

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Lent Year A Week 5

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. The stand or table is draped with Lenten purple. Drape strips of calico cloth representing burial cloths over the prayer table. The ash bowl may still be on the table.

Leader: With you, O my God, there is mercy.
All: And with you, fullness of redemption.

Leader: From you, O my God, is found forgiveness.
All: Therefore, O God, we revere you.

We Listen: The Gospel. John 11: 1-6, 17-27, 38-44 Shorter part of the Sunday Gospel

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

“Jesus said to them, “Unbind him and let him go.” Jn 11:44

Commentary: In contrast with the resurrection story we will hear in a few weeks, in which the burial cloths of Jesus are loosened by the power of the Spirit, in this case of Lazarus, it is his family who have to take off the bindings. It is the difference we sense between Resurrection and resuscitation, between the divine/human being of Jesus and the human condition of ourselves. But what Lenten message can we find here? It is up to us as humans to unbind the death wrappings that keep living people in tombs of poverty and violence. It is up to faced with the death dealing famine in Yemen, to let go from ourselves too, anger, resentment, self-righteousness and pride that binds us from being the free people of the kingdom of a loving God.

We Respond: “Let him go...”

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- What death bindings have I wrapped around myself?
- How can I let others go ...in my family, in my work, in my relationships?

Song: God of Mercy and Compassion (M Hodgetts-GA) or
Mercy, Lord (Micahel Avolicino- -Spirit & Song-OCP)

We Go Forth:

God, you breathed life into us, and through the sharing by Christ in our humanity, you will breathe new life into us after death. May we, in our turn, be bearers of your spirit of life to others, freeing them from the confining fears of violence, oppression and despair. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Lord, I count on your word **All:** You will attend to my cries.