

Lent

SEASON OF PREPARATION



Week 5

Day 23 (Monday, Mar. 15, 2021)

Scripture Readings

Psalm 71

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!
Be to me a rock of refuge,
to which I may continually come;
you have given the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the
wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.
For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's
womb.
My praise is continually of you.
I have been as a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all the day.
Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
forsake me not when my strength is spent.
For my enemies speak concerning me;
those who watch for my life consult together
and say, "God has forsaken him;
pursue and seize him,
for there is none to deliver him."
O God, be not far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!
May my accusers be put to shame and
consumed;
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered
who seek my hurt.
But I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.
My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,

of your deeds of salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.
With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will
come;
I will remind them of your righteousness,
yours alone.
O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another
generation,
your power to all those to come.
Your righteousness, O God,
reaches the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?
You who have made me see many troubles and
calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.
You will increase my greatness
and comfort me again.
I will also praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.
My lips will shout for joy,
when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have redeemed.
And my tongue will talk of your righteous help
all the day long,
for they have been put to shame and
disappointed
who sought to do me hurt.

1 Corinthians 18:26-31

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Prayer

Pray today praising God that Jesus is the cornerstone upon which our faith is built; praising Him that it is not your work, craftsmanship, or ingenuity that your faith is dependent on but that it is dependent on Christ alone. Pray for a heart that knows the preciousness of the cross. Pray today for our community; for our students, teachers, and school administrators. Pray that in this season the Holy Spirit might be calling many unto salvation.

Day 24 (Tuesday, Mar. 16, 2021)

Scripture Readings

Psalms 112

Praise the Lord!
Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
 who greatly delights in his commandments!
His offspring will be mighty in the land;
 the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in his house,
 and his righteousness endures forever.
Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
 he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
It is well with the man who deals generously
and lends;
 who conducts his affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved;
 he will be remembered forever.

He is not afraid of bad news;
 his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.
His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,
 until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.
He has distributed freely; he has given to the
poor;
 his righteousness endures forever;
 his horn is exalted in honor.
The wicked man sees it and is angry;
 he gnashes his teeth and melts away;
 the desire of the wicked will perish!

Hebrews 10:16-25

“This is the covenant that I will make with them
 after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws on their hearts,
 and write them on their minds,”
then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”
Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.
Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new
and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a
great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our
hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast
the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how
to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Prayer

Pray today rejoicing and thanking God for the gift of His Word. Rejoicing that in His Word He reveals
to us His love for His people, and all that is necessary for salvation. Praise Him for the Word incarnate,
that in Jesus we are given the grace that reconciles us to God and experience the mercy of our loving
heavenly father. Pray for a heart that knows the preciousness of the cross.

Day 25 (Wednesday, Mar. 17, 2021)

Scripture Readings

Psalms 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your
steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.
On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.
All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks,
O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he regards the
lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of
my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Prayer

Pray today praising God for the riches of Christ Jesus, rejoicing at the inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading being held for us in heaven. Pray for those in need of comfort, those that are suffering, lonely, depressed, anxious, and fearful that they would know the comfort and peace of God.

Day 26 (Thursday, Mar. 18, 2021)

Scripture Readings

Psalms 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!

Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Prayer

Pray today rejoicing that God truly is faithful and praising God that He never gives up on you. Whether you're just coming to God with new heartache, struggle, or temptations, or you've been waiting on His deliverance for some time, approach His throne with the confidence that He hears you and will answer you. The God who left heaven to pursue you and rose from the pit to redeem you has not forgotten you.

Day 27 (Friday, Mar. 19, 2021)

Scripture Readings

Psalms 132

Remember, O Lord, in David's favor,
all the hardships he endured,
how he swore to the Lord
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
"I will not enter my house
or get into my bed,
I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
until I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
"Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool!"
Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.
Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your saints shout for joy.
For the sake of your servant David,
do not turn away the face of your anointed
one.

Jeremiah 14:1-9

The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah
concerning the drought:
"Judah mourns,
and her gates languish;
her people lament on the ground,
and the cry of Jerusalem goes up.
Her nobles send their servants for water;
they come to the cisterns;
they find no water;
they return with their vessels empty;
they are ashamed and confounded
and cover their heads.
Because of the ground that is dismayed,
since there is no rain on the land,
the farmers are ashamed;
they cover their heads.
Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn
fawn

The Lord swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:
"One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.
If your sons keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,
their sons also forever
shall sit on your throne."
For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling place:
"This is my resting place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.
Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.
There I will make a horn to sprout for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on him his crown will shine."

because there is no grass.
The wild donkeys stand on the bare heights;
they pant for air like jackals;
their eyes fail
because there is no vegetation.
"Though our iniquities testify against us,
act, O Lord, for your name's sake;
for our backslidings are many;
we have sinned against you.
O you hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?
Why should you be like a man confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot save?
Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not leave us.

Prayer

Today's prayer is a poem by Joesphine D. Henderson Heard

My God, sometimes I cannot Pray,
Nor can I tell why thus I weep;
The words my heart has framed I cannot say,
Behold me prostrate at Thy feet.

Thou understandest all my woe;
Thou know'st the craving of my soul -
Thine eye beholdeth wheresoe'er I go;
Thou canst this wounded heart make whole.

And oh! while prostrate here I lie,
And groan the words I fain would speak:
Unworthy though I be, pass no me by,
But let Thy love in showers break.

And deluge all my thirsty soul,
And lay my proud ambition low;
So while time's billows o'er me roll,
I shall be washed as white as snow.

Thou wilt not quench the smoke flax,
Nor wilt thou break the bruised reed;
Like potter's clay, or motle wax,
Mould me to suit Thy will indeed.

Day 28 (Saturday, Mar. 20, 2021)

Scripture Readings

Psalms 128

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways!
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your
hands;
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with
you.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!

Jeremiah 12:1-12

Righteous are you, O Lord,
when I complain to you;
yet I would plead my case before you.
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all who are treacherous thrive?
You plant them, and they take root;
they grow and produce fruit;
you are near in their mouth
and far from their heart.
But you, O Lord, know me;
you see me, and test my heart toward you.
Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter,
and set them apart for the day of slaughter.
How long will the land mourn
and the grass of every field wither?
For the evil of those who dwell in it
the beasts and the birds are swept away,
because they said, "He will not see our latter
end."
"If you have raced with men on foot, and they
have wearied you,
how will you compete with horses?
And if in a safe land you are so trusting,
what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?
For even your brothers and the house of your
father,
even they have dealt treacherously with you;

they are in full cry after you;
do not believe them,
though they speak friendly words to you."
"I have forsaken my house;
I have abandoned my heritage;
I have given the beloved of my soul
into the hands of her enemies.
My heritage has become to me
like a lion in the forest;
she has lifted up her voice against me;
therefore I hate her.
Is my heritage to me like a hyena's lair?
Are the birds of prey against her all around?
Go, assemble all the wild beasts;
bring them to devour.
Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard;
they have trampled down my portion;
they have made my pleasant portion
a desolate wilderness.
They have made it a desolation;
desolate, it mourns to me.
The whole land is made desolate,
but no man lays it to heart.
Upon all the bare heights in the desert
destroyers have come,
for the sword of the Lord devours
from one end of the land to the other;

no flesh has peace.

Prayer

Pray today thanking God for His sovereignty, wisdom, and power. Pray rejoicing that He ordains all things and that even kings and kingdoms rise and fall by his decree. All will one day bow at the name of Jesus and confess Him as Lord. Pray today for the persecuted church around the world, that the Lord in His mercy would free them from the suffering and pain they experience. Pray that we as the church would be a people who seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.