



Prayer Readings, Revised Common Lectionary (Year B)

April 2024

Tues. April 2, 2024
Awakening Hour

Thur. April 4, 2024
Centering Prayer

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Easter)
We give thanks to You, O Beloved, for You are kind;
your steadfast Love endures forever!
Let every nation proclaim,
"Your steadfast Love endures forever."
You opened to me the gates of truth and justice,
that I might enter through them.
Praise be to You, O Merciful One!
This is the Door to Life;
those who know Love shall enter through It.
I give thanks to You, O Beloved,
who answer our prayers and invite us to new Life.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the foundation of our lives.
This, O Eternal Listener, is your Work;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day which You have made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Remain ever by our side, O Friend!
We welcome You into our hearts
as Loving Companion Presence!
Blessed are all who enter through your gates!
Blessed are all who dwell in the house of Love!
For You lead the Way, You forgive our misguided ways,
and You bring Light into darkness. Come, all you who will,
partake of the Great Banquet! You are my Beloved,
and I will give thanks to You; You are my Beloved, greatly
will I praise You! We give thanks to You, O Blessed One,
for You are kind; your steadfast Love endures for ever! -
Nan C. Merrill, Psalms for Praying

Psalm 133 (Easter 2)
Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers and sisters dwell in unity!
It is like vistas seen from atop a mountain
one has climbed . . .
Or like the stillness of a sunset
after a long day's work.
It is like a shimmering rainbow,
breaking through a summer rain.
When men and women dwell in harmony,
the star of Truth appears!
From Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill

Psalm 133 (Easter 2)
How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live
together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down
upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running
down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the
mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained
blessing, life forevermore. NRSV

Wed. April 3, 2024
Lectio Divina

Jesus breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
But Thomas ... one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.
The disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But Thomas said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails
and my hand in his side, I will not believe."
A week later ... Thomas was with them ... Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.
Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:22-28 NRSV

<p>Tues. April 9, 2024 Morning Prayer</p> <p>Thur. April 11, 2024 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>Pslam 4</p> <p>I cry out to you in my anguish, O God. I have tried to be good.</p> <p>I have blown on the embers of the faith I have found. I have learned to pray and to trust. I ask you for better times, but more urgently, for courage and joy in whatever the times bring. Your presence in my heart is more important to me than success or riches. With it I can trust the darkness, and live-waking and sleeping- in peace. POSTED BY CHRISTINE ROBINSON</p>	<p>Psalm 4</p> <p>Answer me when I call, O beloved of my heart! You enveloped me in Love when I was in dire distress. Be gracious to me now; hear my prayer! O friends, how long will my reputation suffer shame? How long will you listen to false words? I seek only what is life-giving. You know that the Beloved dwells with all who are filled with love; Love hears when our hearts cry out. Though you may feel angry, do not give in to fear; Commune with the Heart of your heart as you rest; be in silence. Bask in the stillness. Face your fears with forgiveness and trust in Love. There are many who say, "Grant us special favours, O Mighty One! Bestow upon us you grace that we may prosper!" Love has brought more joy to my heart than they have when their banks are filled. In peace I will spend my days and sleep at night; For You alone, my Beloved, teach me the way of Love! From Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill</p>
<p>Wed. April 10, 2024 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see ..."</p> <p>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer ...and to rise from the dead on the third day ... You are witnesses of these things." Luke 24:36b-39, 41-46a, 47b-48</p>	

<p>Tues. April 16, 2024 Morning Prayer</p> <p>Thur. April 18, 2024 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>Pslam 23 I am a child of God I have everything I need. This beautiful earth feeds my body. You feed my soul. You guide me in the ways of Life, for You are Life. And though I will walk through dark places, and eventually to death, I need never be afraid. For You are with me always, In You I can find comfort. With Your help, I can face whatever comes. My joy overflows. Your goodness and blessing will be with me Every day of my life -- and forever. POSTED BY CHRISTINE ROBINSON</p>	<p>Psalm 23 O my Beloved, You are my shepherd, I shall not want; You bring me to green pastures for rest and lead me beside still waters renewing my spirit; You restore my soul. You lead me in the path of goodness to follow Love's way.</p> <p>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I am not afraid; For You are ever with me; your rod and your staff they guide me, they give me strength and comfort.</p> <p>You prepare a table before me in the presence of all my fears; you bless me with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the heart of the Beloved forever. Amen.</p> <p>From Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill</p>
<p>Wed. April 17, 2024 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."</p> <p>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me ... And I lay down my life for the sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. John 10:11, 14, 15b, 27-28a NRSV</p>	

<p>Tues. April 23, 2024</p> <p>Thur. April 25, 2024</p>	<p>Pslam 22:25-31</p> <p>I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- spring of Israel. For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them. From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God. For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules o- ver the nations. Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- fore the LORD. Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to genera- tions to come. They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!" From Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006.</p>	<p>Psalm 22:22-31</p> <p>To You, O Beloved, I lift up my voice in the great congregation; for You promise to remain with those whose love is steadfast. The hungry shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek You shall sing praises! Your Heart is our dwelling place forever!</p> <p>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to Love's way; And all the families of the nations shall bow down with grateful hearts. For power and authority belong to the Most High, who rules over the nations.</p> <p>Yes, the proud of the earth shall be humbled, while those who still live in fear and illusions will separate themselves not knowing the indwelling Peace of the Beloved. Posterity shall know and serve Love, telling of the One who abides in all to the coming generations, And proclaiming deliverance to a people yet unborn that the Most High dwells among us. From Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill</p>
<p>Wed. Apr. 24, 2024</p> <p>Lectio Divina</p>	<p>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower."</p> <p>"You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you."</p> <p>"Abide in me as I abide in you." John 15:1,3, 4a</p>	

<p>Tues. Apr. 30, 2024 Morning Prayer</p> <p>Thur. May 2, 2024 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>Pslam 98 Sing songs of praise and thanks! for the cosmos around and the moral law within. Shout with joy, all you lands; lift up your voices, rejoice, sing! Sing with harps, with voices, with trumpets and horns. Listen! The sea thunders along! All life sings its song. The rivers clap their hands The hills ring out with joy. All these—the voices of God, Who is everywhere. POSTED BY CHRISTINE ROBINSON</p>	<p>Psalm 98 O sing to the Beloved a new song, for Love has done marvelous things! By the strength of your Indwelling Presence, we, too, are called to do great things; we are set free through Love’s forgiveness and truth. Yes, your steadfast Love and faithfulness are ever-present gifts in our lives. All the ends of the earth have seen the glory of Love’s Eternal Flame. Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth; break forth into grateful song and sing praises! Yes, sing songs of praise extolling Love’s way; lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy! Let the voices of all people blend in harmony, in unison let the people magnify the Beloved! Let the sea laugh, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the waters clap their hands; let the hills ring out with joy Before the Beloved, who radiates Love to all the earth. For Love reigns over the world with truth and justice bringing order and balance to all of Creation. From Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill</p>
<p>Wed. May 1 2024 Lectio</p>	<p>"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.</p> <p>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.</p> <p>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.</p> <p>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. -John 15:9, 11, 12, 13 NRSV</p>	