



At the Name of Jesus

Evening Prayer for Lent

Week # 4: Every Tongue Confesses Jesus

Opening

Consider lighting a candle as you begin.

Behold, now is the acceptable time; **now is the day of salvation.**
Turn us again, O God of our salvation, **that the light of your face may shine on us.**
May your justice shine like the sun; **and may the poor be lifted up.**

Gathering Hymn

All My Hope on God is Founded

Listen and sing along [here](#).

Thanksgiving for Light

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,
and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.
In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom.
Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ: may your Word be a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,
and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 28:10-15

Read the complete text [here](#).

Psalm 148

Read the complete text [here](#).

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Silence.

Reflection on the Readings

These days, many young adults identify themselves as “spiritual but not religious.” This means that they don't attend worship, but they do connect with God usually on their own time and in their own way. For example, these people may have a strong prayer life and read the Bible at home, but they don't gather for worship on Sunday. People who are “spiritual but not religious” may not attend worship but feel close to God in nature or through meditation. Personally, I feel like my faith life is stronger as I participate in the body of Christ through Bible study, worship, and other church gatherings.

In a similar thought, I know people that are nice people and they have strong morals and hold values that are like mine, but they are not Christian. Being a Christian is more than being nice and hospitable. The difference here is faith in Christ. This Philippians text was used as a confession of faith in the early church; similar to how we confess our faith with the Nicene or Apostles' Creeds.

Why should every tongue confess that Jesus is their Lord, or literally speaking, their master? This slave/master relationship is not one of oppression like we may think of initially. It is more like when Paul says that he is a “slave to Christ.” He means that he is forever bound to God and he will serve God in all that he does. The same goes for us. In baptism, we are united in a death like Christ, and a resurrection like Christ. Our master humbled himself to the station of a slave until death, only to be resurrected as the one that conquered death and is the master of all creation. Jesus brings us into new life in the here and now, and we also look to when he will return and all of creation will be restored and reconciled to God.

In this Lenten season, you may have started out with your own plan for deepening your discipleship and your relationship with God, and you may be continuing that original plan, but if you are like me, this pandemic has really scrambled all my plans! It is important to mourn our losses whether they be physical or social losses. It is ironic that this pandemic is hitting hard during Lent. What better time to be forced to live in new and different ways?

My prayer for you is that you take time to be sad and mourn the events you've had to cancel, but maybe think of this is an opportunity for you to be renewed in newness of life in ways that you may not have been otherwise. I think it is safe to say that anyone who has tried to help a student in grade school with their schoolwork recently is thankful for what teachers do! Take time to be thankful in the coming weeks for what you have and be open to what God has in store for you in the adventure of extended Lent, as we wait for our Easter celebration when we can gather again like we used to.

Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Other petitions may be added.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

To you, O Lord.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Listen and sing along [here](#).

Abide with Me

Acknowledgements:

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This week's meditation was written by Vicar Natalie Cook.