

## **Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024**

**Day 40 – Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**HOLY WEEK – Palm Sunday**

### **Centering**

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is the sixth Sunday of Lent, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Today also marks the beginning of the observance of Holy Week, the last week of Jesus' life, as well as Palm Sunday, when Jesus came into Jerusalem for the final time.

Technically, Lent, which is 40 days of preparation, is over. However, we use this next week as a chance to take a step away from our own pain, and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, from Jerusalem to the cross, all the way to Easter Sunday.

So, thank you so much for joining us for a moment of centering and prayer as we hear God's Word read from the Old Testament, the Psalms, and the New Testament and on Sundays, we have an additional reading from the Epistles.

Take just a few moments to gather and focus yourself.

Stop what ever else you have going on.

Close the door, turn off the TV, mute the cell phone...make these next few moments about you and the Lord.

Take 3 deep breaths, each time, holding the inhale for 5 seconds, then slowly exhaling.

When you are centered, begin to read.

### **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (The Voice)**

1 Give thanks to the Eternal because He is always good.

He never ceases to be loving and kind.

2 Let the people of Israel proclaim:

“He never ceases to be loving and kind.”

19 Open wide to me the gates of justice

so that I may walk through them

and offer praise and worship to the Eternal.

20 This is the gate of the Eternal;

the righteous children of God will go through it.

21 I will praise You because You answered me when I was in trouble.

You have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very stone that holds together the entire foundation.

23 This is the work of the Eternal,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day the Eternal God has made;

let us celebrate and be happy today.

25 O Eternal One, save us, we beg You.

O Eternal One, we beg You, bring us success!

26 He who comes in the name of the Eternal will be blessed;

we have blessed You from the house of the Eternal.

27 The Eternal is the True God;  
He shines His light on us.  
Let the feast begin.  
Bring the sacrifice, and tie it to the horns of the altar.  
28 You are my God, and I give You thanks;  
You are my God, and I praise You.  
29 Give thanks to our Eternal Lord; He is always good.  
He never ceases to be loving and kind.

#### **Isaiah 50:4-9a (Tree Of Life Version)**

4 Adonai Elohim has given Me the tongue of the learned,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.  
He awakens Me morning by morning.  
He awakens My ear to give heed as a disciple.  
5 Adonai Elohim has opened My ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
nor did I turn back.  
6 I gave My back to those who strike,  
and My cheeks to those pulling out My beard;  
I did not hide My face  
from humiliation and spitting.  
7 For Adonai Elohim will help Me.  
Therefore I have not been disgraced.  
Therefore I set My face like flint,  
and I know that I will not be ashamed.  
8 The One who vindicates Me is near.  
Who will accuse Me?  
Let us stand up to each other.  
Who is My adversary?  
Let him confront Me.  
9 See, Adonai Elohim will help Me.  
Who is he who would condemn Me?  
See, they all wear out like a garment.  
A moth will eat them up.

#### **Mark 11:1-11 (The Passion Translation)**

11 Now, as they were approaching Jerusalem, they arrived at the place of the stables near Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead  
2 and said to them, "As soon as you enter the village ahead, you will find a donkey's colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me.  
3 And if anyone asks, 'Why are you taking it?' tell them, 'The master needs it and will send it back to you soon.'"  
4 So they went and found the colt outside in the street, tied to a gate. When they started to untie it,

5 some people standing there said to them, “Why are you untying that colt?”  
6 They answered just as Jesus had told them: “The master needs it, and he will send it back to you soon.” So the bystanders let them go.  
7 The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and piled their cloaks and prayer shawls on the young donkey, and Jesus rode upon it.  
8 Many people carpeted the road in front of him with their cloaks and prayer shawls, while others gathered palm branches and spread them before him.  
9 Jesus rode in the center of the procession, with crowds going before him and behind him. They all shouted in celebration, “Bring the victory! We welcome the one coming with blessings sent from the Lord Yahweh  
10 Blessings rest on this kingdom he ushers in—the kingdom of our father David! Bring us the victory in the highest realms of heaven!”  
11 Jesus rode through the gates of Jerusalem and up to the temple. After looking around at everything, he left for Bethany with the Twelve to spend the night, for it was already late in the day.

### **Philippians 2:5-11 (International Standard Version)**

5 Have the same attitude among yourselves that was also in the Messiah Jesus:  
6 In God’s own form existed he,  
and shared with God equality,  
deemed nothing needed grasping.  
7 Instead, poured out in emptiness,  
a servant’s form did he possess,  
a mortal man becoming.  
In human form he chose to be,  
8 and lived in all humility,  
death on a cross obeying.  
9 Now lifted up by God to heaven,  
a name above all others given,  
this matchless name possessing.  
10 And so, when Jesus’ name is called,  
the knees of everyone should fall,  
wherever they’re residing.  
11 Then every tongue in one accord,  
will say that Jesus the Messiah is Lord,  
while God the Father praising.

### **Prayer**

*(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)*

Eternal and true One,  
You are my God, and I give thanks  
You are my God, and I utter forth my praises to You  
Like Jesus riding into Jerusalem, I lift my voice with shouts of Hosanna!  
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!  
Yet, even as I welcome the conquering King, I know, in just a few short days,  
the praises with give way to curses.  
Accusations will take the place of the people’s support.

No earthly help will be found for the One Who came to redeem us all.

Adonai Elohim, You are my help and deliverance.

In these days of sunshine and celebration, please prepare me for the dark road ahead,  
as I prepare to follow and die with Jesus.

Amen.