

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024

Day 36, Wednesday, March 20th

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Wednesday, March 20th, 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 (New Century Version)

9 How can a young person live a pure life?

By obeying your word.

10 With all my heart I try to obey you.

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.

Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23 (New International Version)

1 on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai:

2 "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak,[a] the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them,

3 'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?

4 But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty.

5 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

6 "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

7 I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty.

8 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty.

9 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."

John 12:34-50 (New Life Version)

34 The people said to Him, "The Law of Moses says that the Christ is to live forever. Why do you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

35 Jesus said to them, "The Light will be with you for a little while yet. Go on your way while you have the Light so you will not be in the dark. When a man is walking in the dark, he does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the Light, put your trust in the Light. Then you will be the sons of the Light." Jesus said these things and then went away. He hid Himself from them.

37 Jesus had done many powerful works in front of them, but they did not put their trust in Him.

38 This happened as the words of the early preacher Isaiah said it would happen. He had said, "Lord, has anyone believed our preaching? Has the Lord shown His power to anyone?"

39 The reason they could not believe is written again in Isaiah.

40 It says, "He has blinded their eyes and made their hearts hard. Then they would not see with their eyes. They would not understand with their heart. They would not turn to Me. I could not heal them."

41 This is what Isaiah said when he saw the shining-greatness of Jesus and spoke of Him.

42 Even among the leaders of the people there were many who believed in Jesus. But because of the proud religious law-keepers, they did not tell about it. If they had, they would have been put out of the Jewish place of worship.

43 They loved to have the respect from men more than honor from God.

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

God Who is with me,

Let me be strong in the face of what You're doing in me.

For I know that, not only can I not live forever,

I cannot live one more moment without the Light in my life.

So, once more, shake the heavens and the earth.

Like the insides of a snow globe, mingle together my flesh and Your Spirit,
until all is quiet and still.

Like the sea and the dry land, bring me together with You so there is no ending of one from
the other.

As the chaos of this season gives way to order,
would Your shining-greatness be the only thing remaining.

By Christ's power,
Amen.