

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024

Day 43, Wednesday, March 27th

HOLY WEEK

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Wednesday, March 27th, 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 70 (Contemporary English Version)

70 Save me, Lord God!

Hurry and help.

2 Disappoint and confuse

all who want to kill me.

Turn away and disgrace

all who want to hurt me.

3 Embarrass and shame those

who say, "We told you so!"

4 Let your worshipers celebrate

and be glad because of you.

They love your saving power,

so let them always say,

"God is wonderful!"

5 I am poor and needy,

but you, the Lord God,

care about me.

You are the one who saves me.

Please hurry and help!

Isaiah 50:4-9a (International Children's Bible)

4 The Lord God gave me the ability to teach.

He has taught me what to say to make the weak strong.

Every morning he wakes me.

He teaches me to listen like a student.

5 The Lord God helps me learn.

And I have not turned against him.
I have not stopped following him.
6 I offered my back to those who beat me.
I offered my cheeks to those who pulled my beard.
I won't hide my face from them
when they make fun of me and spit at me.
7 The Lord God helps me.
So I will not be ashamed.
I will be determined.
I know I will not be disgraced.
8 The Lord shows that I am innocent, and he is close to me.
So who can accuse me?
If there is someone, let us go to court together.
If someone wants to prove I have done wrong,
he should come and tell me.
9 It is the Lord God who helps me.
So who can prove me guilty?
All those who try will become useless like old clothes.
Moths will eat them.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (Jubilee Bible 2000)

1 Therefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, leaving behind all the weight of the sin which surrounds us, let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
2 with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who having been offered joy, endured the cross, despising the shame and was seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself lest ye be wearied in your souls and faint.

John 13:21-32 (The Living Bible)

21 Now Jesus was in great anguish of spirit and exclaimed, "Yes, it is true—one of you will betray me."
22 The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean.
23 Since I was sitting next to Jesus* at the table, being his closest friend,
24 Simon Peter motioned to me to ask him who it was who would do this terrible deed.
25 So I turned and asked him, "Lord, who is it?"
26 He told me, "It is the one I honor by giving the bread dipped in the sauce."
And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.
27 As soon as Judas had eaten it, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry—do it now."
28 None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant.
29 Some thought that since Judas was their treasurer, Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor.
30 Judas left at once, going out into the night.

31 As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, “My time has come; the glory of God will soon surround me—and God shall receive great praise because of all that happens to me.
32 And God shall give me his own glory, and this so very soon.

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

As the stories of Jesus’ days on earth grow fewer and fewer, I feel a sense of urgency Lord.

I want You to hurry up.

I want to get this thing over with that’s happening to Your Son.

In truth, I think I’m even more impatient to have this thing over that’s happening to me.

For, I am poor and needy,

but You, the Lord God, care about me.

When You are close to me, no one can accuse me and the weight of my sin is left behind.

So, stay close as the dark night draws near, as we too, stay close to our Savior to the very end.

You are the One Who saves me.

You are the One Who loves me.

Amen.