



Holy Week

Living Lent

Imago Dei

Lent • Week 6 • 2020

Greeting: Grace to you and peace from God and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present age, according to the will of our gracious God, to whom be glory forever and ever.

All: Amen

Leader:

This is what the Sovereign Lord ,
the Holy One of Israel, says:

Only in returning to me and resting in me
will you be saved.

In quietness and confidence is your strength.
Isaiah 30:15

Prayer for entering silence

Leader: Spirit of stillness

All: be with us as we enter the silence
where you wait for us.

Leader: Spirit of holiness

All: be in us as we enter the silence
which is your gift to us.

Leader: Spirit of quiet, help us to listen.

Silence

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader: You are here, Lord.

You are here in the quiet evening of this Lent journey.
In the lengthening shadows
In the wakening stars
In the people gathered here.
You are here, Lord.

All: We are here, Lord.

To remember your presence
To bring you our day
To give you ourselves
To share in your stillness
To make room in our hearts and lives
For your grace.
We are here, Lord.

(Light the candle)

Leader: The light shines in the darkness

All: and the darkness can never put it out.

Readings

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

⁵ The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;

I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.

⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;

I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

⁷ Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.

⁸ He who vindicates me is near.

Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!

⁹ It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.

Who will condemn me?

They will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will eat them up.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ² Let Israel say:
“His love endures forever.”.
- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord
through which the righteous may enter.
- ²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
- ²³ the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
- ²⁵ Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!
- ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.
- ²⁷ The Lord is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the horns of the altar.
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- ²⁹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Philippians 2:5-11

- ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as
Christ Jesus:
- ⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his
own advantage;
- ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
- ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
- ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
- ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflections on Readings

Prayer of response

Leader: In the quietness of this place let us remember before God all that has been part of this day.

Where did you see God?

Where might you have missed God?

Silent Prayer

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the natural wonders of this earth - the Light of the moon, sun and stars and for the gift of life this day.

All: With grateful hearts we give you thanks, Lord.

Leader: We pray for family, friends and for all those in need.

(silence)

Send the light of your love to all those we carry in our hearts.

People: Eternal God, we accept our Saviour's invitation. We come to his table in search of rest and peace. Send your Holy Spirit to us, that these gifts may be for us the bread of life and that we may be for the world the body of Christ.

People: Carrying a vision of creation healed and restored, we welcome all in the name of Christ. Invited to the table where none shall go hungry, we gather as Christ's guests and friends.

People: We come with gladness. Thanks be to God!

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

Leader: Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of the Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete remission of all our sins. Take, drink, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

The Benediction

All:

Righteous God,
Compassionate and generous one
Who forgives our sins and has mercy on us,
Fill our hidden places with your healing light,
Breathe on us afresh this night and grant us rest.
May your compassion bloom in us.
May your righteousness bear fruit.
May your generosity encourage us to share.
May your love grow strong and deep within us.
Breathe on us afresh this night and grant us rest.

Amen.