

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024

Day 46, Saturday, March 30th

HOLY WEEK – Holy Saturday

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Saturday, March 30th, 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.

Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16 (English Standard Version)

- 31 In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!
- 2 Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily!
- Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!
- 3 For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;
- 4 you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
- 15 My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!
- 16 Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your steadfast love!

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 (Easy To Read Version)

- 1 I am a man who has seen much trouble.
God beat us with a stick, and I saw it happen.
- 2 He led and brought me
into darkness, not light.
- 3 He turned his hand against me.
He did this again and again, all day.
- 4 He wore out my flesh and skin.
He broke my bones.

5 He built up bitterness and trouble against me.
He surrounded me with bitterness and trouble.

6 He put me in the dark,
like someone who died long ago.

7 He shut me in, so I could not get out.
He put heavy chains on me.

8 Even when I cry out and ask for help,
he does not listen to my prayer.

9 He has blocked up my path with stones.
He has made my path crooked.

19 Remember, I am very sad,
and I have no home.
Remember the bitter poison that you gave me.

20 I remember well all my troubles,
and I am very sad.

21 But then I think about this,
and I have hope:

22 We are still alive because
the Lord's faithful love never ends.

23 Every morning he shows it in new ways!
You are so very true and loyal!

24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my God,
and I trust him."

1 Peter 4:1-8 (New King James)

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

3 For we have spent enough of our past [b]lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Matthew 27:57-66 (God's Word Translation)

57 In the evening a rich man named Joseph arrived. He was from the city of Arimathea and had become a disciple of Jesus.

58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate ordered that it be given to him.

59 Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth.

60 Then he laid it in his own new tomb, which had been cut in a rock. After rolling a large stone against the door of the tomb, he went away.

61 Mary from Magdala and the other Mary were sitting there, facing the tomb.

The Chief Priests and Pharisees Secure Jesus' Tomb

62 The next day, which was the day of rest—a holy day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together and went to Pilate.

63 They said, “Sir, we remember how that deceiver said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will be brought back to life.’

64 Therefore, give the order to make the tomb secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been brought back to life.’ Then the last deception will be worse than the first.”

65 Pilate told them, “You have the soldiers you want for guard duty. Go and make the tomb as secure as you know how.”

66 So they went to secure the tomb. They placed a seal on the stone and posted the soldiers on guard duty.

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

Father God, no doubt You cried as the Incarnation, the final word of Creation

Lay still and cold in the tomb.

Even in the losses I've experienced here on earth, none will ever

Compare to that moment, this death, Your loss.

And like someone who died long ago, I, too, am in the dark, Lord

All the bitterness and trouble of my life has come to a head,

And I find myself in the bottom of a pit, a well of despair.

This Lenten season has caused me both to come toe to toe with my brokenness

As well as to fall helplessly into Your loving arms.

So, come to me God.

Abide with me through this terrible night.

Let me remember that all would be lost, if it wasn't for Your constant faithfulness

Wrap me in the security blanket of Your sin-covering love.

As in the tomb with Jesus, tonight, I take refuge in You.

Let me not be but to shame in my total dependency on You.

For trouble lasts only for the night, and Your true joy comes in the morning.

Amen.