

Midweek Lenten Devotional

(in the week following the First Sunday in Lent)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray that God will renew us in the image of Christ.

Heavenly Father,
teach us to welcome the discipline of the gospel,
and conform us to the image of your Son,
so that we may be kind in thought,
gentle in speech
and generous in action.

We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever **.Amen.**

Psalm 31

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.
Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.
I hate those who cling to worthless idols; as for me, I trust in the LORD.

I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.

Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbours
and an object of dread to my closest friends, those who see me on the street flee
from me.

I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.
For I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!"
They conspire against me and plot to take my life.
But I trust in you, LORD; I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies,
from those who pursue me.
Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.
Let me not be put to shame, LORD, for I have cried out to you;
but let the wicked be put to shame and be silent in the realm of the dead.
Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly
against the righteous.

How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you,
that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.
In the shelter of your presence you hide them from all human intrigues;
you keep them safe in your dwelling from accusing tongues.

Praise be to the LORD,
for he showed me the wonders of his love
when I was in a city under siege.
In my alarm I said,
"I am cut off from your sight!"
Yet you heard my cry for mercy
when I called to you for help.
Love the LORD, all his faithful people!
The LORD preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he pays back in full.
Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the LORD.

Passion Reading and Response

Mark 14:10-21 Judas prepares to betray Jesus and the Passover is prepared

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me. Woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.

It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.

It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Prayers

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,

and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

Heavenly Father,

give calmness and control of thought

to all who are facing uncertainty and anxiety;

let their hearts be firm,

believing in the Lord.

Be all things to all people,

knowing all individuals and their prayers,

each house and its need;

for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with us all.

Amen.

Silent Prayer