

# *Lent*

SEASON OF PREPARATION



# Week 4

## Day 17 (Monday Mar. 8, 2021)

### Scripture Readings

#### Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”  
Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!  
Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together,  
to which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
There thrones for judgment were set,  
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
“May they be secure who love you!  
Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers!”  
For my brothers and companions' sake  
I will say, “Peace be within you!”  
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek your good.

#### Mark 12:1-27

And he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this Scripture:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's

opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him.

And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife."

Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

## Prayer

God, I am bought with a price. Give me eyes to see how great that price is. Let the reality of your sacrifice sink deep into my heart. Help me to allow Jesus to be even more than my Savior, but my Lord as well, Lord of all my life.

## Musical Reflection for the week

### Lyrics-

He giveth more grace when the burden grows greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase,  
To added affliction He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

### Chorus:

His love has no limit, His grace has no measure,  
His pow'r has no boundary known unto men,  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,  
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

My favorite arrangement can be found [here](#)

Lead (Congregational)

# He Giveth More Grace

Words: Annie Johnson Flint

Music: Allyson Sabin

$\text{♩} = 50$

$E\flat$   $B\flat/D$   $E\flat$   $B\flat$   $E\flat$   $B\flat/D$   $E\flat$   $B\flat$   $B\flat$

1. He giv-eth more grace when the bur -  
2. When we have ex - haus - ted our store

6  $E\flat$   $B\flat/D$

- den grows great - er, He send - eth more strength when the lab -  
of en - dur - ance, When our strength has failed ere the day

8  $E\flat$   $B\flat$   $E\flat$

- ors in - crease, To add - ed aff - lic - tion He add - eth His mer - cy, To  
is half done, When we reach the end of our hoard - ed re - sources, Our

11  $B\flat/D$   $E\flat$   $E\flat$   $F$

mul - tip - lied tri - als, His mul - tip - lied peace. His love has no li - mit, His  
Fath - er's full giv - ing is on - ly be - gun.

15  $E\flat$   $B\flat$   $F$   $E\flat$   $B\flat$

grace has no mea - sure, His pow'r has no boun - da - ry known un - to men, For

18  $F$   $E\flat$   $B\flat$

out of His in - fin - ite rich - es in Je - sus, He

20  $E\flat$   $B\flat/D$   $E\flat$   $B\flat$

giv - eth and giv - eth and giv - eth a - gain.

## Day 18 (Tuesday Mar. 9, 2021)

### Scripture Readings

#### Psalms 120

In my distress I called to the Lord,  
and he answered me.  
Deliver me, O Lord,  
from lying lips,  
from a deceitful tongue.  
What shall be given to you,  
and what more shall be done to you,  
you deceitful tongue?  
A warrior's sharp arrows,  
with glowing coals of the broom tree!  
Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech,

that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!  
Too long have I had my dwelling  
among those who hate peace.  
I am for peace,  
but when I speak, they are for war!

#### Isaiah 42:1-9

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.  
Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them  
out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes  
from it,

who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
“I am the Lord; I have called you in  
righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.  
Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them.”

### Prayer

Spend time today praising the work of the Holy Spirit in creation and in the coming of the new creation. Praise the Spirit for the peace and power that upholds you when all else fails. Pray asking for help to follow the example of Jesus.

# Day 19 (Wednesday Mar. 10, 2021)

## Scripture Readings

### Psalms 134

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the  
Lord,  
    who stand by night in the house of the Lord!  
Lift up your hands to the holy place  
    and bless the Lord!  
May the Lord bless you from Zion,  
    he who made heaven and earth!

### John 15:1-17

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

## Prayer

Spend time today praising God for His steadfast, loving kindness, patience, and pursuit of you. Repent of those times you have not shown love to those in your life, and ask God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit to be made manifest in your life; that you might grow in love for those you find difficult to love.

## Day 20 (Thursday Mar. 11, 2021)

### Scripture Readings

#### Psalms 36

Transgression speaks to the wicked  
    deep in his heart;  
there is no fear of God  
    before his eyes.  
For he flatters himself in his own eyes  
    that his iniquity cannot be found out and  
hated.  
The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit;  
    he has ceased to act wisely and do good.  
He plots trouble while on his bed;  
    he sets himself in a way that is not good;  
    he does not reject evil.  
Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the  
heavens,  
    your faithfulness to the clouds.  
Your righteousness is like the mountains of  
God;  
    your judgments are like the great deep;  
    man and beast you save, O Lord.  
How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
    The children of mankind take refuge in the  
shadow of your wings.

#### Isaiah 50:4-9

The Lord God has given me  
    the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
    him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens;  
    he awakens my ear  
    to hear as those who are taught.  
The Lord God has opened my ear,  
    and I was not rebellious;  
    I turned not backward.  
I gave my back to those who strike,  
    and my cheeks to those who pull out the  
beard;  
I hid not my face

They feast on the abundance of your house,  
    and you give them drink from the river of  
your delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life;  
    in your light do we see light.  
Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who  
know you,  
    and your righteousness to the upright of  
heart!  
Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me,  
    nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.  
There the evildoers lie fallen;  
    they are thrust down, unable to rise.

from disgrace and spitting.  
But the Lord God helps me;  
    therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
    and I know that I shall not be put to shame.  
He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
    Let us stand up together.  
Who is my adversary?  
    Let him come near to me.  
Behold, the Lord God helps me;  
    who will declare me guilty?  
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;  
    the moth will eat them up.

## Prayer

*A prayer historically attributed to St. Augustine.*

Look upon us, O Lord,  
and let all the darkness of our souls  
vanish before the beams of thy brightness.  
Fill us with holy love,  
and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom.  
All our desire is known unto thee,  
therefore perfect what thou hast begun,  
and what thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.  
We seek thy face,  
turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory.  
Then shall our longing be satisfied,  
and our peace shall be perfect.



# Day 21 (Friday Mar. 12, 2021)

## Scripture Readings

### Psalms 129

“Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth”—  
let Israel now say—  
“Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,  
yet they have not prevailed against me.  
The plowers plowed upon my back;  
they made long their furrows.”  
The Lord is righteous;  
he has cut the cords of the wicked.  
May all who hate Zion  
be put to shame and turned backward!  
Let them be like the grass on the housetops,

which withers before it grows up,  
with which the reaper does not fill his hand  
nor the binder of sheaves his arms,  
nor do those who pass by say,  
“The blessing of the Lord be upon you!  
We bless you in the name of the Lord!”

### Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

### Prayer

Spend time in prayer today rejoicing in the goodness of God, and asking Him to give you a heart that *tastes and sees* his goodness. Pray for the lost in your community and for the witness of the church to them. Pray for those who walk as enemies of the cross, that they would be humbled, repent, and believe. Pray for your own hard heartedness and lack of trust in the saving work of Jesus.

## Day 22 (Saturday Mar. 13, 2021)

### Scripture Readings

#### Psalms 115

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name  
give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your  
faithfulness!  
Why should the nations say,  
“Where is their God?”  
Our God is in the heavens;  
he does all that he pleases.  
Their idols are silver and gold,  
the work of human hands.  
They have mouths, but do not speak;  
eyes, but do not see.  
They have ears, but do not hear;  
noses, but do not smell.  
They have hands, but do not feel;  
feet, but do not walk;  
and they do not make a sound in their throat.  
Those who make them become like them;  
so do all who trust in them.  
O Israel, trust in the Lord!  
He is their help and their shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord!  
He is their help and their shield.  
You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord!  
He is their help and their shield.  
The Lord has remembered us; he will bless us;  
he will bless the house of Israel;  
he will bless the house of Aaron;  
he will bless those who fear the Lord,  
both the small and the great.  
May the Lord give you increase,  
you and your children!  
May you be blessed by the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth!  
The heavens are the Lord's heavens,  
but the earth he has given to the children of  
man.  
The dead do not praise the Lord,  
nor do any who go down into silence.  
But we will bless the Lord  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
Praise the Lord!

#### 1 John 2:1-3

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus, we have the privilege of surveying your cross, lamenting our sin, and resting in your righteousness. For your glory and our growth, we ask you to drown us with fresh grace. Convince us again that we are much more loved than we believe possible. Jesus, melt us in your mercies and overwhelm us with your love. Astonish us with your goodness, and let your goodness lead us to repentance.

