



Lent Season Gathering

Week 2





Welcome



We gather together to prepare our hearts toward the mystery of God's redemptive embrace in the death and resurrection of Christ. We are spending this hour, and this Lent season, mindful of our sin and our broken world, longing for entrance into the glory of the Kingdom of God.

For the Lord tells his people:

**“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”**

**¹³Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate**

(Joel 2.12-13a)

As the days get longer, we are aware that the Light of the World is coming; although buried, he will rise; although despised, he will reign; although he was rejected, we confess that Jesus is Lord.



Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above the Heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost



The Rock



We use this rock as a symbol of our mortality and our sin. We remember that God formed us out of the dust of the ground, and because of our sin, to the ground we will return. The stone also reminds us of the tomb of Christ, who died for our sin, was buried, and rose again. With this act of love, we have eternal life.



Confession



Today we confess the roots of our sins: Pride convinces us that we are more important than others, leading to disregard for our fellow man. Selfishness seeks gain for ourselves only, leaving others lonely and in need. Bitterness holds onto unforgiveness to lord power over others. Jealousy prevents us from rejoicing with others in their joy.

The Lord Jesus instructs us in humility and in a live of servitude:



Luke 6.20-31

Looking at his disciples, Jesus said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.



²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false
prophets.

²⁷“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse
you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps
you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If
someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from
them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone
takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do
to others as you would have them do to you.



Lenten Candles / Silence



Just as sin and evil put the Light of the World in a tomb, we
extinguish this candle as a reminder of the power of sin.

As we walk with Jesus toward the cross, let us take pause to
reflect on our sin, the injury it causes our brothers and sisters,
and its offense to God.



Forgiveness



As we confess our sins, we receive the forgiveness that our gracious Lord offers His people through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 32.1-7

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- ¹Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
- ²Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- ³When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.^(b)
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, “I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD.”
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;



surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
7 You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.



Jesus, Remember Me



Jesus, Remember Me

When you come into your Kingdom

Jesus, Remember Me

When you come into your Kingdom



The Gospel



The heart of Easter is the Gospel Message; God's loving faithfulness to his people through the life, death, and resurrection of His son, Christ Jesus.

We read in the Psalms that there are two paths. The path of the wicked, which leads to destruction; and the path of the Lord; a path of righteousness which brings abundance and peace



Psalm 1

- ¹Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
²but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.
- ⁴Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
- ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- ⁶For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

The way of Christ is also one of sacrifice and service; to the Lord and to our fellow man. The cross is a symbol of perfect sacrifice and service. The Lord Jesus instructs us to give ourselves away fully to others in love and charity for His sake.



Mark 8.34-38

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”



Holy, Holy, Holy



Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity



The Gospel



The life of Jesus is the revelation that he is the agent of God's promise of mercy and abundance. God took the form of man to bring God's promise to His people. He brings nourishment where there is hunger, he brings peace where there is strife, he brings light where there is darkness; he brings life where is death.



John 14.1-7

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”



Servant Song



Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on the journey
We are travelers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born to all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too



Prayer for the Journey



Merciful Father, as we journey to the cross with your Son, we ask for your Spirit to be ever present in our lives. We seek to be obedient to your will, as Christ was obedient unto the cross.

Let our hearts be stirred to compassion and charity; let us be mindful of the gravity of our sin, let us look to you for forgiveness and repair the injury to those whom our sin offends.

We are grateful that you sent your Son to die for our sins. Help us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received; and in everything give praise and honor to you.

We pray these things with confidence in your goodness and unending love for us.

In the name of your Son, Christ Jesus, Amen



Recommended Week Reading



- John 2:12-25
- John 6:1-15
- John 6:22-58