



At the Name of Jesus

Evening Prayer for Lent

Week # 5: Let the Same Mind Be in You

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Read the complete text [here](#).

Psalm 25:1-10

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

Early in our Lenten journey, my husband Ray and I stayed up late one Friday night to watch the **Book of Eli** on television. This movie, now a decade old, features Denzel Washington as Eli, an unlikely prophet of the Lord. The movie was difficult to watch at first, because it presents a dark and gloomy view of the world. It takes place thirty years after a global war has caused unimagined devastation to the land, the cities, and the earth's inhabitants.

Throughout the movie, Eli walks through the violent land, answering the call of God to carry his prized possession to an unknown destination, encountering many challenges along the way. Whenever he met other people on the way, they always presented him with challenges and dangers.

At the time we watched, the threat the coronavirus pandemic would present to us was not yet clear. Now it seems like Eli's experiences were not so very unlike the way we may feel when we venture out to a crowded store, fearful of the danger that others may bring into our lives.

The phrase from our text for this week is "*Let the same mind be in you.*" That does not mean the same fearful mind that seems to possess many of us when we need to leave our homes these days, but the same purposeful vision that led Eli on his mission.

You see, Eli's prized possession was the very last Bible left on the planet, and he had been called to deliver it to a group of faithful people who would share it with others to reintroduce God's word to the world. Like Eli, we are all called to live out our faith, even in these dark and difficult days.

Paul's letter to the church at Philippi reminded those early believers that even in difficult days, they were not alone. Paul and other Christians accompanied them, although often from a distance. But even more, Paul declared that Christ Jesus would always be present with them. Paul reminded them of the story that we have been told over and over.

We recalled earlier in Lent that Jesus gave up his glory as the Son of God to come to earth as a helpless baby and went on to suffer a painful death on the cross for the sake of the world. And that for his obedience, we have been reminded that we should honor the name of Jesus and confess our faith in him. We will never follow God's call perfectly, but Jesus did. And so we want him to help us walk with him, in faith.

May we trust God and walk with Jesus each day - through the challenging, fearful days, and through the wonderful, joyful days as well. Because after the dark, wilderness days of Lent the glorious days of Easter will certainly come. Amen.

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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Listen and sing along [here](#).

Acknowledgements:

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This week's meditation was written by Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe.