

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024
Day 35, Tuesday, March 19th

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Tuesday, March 19th, 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 119:9-16 (International Children's Bible)

9 How can a young person live a pure life?

He can do it by obeying your word.

10 With all my heart I try to obey you, God.

Don't let me break your commands.

11 I have taken your words to heart

so I would not sin against you.

12 Lord, you should be praised.

Teach me your demands.

13 My lips will tell about

all the laws you have spoken.

14 I enjoy living by your rules

as people enjoy great riches.

15 I think about your orders

and study your ways.

16 I enjoy obeying your demands.

And I will not forget your word.

Isaiah 44:1-8 (God's Word Translation)

But now listen, my servant Jacob, Israel, whom I have chosen.

2 The Lord made you, formed you in the womb, and will help you.

This is what the Lord says:

Don't be afraid, my servant Jacob,

Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

3 I will pour water on thirsty ground and rain on dry land.

I will pour my Spirit on your offspring

and my blessing on your descendants.

4 They will spring up with the grass
as poplars spring up by streams.
5 One person will say, "I belong to the Lord."
Another will call on the name of Jacob.
Another will write on his hand, "The Lord's,"
and he will adopt the name of Israel.

The Nations Form Idols, but the Lord Formed Israel

6 The Lord is Israel's king and defender.
He is the Lord of Armies.
This is what the Lord says:
I am the first and the last,
and there is no God except me.
7 If there is anyone like me, let him say so.
Let him tell me what happened
when I established my people long ago.
Then let him predict what will happen to them.
8 Don't be terrified or afraid.
Didn't I make this known to you long ago?
You are my witnesses.
Is there any God except me?
There is no other rock; I know of none.

Acts 2:14-24 (Nae)

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.
15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
17 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
19 And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
20 The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
22 "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—

23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

24 But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

Lord of Armies, there is no other god like You.

I know of not one!

And yet, I spend so much of my life stealing Your thunder,
undermining Your authority and replacing You with a poor man's god.

I am the one pretending to be a poor man's god.

But it is You who are the first and the last.

You are almighty and powerful, and...enough!

Pour Your life-giving water on the thirsty ground of my soul.

Return me to my rightful position –

both, not You, and at the same time, wholly Yours.

Even as I call on You right now, I know that I am saved.

Amen