show what is true

Light to point to the path

Light

Jesus to reveal

Jesus to show what is true

Jesus to point to the path

Jesus

Monday

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."

John 9.6-11

Reflection

He spat
On the ground to make mud
Mud that would change a life
He made mud
Spread on eyes that do not see
Mud that would change a life
He said wash the mud
And eyes now saw
Jesus

Tuesday

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."

John 9.13-17

Reflection

Can you hear the joy in his voice? I was blind. Now I see.

He believed his life would be one thing, one way.

Now: *he put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, now I see.*

A whole new way of being is there

A whole new path is before him.

Can you hear the joy in his voice?

What happens when you see with new sight? What path is before you?

Wednesday

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."

John 9.18-21

Reflection

It seems so hard for them to let go of what they knew of him. He was born blind. Or maybe he wasn't blind at all. What is it of his identity that they can't let go of?

They ask his parents. Parents who knew what the future had been for him. They knew the struggle life would have been.

There is fear of those who question them. And yet. They know their son.

We know who he is and what the past was. This is the future. His future. Ask him.

What of your past do you allow others to hold onto? What do you need to have let go?

Thursday

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.

John 9.35-38

Reflection

Do you remember

The first time you said I believe

Was it a whisper
so quiet you aren't even certain
you said it?

Do you remember

The first time you said I believe

Was it a firm conviction
a bold proclamation welling up
from deep within?

I believe

Friday

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. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 16.5-13

Reflection

But the Lord looks on the heart...

Look around

Who do you see? Is it what they are that you see?

Look around

Who do you see? Look for who they are.

Saturday

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

Reflection

Be light

You were once darkness
but now you are light

Be light

Light that shines
and makes visible

Be light

Awake
Let Christ shine on you

Credits:

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