



Gathering

WE TURN OUR HEARTS TO GOD IN SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

LENTEN DIALOG

O Lord, open my lips! **And my mouth shall declare your praise!**

Behold, now is the acceptable time, **Today is the day of salvation!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

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

Silence is kept.

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

The Venite : Psalm 95

O come, let us sing unto the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise our joyful praise to God with psalms.**

For our God is a great God and a ruler great above all gods.
In God's hand are all the depths of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is our God's for he made it,
and God's hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For God is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

PSALM 31 IS READ RESPONSIVELY.

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat^l and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my ¹ years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones ¹ are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ¹ all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to ¹ take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, “You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.” Amen.**

Let us pray. O Lord God of our salvation: open our hearts that we may enter into this Holy Week remembering with joy your mighty acts whereby you have redeemed us from sin and death, given us new life, life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Word

READINGS

A Reading from Philippians (Philippians 2:5-8)

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient unto death—
even death on a cross. The reading ends here.

A reading from Matthew. (21:1-11)

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵“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.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept

We have been born anew **through the living and abiding word of God.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE: *The Benedictus, the Song of Zachariah is read responsively*

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set us free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

**This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight, all the days of our lives.**

And you, O child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare God's way,

**To give the people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning and will
be forever, world without end. Amen.**

Prayer

*We join in prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. A time of silence follows each petition, and after
'Here we may offer our prayers and petitions ...' for our own prayers. The prayers conclude with the
Morning Collect and the Lord's Prayer.*

In Christ is wholeness and salvation: let us bring the needs of our lives,
our neighbor and our community to God.

Silence

Bring wholeness to those bowed down with suffering:
Bring healing to the sick, defend the poor and the powerless....
Holy One, hear our prayer: **Lord, have mercy!**

Give us strength to live the disciplines of Lent,
that we may grow in faith, love, and generosity...
Holy One, hear our prayer: **Lord, have mercy!**

In these Lenten days, teach us to forgive, to let go of anger, resentment and pain
and find peace...
Holy One, hear our prayer: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In these Lenten days, guide us to pray for the good of those we love,
and those we don't... Holy One, hear our prayer: **Lord, hear our prayer**

In these Lenten days, strengthen us to give up and give away for the good of our soul
and the blessing of our neighbor.

Holy One, hear our prayer: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Hear us O God, for the deepest needs of our hearts, for the needs of our neighbors, community and
world, as we bring them before you aloud in our own words, or in the silence of our hearts...

Here we may offer our prayers and petitions.

Holy One, hear our prayer: **Lord, hear our prayer!**

The Collect of the Day is offered...

Let us pray: God: Our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy as we remember your promise of mercy.
As we turn to you strengthen us as living witnesses to new life in you our Father, Savior and redeeming
Spirit one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your
mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the
fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and glory,
forever and ever, Amen!**

Blessing & Benediction

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty and merciful God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve us. **Amen.**

May we keep these last days of Lent walking in God's presence and peace.