

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024

Day 32, Saturday, March 16th

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Saturday, March 16th, 2024.

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 every day of Lent.

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 51:1-12 (Amplified Bible)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and guilt
And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I am conscious of my transgressions and I acknowledge them;
My sin is always before me.

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned
And done that which is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak [Your sentence]
And faultless in Your judgment.

5 I was brought forth in [a state of] wickedness;
In sin my mother conceived me [and from my beginning I, too, was sinful].

6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in the hidden part [of my heart] You will make me know wisdom.

7 Purify me with [a]hyssop, and I will be clean;
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Make me hear joy and gladness and be satisfied;
Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins
And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right and steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.

Habakkuk 3:2-13 (Complete Jewish Bible)

2 Adonai, I have heard the report about you.
Adonai, I am awed by your deeds.
Bring your work to life in our own age,
make it known in our own time;
but in anger, remember compassion.

3 God comes from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Pa'ran. (Selah)

His splendor covers the sky,
and his praise fills the earth.

4 His brightness is like the sun,
rays come forth from his hand —
that is where his power is concealed.

5 Before him goes pestilence,
and close behind, the plague.

6 When he stands up, the earth shakes;
when he looks, the nations tremble,
the eternal mountains are smashed to pieces,
the ancient hills sink down;
the ancient paths are his.

7 I saw trouble in the tents of Kushan
and the tent hangings shaking in the land of Midyan.

8 Adonai, is it against the rivers,
against the rivers that your anger is inflamed?
Is your fury directed at the sea?

Is that why you ride on your horses,
and drive your chariots to victory?

9 You brandish your naked bow
and order it filled with arrows. (Selah)

You split the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains see you and tremble;
a torrent of water streams by;
the deep thunders forth,
as it raises enormous waves.

11 The sun and moon stand still in the sky
at the light of your arrows speeding by,
at the gleam of your glittering spear.

12 In fury you stride across the land,
in anger you trample the nations.

13 You come out to save your people,

to save your anointed one;
you crush the head of the house of the wicked,
uncovering its foundation all the way to the neck.

John 12:1-11 (Disciple's Literal New Testament)

1 Therefore Jesus, six days before the Passover [Feast], came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one whom Jesus raised from the dead.
2 So they made a dinner for Him there. And Martha was serving. And Lazarus was one of the ones reclining-back [to eat] with Him.
3 Then Mary, having taken a pound of very-valuable genuine nard perfume, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled from the aroma of the perfume.
4 But Judas the Iscariot— one of His disciples, the one going to hand Him over— says,
5 “For what reason was this perfume not sold for three-hundred denarii and given to poor ones?”
6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief. And having the money-box, he was carrying the things being put there.
7 So Jesus said, “Leave her alone. It was in order that she might keep it for the day of My preparation-for-burial.
8 For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me”.
9 Then the large crowd of the Jews came-to-know that He was there. And they came— not because of Jesus only, but in order that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead.
10 And the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus also,
11 because many of the Jews were going-away and were believing in Jesus because of him.

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

Earth-Shaker and Nation-Trembler,

I have heard the report about You.

Adonai, I am awed by Your deeds.

For even in Your might and power, You show compassion.

And, of course, Your lovingkindness...

God, I feel like I keep coming back to that
over and over throughout humankind's story.

But maybe that's the point. It's not our story.

It's Yours.

So, like Mary at Bethany, may I give You the most valuable parts
of myself in worship to You.

Great Story-Writer, grant that I may play even the most insignificant
character in Your sweeping opus of lovingkindness.

Amen.