



Prayer Readings, Revised Common Lectionary (Year B)

March 2024

Tues. Mar. 5, 2024
Awakening Hour

Thur. Mar. 7, 2024
Centering Prayer

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
Give thanks to God, who is good
whose mercy endures forever.
Let all who have known God's grace declare
that their suffering has been redeemed.
Some wandered in desert wastes
isolated and without help.
They were hungry and thirsty
their spirits languished within them.
In their trouble they cried out to God,
who delivered them from their distress
Let them give thanks
for the mercy God shows to all people.
God satisfies the thirsty,
and fills the hungry with good things.

Some sat in darkness and gloom
bound fast in their misery.
feeling abandoned and alone
stumbling about, with none to help.
And then—a light in the darkness!
Let them give thanks!

Some lived foolishly and became ill
They cried out in their struggle with death.
And then—a moment of peace, a word of healing.
Let them give thanks.

Some lost themselves in their work.
Though they saw God's beauty,
they, too, became lost in storms and stress
and cried out to God, who delivered them.
God stills the storm to a whisper
and quiets the waves of agitation
Give thanks for God's mercy
for the wonders God does for all people.
-Christine Robinson, Psalms for a New World

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his
steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he
redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands, from the east and
from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and
because of their iniquities endured affliction; they
loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the
gates of death.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he
saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them, and
delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for
his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of
his deeds with songs of joy.
-NRSV

Wed. Mar. 6, 2024

The people came to Moses and said,

Lectio Divina	<p>"We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." -Numbers 21:7-8 NRSV</p>	
<p>Tues. Mar. 12, 2024 Morning Prayer</p> <p>Thur. Mar. 14, 2024 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>Psalm 51:1-12 Have mercy on me, O Gracious One, according to your steadfast love; According to your abundant kindness forgive me where my thoughts and deeds have hurt others. Lead me in the paths of justice, guide my steps on paths of peace! Teach me, that I may know my weaknesses, the shortcomings that bind me, The unloving ways that separate me, that keep me from recognizing your Life in me; For, I keep company with fear, and dwell in the house of ignorance. Yet, I was brought forth in love, and love is my birthright. You have placed your truth in the inner being; therefore, teach me the wisdom of the heart. Forgive all that binds me in fear, that I might radiate love; cleanse me that your light might shine in me. Fill me with gladness; help me to transform weakness into strength. Look not on my past mistakes but on the aspirations of my heart. Create in me a clean heart, O Gracious One, and put a new and right spirit within me. Enfold me in the arms of Love, and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Restore in me the joy of your saving grace, and encourage me with a new spirit. -Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying</p>	<p>Psalm 51:1-12 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. -NRSV</p>

<p>Wed. Mar. 13, 2024 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>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. ...this is the covenant that I will make. ...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. - Jeremiah 31: 31-33 NRSV</p>	
<p>Tues. Mar. 19, 2024 Morning Prayer</p> <p>Thur. Mar. 21, 2024 Centering Prayer (Palm Sunday)</p>	<p>Liturgy of Passion Psalm 31:9-16 Be a comfort to me, Beloved, for I am in distress; my eyes are dim from weeping, my soul is deep with grief. For my life is worn away with sorrow, and my years with sighing; My body has weakened and my bones waste away with misery. All my fears rise up to mock me, my neighbors turn away, My friends dread to see me and flee from my sickness of soul. My mind, too, has left me like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. Yes, I hear the voices around me whispering of my plight – fears rise up on every side! Isolation, rejection, fear surround me and conspire to overwhelm me. Still, I trust in You, O Beloved, I repeat, “You are my Life.” My life is in your hands; deliver me from the fears which separate me! Let your face shine on me; hold me in your steadfast love! - Nan C. Merrill, Psalms for Praying</p>	<p>Psalm 31:9-16 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many-- terror all around!-- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love. -NRSV</p>
<p>Wed. Mar. 20, 2024 Lectio Divina Liturgy of Passion (Palm Sunday)</p>	<p>Isaiah 50:4-9a NRSV The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.</p>	

	<p>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; The One who vindicates me is near. -NRSV</p>	
<p>Wed. Mar. 20, 2024 Lectio Divina Liturgy of Palms (Palm Sunday)</p>	<p>"Go into the village ahead of you... you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it." Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" -Mark 11: 2b, 7-9 NRSV</p>	
<p>Tues. Mar. 26, 2024</p> <p>Thurs. Mar. 28, 2024 Maudy Thursday</p>	<p>Pslam 116:1-2, 12-19 My love is for God, who knows me and hears my voice when I cry out. When the grip of fears and anxieties take hold of me, when I come to grief and sorrow I call on God and find relief. Rest, O my soul, relax. God is with you. God has given your life meaning, soothed your sufferings, and guided your feet. Walk in God's presence in the land of the living Even when you are very low. Even when trust is hard. Call on God's name Fulfill your promise Be grateful Lighten up. Sing.</p> <p>-Christine Robinson, Psalms for a New World</p>	

<p>Wed. Mar. 27, 2024 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him...After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?...For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." -John 13:1,4-5, 12-15,34-3 NRSV</p>	<p>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, 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." 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. -1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NRSV</p>
<p>Good Friday Isaiah Pslam 22 Hebrews Seven Last Words of Jesus</p>	<p>Out of his anguish he shall see light ...Isaiah 53:11</p> <p>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are... Hebrews 4:15a NRSV</p> <p>Psalm 22 O my Beloved, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far, abandoning me as I groan in misery? O my Beloved, I cry by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. I seem as nothing, hardly alive; scorned and despised by many. Those who see me make fun at my expense, they ridicule and gossip among themselves; "Commit yourself to the Most High; let Love deliver you, you who delight in the Most High!" Yet, You are the One who took me from the womb; You kept me safe upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from my birth, and ever since my mother bore me, You have been my strength. Come close to me, for trouble is near and there is none to help. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are weak; my heart is like wax, melting within my breast; My strength is broken as a shard of pottery, and my mouth is dry; You have laid me in the dust of death... But You, O Beloved, be not far off! You, who are my help, hasten to my aid! Free my soul from this agony, my life from the power of the boar! Save me from the mouth of the lion, my afflicted soul from the horns of the bull! -Psalms for Praying, Nan C. Merrill</p>	

March 31 Easter		
<p>Tues. Apr.2, 2024 Morning Prayer</p> <p>Thur. Apr. 4, 2024 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 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</p>	
<p>Wed April 3 Lectio</p>	<p>Mark 16:1-8 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went</p>	

	out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.	
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