

Lent Yr C Week 1

Community/Staff Prayer

Change Your Mind From Self-Reliance To Self-Surrender



Artwork by Tony Kiely

Preparation:

The Leader has prepared a prayer sheet for the group and set up the sacred space with the Bible (open at the Reading) resting on a purple cloth. S/he arranges the CD and player OR a laptop with internet access for the song.

WE GATHER

Introduction:

Leader: All through Lent, the Scripture calls us to 'Repent'.
To repent really means to *change our minds* about the way we see things, the way we act, the way we think. It is not easy to change our mindset especially when we may have certain deeply ingrained patterns of thinking ... let us ask for God's help.

Call to Prayer:

Leader: Be with us, Lord, when we are in trouble.

All: Be with us, Lord, we pray.

Leader: Lord, show us your mercy.

All: And grant us your salvation.

Opening Prayer:

Leader: O God, our refuge in times of trouble,
You come to strengthen us in our weakness.
May we surrender willingly to your grace
and rely on the power of your mercy.
We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus your Son,
And in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

WE LISTEN

Scripture Focus: Luke 4:1-13

Breaking Open The Word /Reflection:

The Leader poses these questions for reflection/sharing.

The desert is a symbolic place: It is where all our comforts are stripped away and we must decide what really matters in life. Jesus had to do this, too – he had to become clear about his true purpose. It was a real struggle between good and evil. Jesus found an inner strength (which was of God) to help him make the choice for 'life'. Like Jesus, we need to move from self-reliance to self-surrender.

Reflect on your life for a moment ... Is there an issue that you need to hand over more fully to the Divine One? Spend a few moments asking God to strengthen you so that you can choose whatever is most life-giving in this situation.

After a pause and/or sharing, the Leader continues:

WE RESPOND

Leader: Let us rejoice that our God is indeed merciful.
In the words of the Psalm, let us answer the call this Lent
to change our minds by moving from self-reliance to self-surrender:

All sing: **Be with me, Lord** – Marty Haugen (CWB II)

This song may be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKzmYk6x4kE>

The lyrics are on the screen so that people may join on the Refrain.

(Pause now for some seconds of silence)

Ritual:

Leader: In silence, let us offer the person beside us a sign of God's peace. Let this sign reassure us on two levels:

- That God is ready to strengthen us in our weakness
- That we are ready to reach out beyond ourselves to another

Conclusion:

Leader: Merciful and loving God,
we thank you for hearing our cry.
We pray in the words of the Psalm for this 1st week of Lent:

All: O God, you are my refuge, my stronghold,
My God in whom I trust! *(Ps 91)*

WE GO

Leader: Go forth, into your day,
to put on the mind of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

There may be videos in our online video library relevant to this theme. To check availability please select the video menu on our homepage menu bar.

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