

LENT



WEEK SIX

Introduction

What is provided for you here is a simple prayer and scripture guide, adapted from the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship, that covers the duration of the Lenten season. It is meant to be used individually or within your house church, family, and friends for the purpose of prayer, meditation, and reflection. You will also find these themes and some of these scriptures and prayers mirrored in our Lenten gatherings.

Lent is the oldest season of the church, and I believe the most gracious season, as the church presses upon us the need for penitence, fasting, and prayer -- ancient practices of the faithful. In penitence we examine our hearts, discovering ways in which we have drifted from the beauty of God, for ways in which we have hurt ourselves and others, and we seek to turn from these beliefs and actions. Through fasting, we make space within ourselves to become attentive again to that hunger within us to know our creator. In prayer, we open ourselves up to the transcendent, allowing our hearts be drawn into God, through the Spirit.

These practices serve to give space for the opening up of ourselves to the presence of God, who surrounds us and longs to make his home within us. This Lent, my prayer for you is that you would know Christ as he really, really is. May you find him in the silence, in the hunger, in the examination of your own heart. As I said on Sunday, I'm looking forward to a "holy boredom." I'm needing moments in my day when, free from the many distractions that I pour into my life, I can begin to give attention to that place in me that longs for something more.

Whatever this journey is for you, may it be full of life, moment by moment, as you open yourself up to the one who holds all things.

We have compiled a Lenten guide for our community. In it we have compiled the readings throughout Lent, as well as some resources that may be of help to you in your journey. We have also scheduled some times of prayer throughout the season that we hope may be good for you.

- David

Morning Prayer

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

according to your judgement give us life.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us:
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and forever.

Amen.

The Psalm is read

***Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever.***

Amen.

The OT/NT reading(s) are read

***Full of compassion and mercy and love
Is God, the Most High, the Almighty.***

The Gospel is read

Silence is kept

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation,

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God, in your I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust.

Intercessions are offered

for the day and its task

for the world and its needs

for the Church and her life

for peace

for individuals and their needs

Almighty and everlasting God,

you hate nothing that you have made

and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

create and make in us new and contrite hearts

that we, worthily lamenting our sins

and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may receive from you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,
according to your judgement give us life.

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,

so may your mercy come down upon us

to cleanse our hearts

and set us free to sing your praise

now and forever.

Amen.

Christ committed no sin,

no guile was found on his lips.

Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example,

that you should follow in his steps.

He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips,

when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.

When he suffered, he did not threaten,

but he trusted himself to God who judges justly.

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,

that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

By his wounds, you have been healed,

For you were straying like sheep,
but have now returned
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Christ committed no sin,
no guile was found on his lips.

The Gospel is read

Silence is kept

Forsake me not, O Lord;
be not far from me, O my God,
Forsake me not, O Lord;
be not far from me, O my God.

Make haste to help me,
O Lord of my salvation.

Be not far from me, O my God,
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
Forsake me not, O Lord;
be not far from me, O my God.

Thanksgivings for the day may be made

In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father
and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people,
that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
we pray to you, O Lord:
in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,
we pray to you, O Lord:
in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the needy,
that they may not be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away,
we pray to you, O Lord:
in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the sick in body, mind, and spirit,
that they may know your power to heal,
we pray to you, O Lord:
in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the poor in spirit,
that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven
and see you face to face,
we pray to you, O Lord:
in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered,
To the mercy and protection of God.
Amen.

Personal intercessions may be offered

The Collect of the day is said

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Collect —

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found.

Amen.

Readings —

Psalm 51:1-13; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Monday, March 30

The Collect —

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Savior's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings —

Psalm 89:1-29; 2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16; Romans 4:13-18; Luke 2:41-52

Tuesday, March 31

The Collect —

Almighty God, through the incarnate Word you have caused us to be born anew of an imperishable seed: look with compassion upon those who are being prepared for Baptism and grant that they may be built as living stones into a spiritual temple acceptable by you.

Amen.

Readings —

Psalm 102:15-22; Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 1

The Collect —

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 ready to serve you.

Amen.

Readings —

Daniel 3:14-20, 24-28; John 8:31-42

Thursday, April 2

The Collect —

O God, you have called us to be your children and have promised that those who suffer with Christ will be heirs with him in your glory: provide us with such trust in him that we may ask no rest from his demands and have no fear in his service.

Amen.

Readings —

Psalm 105:4-11; Genesis 17:1-8; John 8:51-59

Friday, April 3

The Collect —

O Lord, you relieve our necessity 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 holiness and grace of our lives.

Amen.

Readings —

Psalm 18:1-7; Jeremiah 20:7-13; John 10:31-42

Saturday, April 4

The Collect —

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Readings —

Psalm 85:1-7; Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-53