

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2022

Day 41, Monday, March 25th

HOLY WEEK

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Monday, March 25th, 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 36:5-11 (Tree Of Life Version)

5 Even on his bed he plans sin.

He puts himself on a path that is no good, never refusing evil.”

6 Your love, Adonai, is in the heavens,

Your faithfulness up to the skies.

7 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God.

Your judgments are like the great deep.

You preserve man and beast, Adonai.

8 How precious is Your love, O God!

The children of men find refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

9 They drink their fill from the abundance of Your House.

You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

10 For with You is the fountain of life—

in Your light we see light.

11 Continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,

and Your justice to the upright in heart.

Isaiah 42:1-9 (The Voice)

1 Eternal One: Look here, let Me present My servant;

I have taken hold of him. He is My chosen, and I delight in him.

I have put My Spirit on him; by this he will bring justice to the nations.

2 Eternal One: He will not scream or yell,

crying out for all to hear.

3 What is bruised and bent, he will not break;

he will not blow out a smoldering candle.

Rather, he will faithfully turn his attention to doing justice.

4 And though he faces obstacles, resistance, and great pressure,
he will not crack; he will not give up until things are set right.
Even the coastlands wait patiently for his instruction.

5 God, the Eternal One, who made the starry skies,
stretched them tight above and around;
Who cast the shimmering globe of earth and filled it with life;
who gives breath and animates the people;
Who walks and talks with life-giving spirit has this to say:

6 Eternal One: I am the Eternal One. By righteousness I have called you.
I will take you by the hand and keep you safe.

You are given as a covenant between Me and the people:
a light for the nations, a shining beacon to the world.

7 You will open blind eyes so they will see again.
You will lead prisoners, blinking, out from caverns of captivity,
from cells pitch black with despair.

8 I am the Eternal One.
I Am is My name.

My beauty is unique, a weighty splendor all My own.
And nothing else—no idols could possibly gain My praise.

9 Look here, what's done is done and gone.
The now is new, and there's hope in the not-yet.
I will tell you what's to come, even before the events are brand-new.

Hebrews 9:11-14 (New International Reader's Version)

11 But Christ came to be the high priest of the good things already here now.
When he came, he went through the greater and more perfect holy tent.
This tent was not made with human hands. In other words, it is not a part of this creation.

12 He did not enter by spilling the blood of goats and calves.
He entered the Most Holy Room by spilling his own blood.
He did it once and for all time. In this way, he paid the price to set us free from sin forever.

13 The blood of goats and bulls is sprinkled on people.
So are the ashes of a young cow. They are sprinkled on people the law called "unclean."
The people are sprinkled to make them holy. That makes them "clean" on the outside.

14 But Christ offered himself to God without any flaw.
He did this through the power of the eternal Holy Spirit.
So how much cleaner will the blood of Christ make us!
It washes away our feelings of guilt for committing sin.
Sin always leads to death. But now we can serve the living God.

John 12:1-11 (English Standard Version)

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany,
where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served,

and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

3 Mary therefore took a pound[a] of expensive ointment made from pure nard,
and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair.

The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said,

5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief,
and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.

8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

9 When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came,
not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

10 So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well,

11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

Eternal One, Who walks and talks with life-giving spirit,

I need You, once again, to speak life into my tired shell.

I have spent my life chasing the wind, trying to get You to love me.

I have sprinkled my body with the blood of service and the ashes of obedience.

And yet, none of that has the power to save me.

Not one or a thousand things I've done has the ability to cause You
to love me an inch more than You do already, even at my darkest moment.

And You know, my dark moments are not few.

But You're okay with that...not because I fail continually

But because You're okay with me.

Flaws and warts, goodness and glory – all of me.

So, what's done is done...and gone.

The now is new, and there's hope in the not-yet.

Thank You Jesus for how fully clean Your blood makes me.

Amen.