

Lent 2020
Reflections on the Beatitudes



Photo:Mount of Beatitudes, Israel

Prayer and Reflection for Lent 2020

Lent is the time of preparation for Easter, when we focus on penitence and spiritual growth. From the 4th century, this season was of special importance to those awaiting baptism at Easter. Around the 10th century, Lent came to be linked with Christ's 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. So it is a time when a renewal of commitment and simple worship are appropriate.

Bible verse for each week:-

Week 1, March 3rd The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalm 51:17*

Week 2, March 10th. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. *Psalm 103: 8*

Week 3, March 17th. Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine. *Isaiah 43: 1*

Week 4, March 24th. I will make a way in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. *Isaiah 43:19.*

Week 5, March 31st. In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength. *Isaiah 30:15.*

Week 6, April 7th. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself. *2 Corinthians 5: 18.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, touch our lips:

that we may sing your praise with all our hearts

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us:

deliver us from evil, O Saviour and Redeemer

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

mystery of love, behind, through and beyond all things.

Lord of the wilderness we worship you:

all praise to your name. Amen.

HYMN or SONG

AN ACT OF PENITENCE

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him. Let us ask his mercy in
penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

Fill us with your Spirit. **Lord have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

Fill us with your Spirit: **Lord have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust.

Fill us with your Spirit: **Lord have mercy.**

**The Lord has mercy on us according to his steadfast love; in
his abundant mercy he blots out our transgressions and
cleanses us from our sin, through Jesus our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Bible Reading and short reflection based on the Beatitudes
(Matthew 5:1-11)

Week 1: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Week 2: Blessed are those who mourn

Week 3. Blessed are the pure in heart

Week 4. Blessed are the peacemakers

Week 5: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness

Week 6: Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake

PRAYER TOGETHER FOR THIS TIME OF VACANCY
AND FOR OUR WIDER CONCERNS

We conclude our prayers, by saying together:-

Lord in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of emptiness take possession of us; in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.

A Lenten blessing together:-

So let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he might exalt us; casting all our anxieties upon him, because he cares about us; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us always. Amen.