

Lent & Easter 2023 Prayerbook

Introduction

Lent & Easter

The Lent tradition began in the 3rd and 4th centuries of the early church, and is a 40-day season of preparation and repentance in anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter day. In repentance, prayer, Scripture reading, fasting, and then Easter celebration, we follow Jesus to the cross, and rejoice in his resurrection. Following Lent, the Church celebrates Easter- not just on one day, but for a whole season! Beginning on Easter Sunday, the Christian community rejoices in Jesus' victory over death for a full 50 days.

Whether you are only beginning to explore the claims of Jesus, or have been a Christian for quite some time, Lent and Easter are perfect seasons to allow God to shape your life around the cross and empty tomb of Christ in fresh ways.

How to Use This Prayerbook

This prayerbook is laid out in an easy-to-use format; it will guide you day-by-day through the Lenten and Easter seasons. Each Monday through Friday, there's a simple pattern for prayer and Scripture reading, with selections of Scripture from the Gospel of Matthew, and prayers for the week to guide you as you read, think, meditate, and pray. And each Saturday, there will be a reflection from various voices in the Church to help you ponder and pray as you anticipate worship with our community on Sundays.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday & Beginning of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him:

as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

-Ps. 103.1-14

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Beginning of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said.

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowingfork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshingfloor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

-Mat. 3.1-12

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Friday, February 24, 2023

Beginning of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

-Mat. 3.13-17

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Beginning of Lent

Reflection

Because these wings are no longer wings to fly
But merely vans to beat the air
The air which is now thoroughly small and dry
Smaller and dryer than the will
Teach us to care and not to care
Teach us to sit still.

-T.S. Eliot, from "Ash Wednesday" in *The Four Quartets*

Monday, February 27, 2023

1st Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD. who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son. and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning. is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him. 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written.

"One does not live by bread alone. but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down: for it is written.

"He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written.

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

-Mat. 4.1-11

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

Our Father in heaven,

The Lord's Prayer

hallowed be your Name.

Your kingdom come.

your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father.

your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

1st Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death

light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

-Mat. 4.12-25

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father.

your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert:

help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

1st Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

-Mat. 5.1-12

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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,

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

now and forever. Amen.

Heavenly Father,

your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Thursday, March 2, 2023

1st Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

'Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

-Mat. 6.5-15

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Friday, March 3, 2023

1st Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, 'What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?' Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged him, 'If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.' And he said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and perished in the water. The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about

what had happened to the demoniacs. Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighbourhood.

-Mat. 8.23-34

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Saturday, March 4, 2023

1st Week of Lent

Reflection

Prayers and love are learned in the hour when prayer has become impossible and your heart has turned to stone.

-Thomas Merton

If only there were evil people somewhere, insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the dividing line of good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

-Alexandr Solzhenitsyn

Monday, March 6, 2023

2nd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy,

let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

-Mat. 10.1-15

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Almighty God,

by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray- Amen.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

2nd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

'See. I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves: so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

-Mat. 10.16-39

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 (continued)

2nd Week of Lent

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray- Amen.

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

2nd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written.

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance:

we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

-Mat. 11.1-19

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 (continued)

2nd Week of Lent

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray- Amen.

Thursday, March 9, 2023

2nd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, 'Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.' He said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice", you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, 'Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?' so that they might accuse him. He said to them, 'Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold

of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.' Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick until he brings justice to victory.

And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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,

Thursday, March 9, 2023 (continued)

2nd Week of Lent

and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray- Amen.

Friday, March 10, 2023

2nd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, 'Can this be the Son of David?' But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, 'It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons.' He knew what they were thinking and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his property. without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be plundered. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good things, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person brings good things out of a good treasure, and the evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure. I tell you, on the day of judgement you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.'

-Mat. 12.22-37

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray- Amen.

Saturday, March 11, 2023

2nd Week of Lent

Reflection

If then, you are looking for the way by which you should go, take Christ, because he himself is the way.

-Thomas Aquinas

Love him totally who gave himself totally for your love.

-Claire of Assissi

[The Gospel] is of course, the most familiar, the most often-told story in the world. Yet it is also the strangest, and it has never lost its strangeness, its awe, and will not even in eternity, where angles tremble to gaze at things we yawn at. And however strange, it is the only key that fits the lock of our tortured lives and needs. We needed a surgeon, he came and reached into our wounds with bloody hands. He didn't give us a placebo or a pill or good advice. He gave us himself.

-Peter Kreeft

Monday, March 13, 2023

3rd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

-Mat. 14.22-36

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer Our Father in heaven.

hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

3rd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them. 'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone: they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart. and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

-Mat. 15.10-20

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

3rd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking,

the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

-Mat. 15.21-31

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Thursday, March 16, 2023

3rd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, '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 will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste

death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

-Mat. 16.21-28

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Friday, March 17, 2023

3rd Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.' And the disciples asked him, 'Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' He replied, 'Elijah is indeed coming and will restore

all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.' Jesus answered. 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.' And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said. 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there", and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.' And they were greatly distressed.

-Mat. 17.1-23

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven.

Friday, March 17, 2023 (continued)

3rd Week of Lent

hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Saturday, March 18, 2023

3rd Week of Lent



Reflection

Come, of faithful, let us bow before the life-giving cross on which Christ, the King of glory, freely stretched out his hands.
...Filled with fear and awe, we embrace you,
We glorify our God and we say:
O Lord, you were nailed on the cross;
in your goodness and love,
have mercy on us.

-from a Byzantine hymn

Monday, March 20, 2023

4th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Then someone came to him and said, 'Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?' And he said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' He said to him. 'Which ones?' And Jesus said. 'You shall not murder: You shall not commit adultery: You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' The young man said to him, 'I have kept all these; what do I still lack?' Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, 'Then who can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

-Mat. 19.16-30

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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,

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

now and forever. Amen.

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

4th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around: and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more: but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you

have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

-Mat. 20.1-16

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

4th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying.

'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting.

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

-Mat. 21.1-11

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Merciful Lord.

you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Thursday, March 23, 2023

4th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD. who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father. and to God the Son. and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning. is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first: and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes. what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone: this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. -Mat. 21.33-46

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Praver

Our Father in heaven. hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Merciful Lord. you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Friday, March 24, 2023

4th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look. I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves. maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with auests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

-Mat. 22.1-14

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Merciful Lord.

you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

4th Week of Lent

Reflection

The Maker of man was made man, that the Ruler of the stars might suck at the breast; that the Bread might be hungered; the Fountain, thirst; the Light, sleep; the Way, be wearied by the journey; the Truth, be accused by false witnesses; the Judge of the living and the dead, be judged by a mortal judge; the Chastener, be chastised by whips; the Vine, be crowned with thorns; the Fountain, be hung upon the tree; Strength, be made weak; Health, be wounded; life, die. To suffer these and suchlike things, undeserved things, that He might free the undeserving, for neither did He deserve any evil, who for our sakes endured so many evils, no were we deserving of anything good, we who through Him received such good.

-Augustine of Hippo, from "The Confessions"

Monday, March 27, 2023

5th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, 'You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' Jesus answered them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am the Messiah!" and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

'Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will

fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But anyone who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

-Mat. 24.1-14

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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,

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

now and forever. Amen.

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 Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord-Amen.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

5th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

'Immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

-Mat. 24.29-44

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

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 Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

5th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them: to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents: see. I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put

you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

-Mat. 25.14-30

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 (continued)

5th Week of Lent

Closing Prayer

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 Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Thursday, March 30, 2023

5th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil

and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

-Mat. 25.31-46

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

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 Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Friday, March 31, 2023

5th Week of Lent

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, 'You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.'

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, 'Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.' But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell

you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

-Mat. 26.1-13

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

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 Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Saturday, April 1, 2023

5th Week of Lent

Reflection

So it is ourselves that we must spread under Christ's feet, not coats or lifeless branches or shoots of trees, matter which wastes away and delights the eye only for a few brief hours. But we have clothed ourselves with Christ's grace, with the whole Christ- "for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ"- so let us spread ourselves like coats under his feet.

-Andrew of Crete

Monday, April 3, 2023

Holy Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See,

my betrayer is at hand.'

-Mat. 26.36-46

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory- Amen.

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Holv Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him. 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

-Mat. 26.47-56

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory- Amen.

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Holy Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, 'This fellow said. "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days." The high priest stood up and said, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus said to him, 'You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He

has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' They answered, 'He deserves death.' Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, 'Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?'

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly. -Mat. 26.57-75

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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.

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 (continued)

Holy Week

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory- Amen.

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.' After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord

commanded me.'

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you. Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said. 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more. 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them: and

Thursday, April 6, 2023 (continued)

Maundy Thursday

after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

-Mat. 27.1-32

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory- Amen.

Friday, April 7, 2023

Good Friday

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said. 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook. and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Friday, April 7, 2023 (continued)

Good Friday

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, 'Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead", and the last deception would be worse than the first.' Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.' So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

-Mat 27.33-66

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen.

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Holy Saturday

Reflection

On the seventh day God rested in the darkness of the tomb; Having finished on the sixth day all his work of joy and doom. Now the Word had fallen silent, and the water had run dry, The bread had all been broken, and the light had left the sky; The flock had lost its shepherd. and the seed was sadly sown, The courtiers had betrayed their king, and nailed him to his throne. O sabbath rest by Calvary, O calm of tomb below, Where the grave-clothes and the spices cradle him we did not know! Rest you well, beloved Jesus: Caesar's Lord and Israel's King, In the brooding of the Spirit, in the darkness of the spring.

-N.T. Wright, "Easter Oratorio"

Monday, April 10, 2023

Faster Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women. 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here: for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go guickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

-Mat. 28.1-10

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Faster Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, 'You must say, "His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep." If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

-Mat. 28.11-15

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Faster Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

-Mat. 28.16-20

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Faster Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to

them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand." With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

"You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them."

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

-Mat. 13.1-23

Thursday, April 13, 2023 (continued)

Faster Week

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Prayer

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Friday, April 14, 2023

Faster Week

Opening Prayer

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

-Psalm 121.2

-silence-

The Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end- Amen.

Scripture Reading for the Day

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ""You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

-Mat. 22.34-40

-silence for meditation & prayer-

Praver

-prayer for yourself, family, loved ones, the church, the city, & the world-

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

-Matthew 6.9-13

Closing Prayer

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Faster Week

Reflection

The proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen.

-Frederick Buechner

Join Us This Season At



Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Service at 6:30pm

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 Services at 9:00am and 11:00am

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023 Tenebrae Service at 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 7, 2023 Service at 8:00am Breakfast to follow

Holy Saturday, April 8, 2023
Easter Eggstravaganza from 10:00am - 12:00pm
Easter Vigil Service at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 Sunrise Service at 7:00am Services at 9:00am and 11:00am

For more information, visit **firstpresnpb**.org.