

## MIDWEEK LENT 2020

### *Life in the Wilderness*

**This Week's Theme: Works of Love**

*Gathering Song*

*"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"*

**O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.**

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
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*Responsive Prayer*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**have mercy on us.**

*Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.**

*Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by  
the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

Show us your mercy, O God, **and grant us your salvation.**

Give us the joy of your saving help again, **and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

Give peace in all the world; **for only in you can we live in safety.**

Keep the nations under your care, **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth; **your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy be forgotten, **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, **and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.**

Lord, hear my prayer, **and let my cry come before you.**

*Merton Prayer*

Let us pray.

**My Lord God,**

**I have no idea where I am going.**

**I do not see the road ahead of me.**

**I cannot know for certain where it will end.**

**Nor do I really know myself,**

**and the fact that I think I am following your will**

**does not mean that I am actually doing so.**

**But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.**

**And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.**

**I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.**

**And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,**

**though I may know nothing about it.**

**Therefore will I trust you always,**

**though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.**

**I will not fear, for you are ever with me,**

**and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.**

A reading from Acts.

Acts 8:26-38

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)

<sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its

shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from First Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Reflection*

*Hymn*

*vs. 1, 3, 5*

*"Built on a Rock"*

**1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.**

**3 Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.**

**5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:  
"I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen."**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.

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*Prayer*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour you bore our sins in your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and, through your grace, eternal glory in the life to come; where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.  
Amen.

*Hymn*

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy ghost.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.