

Prayer around the Cross | Prayers for our Nation

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Gathering

Litany of Forgiveness

We come before our God, who is full of compassion,
to ask forgiveness and mercy.

When in our excesses we consume more than our share
while others go with basic needs unmet:

Forgive us, merciful God.

When we are blinded by our affluence
and fail to reach out in care and concern:

Forgive us, merciful God.

When we are overwhelmed by desires to acquire
and consume more than we need:

Forgive us, merciful God.

When possessions cloud our view of you
and your gracious love:

Forgive us, merciful God.

Silence

We Sing & Pray

Be Still and Know

2

Christ Our Peace

5

Send Forth Your Spirit

#36

Silence

Litany of Promise

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

Come Holy Spirit and lead us.

Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

The Way of change and testing, the Way of the desert and the wilderness.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says 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.

Come Holy Spirit and make us your own.

Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

The Way of new learning and questioning, the Way of the River Jordan and the Upper Room.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Come Holy Spirit and shape us anew.

Lead us in the Way. The Way Christ walked:

The Way of joy in life and sacrifice, the Way of the Creation and the Cross.

We Hear God's Word

Psalm 121

Assurance of God's Protection

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

- 4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Silence

Prayer around the Cross | Praying for Our Nation

During this time you are invited to light candles and place them in the bowls around the cross as you pray. You may sit in silence or join in singing at any time.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

ELW 751

Prayer Prompts:

For the lands and waters entrusted to our care...

For those who work in government offices and administration...

For those who serve in the military...

For those who work in our national parks...

For elected officials in Congress...

For our president and those who work in the White House...

For justices and all who work in the Supreme Court...

Silence

We Sing & Pray

O God, We Call

#30

Sending

Blessing*

May the dust of the wilderness hold our footprints lovingly
shaped as they are by our hurt for dust remembers

May the journey into wilderness unfold honestly
for honesty is the gift our soul recognizes as us

May your time in this wilderness be shaped by space
rather than minutes so there is time enough for all of us

May the stones in this wilderness cry out your name loudly
that our spirit recognizes the voice that has been calling us always

And may you know this wilderness has been expecting you
and us find between the stones a promise growing. Amen.

We Go Forth in Peace

You are invited to share signs of peace with others as you depart. You are welcome to stay to pray in silence.

A Few Notes on the Service

Our Lenten journey this year invites us into spiritual practices and encounters with prayer through music, silence, and with intention gathered around the cross.

On Singing

Each song will be repeated multiple times. Some songs may be sung in a round, others in unison, and in some cases you may choose to hum with the music instead of singing.

On Silence

Silence is hard for us, and yet, often in silence we find peace and we are able to listen for God's voice. You are encouraged to step out in faith and embrace the silence. Try to shut out the events of the day and be fully present in the silence.

On Praying Around the Cross

You are welcome to offer prayers as you feel moved to do so. We will provide prompts for prayers to aid you in your prayers. You are welcome to light a candle for each petition, or one candle for all of your petitions. You may move between your seat and the cross more than once during this time. When you are seated, we invite you to sing or hum to the music as you are comfortable. You may also choose to sit in silence.