

Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024

Day 42, Tuesday, March 26th

HOLY WEEK

Centering

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Tuesday, March 26th, 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 71:1-14 (GOD's WORD Translation)

71 I have taken refuge in you, O Lord.

Never let me be put to shame.

2 Rescue me and free me because of your righteousness.

Turn your ear toward me, and save me.

3 Be a rock on which I may live,
a place where I may always go.

You gave the order to save me!

Indeed, you are my rock and my fortress.

4 My God, free me from the hands of a wicked person,
from the grasp of one who is cruel and unjust.

5 You are my hope, O Almighty Lord.

You have been my confidence ever since I was young.

6 I depended on you before I was born.

You took me from my mother's womb.

My songs of praise constantly speak about you.

7 I have become an example to many people,
but you are my strong refuge.

8 My mouth is filled with your praise,
with your glory all day long.

9 Do not reject me when I am old
or abandon me when I lose my strength.

10 My enemies talk about me.

They watch me as they plot to take my life.

11 They say, "God has abandoned him.

Pursue him and grab him because there is no one to rescue him."

12 O God, do not be so distant from me.

O my God, come quickly to help me.
13 Let those who accuse me come to a shameful end.
Let those who want my downfall be covered
with disgrace and humiliation.
14 But I will always have hope.
I will praise you more and more.

Isaiah 49:1-7 (Good News Translation)

49 Listen to me, distant nations,
you people who live far away!
Before I was born, the Lord chose me
and appointed me to be his servant.
2 He made my words as sharp as a sword.
With his own hand he protected me.
He made me like an arrow,
sharp and ready for use.
3 He said to me, "Israel, you are my servant;
because of you, people will praise me."
4 I said, "I have worked, but how hopeless it is!
I have used up my strength, but have accomplished nothing."
Yet I can trust the Lord to defend my cause;
he will reward me for what I do.
5 Before I was born, the Lord appointed me;
he made me his servant to bring back his people,
to bring back the scattered people of Israel.
The Lord gives me honor;
he is the source of my strength.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Easy To Read Version)

18 The teaching about the cross seems foolish to those who are lost. But to us who are
being saved it is the power of God.
19 As the Scriptures say,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise.
I will confuse the understanding of the intelligent."
20 So what does this say about the philosopher, the law expert, or anyone in this world who
is skilled in making clever arguments? God has made the wisdom of the world look foolish.
21 This is what God in his wisdom decided: Since the world did not find him through its own
wisdom, he used the message that sounds foolish to save those who believe it.
22 The Jews ask for miraculous signs, and the Greeks want wisdom.
23 But this is the message we tell everyone: Christ was killed on a cross. This message is a
problem for Jews, and to other people it is nonsense.
24 But Christ is God's power and wisdom to the people God has chosen, both Jews and
Greeks.
25 Even the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom. Even the weakness of God is
stronger than human strength.

26 Brothers and sisters, God chose you to be his. Think about that! Not many of you were wise in the way the world judges wisdom. Not many of you had great influence, and not many of you came from important families.

27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. He chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

28 And God chose what the world thinks is not important—what the world hates and thinks is nothing. He chose these to destroy what the world thinks is important.

29 God did this so that no one can stand before him and boast about anything.

30 It is God who has made you part of Christ Jesus. And Christ has become for us wisdom from God. He is the reason we are right with God and pure enough to be in his presence. Christ is the one who set us free from sin.

31 So, as the Scriptures say, “Whoever boasts should boast only about the Lord.”

John 12:20-36 (Disciples Literal New Testament)

20 Now some of the ones going up in order that they might worship at the Feast were Greeks.

21 So these ones came to Philip, the one from Bethsaida of Galilee, and were asking him, saying, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus”.

22 Philip comes and tells Andrew. Andrew and Philip come, and they tell Jesus.

23 And Jesus responds to them, saying, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless the seed of wheat having fallen to the earth dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

25 The one loving his life loses it, and the one hating his life in this world will keep[c] it for eternal life.

26 If anyone serves Me, let him be following Me. And where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

27 Now My soul has been troubled. And what should I say— ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this reason I came to this hour!

28 Father, glorify Your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven: “I both glorified it, and will again glorify it”.

29 Then the crowd, the one standing there and having heard, was saying that thunder had taken place. Others were saying, “An angel has spoken to Him”.

30 Jesus responded and said, “This voice has taken place not for My sake, but for your sakes. 31 Now is the judgment of this world! Now the ruler of this world will be cast out!

32 And if I am lifted-up[d] from the earth, I will draw all people to Myself”.

33 Now He was saying this signifying by what-kind-of death He was going to die.

34 Then the crowd responded to Him, “We heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How indeed do You say that ‘The Son of Man must be lifted-up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

35 Then Jesus said to them, “The Light is among you for a short time longer. Be walking while you have the Light, in order that darkness may not overtake you. Indeed the one walking in the darkness does not know where he is going.

36 While you have the Light, be believing in the Light, in order that you may become sons of Light”. Jesus spoke these things, and having gone away, was hidden from them.

Prayer

(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)

God, You are my Rock and Fortress

May my shame be cancelled as I find sanctuary in the walls of Your fortress,
so that not even The Enemy can find me to whisper lies in my ear.

But, God, turn *Your* ear toward me and save me!

For I know that, even before I was born, You created me to know and serve and love You.
This seems like foolishness to some – but to me...it is the cornerstone on which my faith is
built

It is in this truth that I am right with You, God.

It is in Christ's Light that I can see clearly how to get safely to You.

Thank You Jesus,

Amen.