

Lent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer
Fifth 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.

Fifth Sunday in Lent to the Saturday Following

April 2 to April 8

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

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 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 ~ The Souls of the Righteous

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God; *
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise they seemed to be dead, *
their departure was taken for defeat,

their going from us to be disaster; *
but they are in peace.

Though they appeared to be punished *
their hope is rich in immortality.

Small their affliction, great their blessing; *
God proved and found them worthy of himself.

Like gold in a furnace he tried them, *
and accepted them as an oblation.

In the moment of God's coming
they shall kindle into flame *
and run like sparks through the stubble.

They shall govern nations and peoples, *
and the Lord shall be their ruler for ever.

Wisdom 3.1–8

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

God of consolation, your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary, for your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, so that we may face despair and death with the hope of the resurrection and faith in the One who called Lazarus forth from the grave. 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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Reflection

Where are the dry places in your life just waiting for breath, new life? Sinews and flesh; skin...waiting.

Are you ready for the breath?

Monday

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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.

Ezekiel 37.9-10

Reflection

Come from the four winds

Breathe

Breathe that they might live

Come from the four winds

Breathe

Breathe that they might be revived

Come from the four winds

Breathe

Breathe that we might live

Come from the four winds

Breathe

Breathe that we might be revived.

Tuesday

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 37.11-14

Reflection

Through word and spirit—divine gifts—new life is offered. Where are you hearing God's word bringing new life to you? Where are you feeling the breath of God surrounding you with new hope?

Listen,

Feel,

God is here.

Wednesday

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.

John 9.18-21

Reflection

We have the first reminder of what is to come. The first nudge to begin to prepare for the days ahead.

Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary,
the one who anointed Jesus with perfume and
wiped his feet with her hair
is ill.

Jesus knows that this isn't about Lazarus. He knows that it isn't about death. It is about life.

Are you ready for what comes next?

Thursday

"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.

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."

John 11.11b-17, 20-27

Reflection

I go to awaken him
It is the beginning of death and life
Of life and death
Of this tomb and another.
Do you see?

Friday

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.

John 11.32-35

Reflection

Come and see

It is the moment of knowing

Come and see

The world is a cemetery

The world God has sent Jesus into

Come and see

This death will bring life

This life-giving moment will bring death

Come and see

It is the moment of knowing

Saturday

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!" 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 11.38-45

Reflection

Unbind him

And let him go

Martha and Mary wanted their brother

Jesus gives them that

And so much more

Jesus gives

Life

Life for them and for us

Are you ready for the path that will take us there?

Credits:

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