

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024
Day 44, Thursday, March 28th
HOLY WEEK – Maundy Thursday (Passover)

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Thursday, March 28th, 2024.

Today is also marks the Passover. Shalom.

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 116:1-2, 12-19 (New Century Version)

- 1 I love the Lord,
because he listens to my prayers for help.
- 2 He paid attention to me,
so I will call to him for help as long as I live.
- 12 What can I give the Lord
for all the good things he has given to me?
- 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation,
and I will pray to the Lord.
- 14 I will give the Lord what I promised
in front of all his people.
- 15 The death of one that belongs to the Lord
is precious in his sight.
- 16 Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the son of your female servant.
You have freed me from my chains.
- 17 I will give you an offering to show thanks to you,
and I will pray to the Lord.
- 18 I will give the Lord what I promised
in front of all his people,
- 19 in the Temple courtyards
in Jerusalem.
- Praise the Lord!

Exodus 12:1-14 (New International Reader's Version)

- 1 The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in Egypt.

- 2 He said, "From now on, this month will be your first month. Each of your years will begin with it.
- 3 Speak to the whole community of Israel. Tell them that on the tenth day of this month each man must get a lamb from his flock. A lamb should be chosen for each family and home.
- 4 Suppose there are not enough people in your family to eat a whole lamb. Then you must share some of it with your nearest neighbor. You must add up the total number of people there are. You must decide how much lamb is needed for each person.
- 5 The animals you choose must be males that are a year old. They must not have any flaws. You may choose either sheep or goats.
- 6 Take care of them until the 14th day of the month. Then the whole community of Israel must kill them when the sun goes down.
- 7 Take some of the blood. Put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where you eat the lambs.
- 8 That same night eat the meat cooked over a fire. Also eat bitter plants. And eat bread made without yeast.
- 9 Do not eat the meat when it is raw. Don't boil it in water. Instead, cook it over a fire. Cook the head, legs and inside parts.
- 10 Do not leave any of it until morning. If some is left over until morning, burn it up.
- 11 Eat the meat while your coat is tucked into your belt. Put your sandals on your feet. Take your walking stick in your hand. Eat the food quickly. It is the Lord's Passover.
- 12 "That same night I will pass through Egypt. I will strike down all those born first among the people and animals. And I will judge all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord.
- 13 The blood on your houses will be a sign for you. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No deadly plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.
- 14 "Always remember this day. You and your children after you must celebrate this day as a feast to honor the Lord. You must do this for all time to come. It is a law that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (New Revised Standard Version)

- 23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,
- 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
- 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
- 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (New Testament for Everyone)

- 1 It was before the festival of Passover. Jesus knew that his time had come, the time for him to leave this world and go to the father. He had always loved his own people in the world; now he loved them right through to the end.
- 2 It was supper-time. The devil had already put the idea of betraying him into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.

3 Jesus knew that the father had given everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God.

4 So he got up from the supper-table, took off his clothes, and wrapped a towel around himself.

5 Then he poured water into a bowl, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel he was wrapped in.

6 He came to Simon Peter.

'Master,' said Peter, 'what's this? You, washing my feet?'

7 'You don't understand yet what I'm doing,' replied Jesus, 'but you'll know afterwards.'

8 'I'm not going to have you washing my feet!' said Peter. 'Never!'

'If I don't wash you,' replied Jesus, 'you don't belong to me.'

9 'All right then, Master,' said Simon Peter, 'but not only my feet – wash my hands and my head as well!'

10 'Someone who has washed,' said Jesus to him, 'doesn't need to wash again, except for their feet. They are clean all over. And you are clean – but not all of you.'

11 Jesus knew, you see, who was going to betray him. That's why he said, 'You are not all clean.'

12 So when he had washed their feet, he put on his clothes and sat down again.

'Do you know what I've done to you?' he asked.

13 'You call me "teacher", and "master", and you're right. That's what I am.

14 Well, then: if I, as your master and teacher, washed your feet just now, you should wash each other's feet.

15 I've given you a pattern, so that you can do things in the same way that I did to you.

16 'I'm telling you the solemn truth,' he continued. 'The slave isn't greater than the master. People who are sent are not greater than the person who sends them.

17 If you know these things, God's blessing on you if you do them.

31 When Judas had gone out, Jesus began to speak.

'Now the son of man is glorified!' he said. 'Now God is glorified in him!

32 And if God is glorified in him, God will glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

33 Children, I'm only with you a little longer. You will look for me, and, as I said to the Judaeans that where I was going they couldn't come, so I'm saying the same to you now.

34 'I'm giving you a new commandment, and it's this: love one another! Just as I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 This is how everybody will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for each other.'

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

What can I give You Lord, in exchange for all the good things You've given me?

The times I have ignored You, You have noticed and paid attention to me.

When I act as someone in bondage, You free me from my chains.

And even when I forget to follow through with my acts of devotion,

You come right back with heaps and piles of Your own fulfilled promises.

As I ready my spirit for the Passover Lamb, remind me of the promises contained in the bread of communion...the fulfilment of love in the cup of Salvation...and the selfless act of a servant in the washing of the disciples' feet...

My feet.

But like Peter, not just my feet, Lord, but my hands, my head and my whole body.

Wash me, and I will be clean.

Cleanse me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me live deeply into Your new command of love, even as the Lamb shows His love to me.

Amen.