

MORNING PRAYER FOR LENT, 2024
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God, who loves the world with an everlasting love;
Blessed be God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise (*Varies from day to day*)

“Changer” by Adrienne Trevathan (Native American (Port Gamble S'Klallam) and United Methodist)

Cover me with ashes,
the thick-smoke soot of the earth.
Make my breathing like the journey from death into life – second by second, prayer by prayer.
Cover me with a cloak – bring me low to the earth,
your justice whispering to me like the gleam of red rocks, the colors dancing in the darkness.
Let me know the power of sage and cedar in my bones, not that I may trap them there,
but bring them forth in words.
Cover me with darkness –
with the presence of my elders, their tears falling around me, reminding me of why we are here –
sighing, groaning with our singing, longing to hear us into being, stretching us beyond breathing
and praying and weeping.
Cover me with mercy –
let the bones you have crushed rejoice,
like the woman who channeled every ounce of courage and dignity to touch your cloak and find
new life.
Breathe unto me life anew,
of possibility,
of beauty,
of balance,
of grace.
Cover me with mud –
bring me to my lowest state, so that in my weaknesses
I see your strength –
the reflection of your eyes in the brokenness around me, the fullness of your love in the depths of
our hearts.
Cover me with ashes –
the ashes of my grandmother,
who in living her days knew no strangers, worked tirelessly with worn hands
and lifted grandchildren high into the air.
Cover me with mercy –
let my cheek come to rest on the cold earth,
its faithful presence a call to walk humbly
beyond myself
beyond my fears
and ever on to the red road that leads to your love.
Changer Cover me.
Cover me with ashes. Change me.

Collect from *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman

Open unto me—light for my darkness. Open unto me—courage for my fear. Open unto me—hope for my despair. Open unto me—peace for my turmoil. Open unto me—joy for my sorrow. Open unto me—strength for my weakness. Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion. Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins. Open unto me—tenderness for my toughness. Open unto me—love for my hates. Open unto me—Thy Self for my self. Lord, Lord, open unto me! **Amen.**

Reading & Meditation

Prayers

Spirit wind, accompany us on our desert path in this holy time. Calm our fear of change and hold us close in this season of transformation.

Hear us, Holy One.

We pray that for each day of the journey, you will give us bread from heaven and light for our path.

Hear us, Holy One.

Today, we pray for all those we love: our families, our friends, our community, our beloved earth. Let your healing touch come near.

Hear us, Holy One.

Today, we pray for those with whom we disagree; for those with whom we are in conflict; for those who have hurt us; for those we have hurt. Let your healing touch come near.

Hear us, Holy One.

Today, we pray for all who need your strength: for those who bear the responsibility of governing; for teachers; for first responders; for parents; for caregivers; for those who are alone.

Hear us, Holy One.

Today, we pray for those whose lives are diminished by hunger, violence, fear, racism, poverty, and war. Let your healing touch come near.

Hear us, Holy One.

Today, we pray for ourselves. Remind us that your love is for us, and make your love visible in us for the sake of the broken world. We pray because of Jesus, who shows us the path to resurrection. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

May you feel God's Spirit as wind to fill your sails; may you know God's Spirit as the unquenchable fire within you; may you experience God's Spirit as elder wisdom, as unshakeable hope, as healing love. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth into this day to walk the way of love.

Thanks be to God.