Mid-week Lenten Devotional Service Week 1

(in the week following the First Sunday in Lent)

# Opening Verses

My servant will succeed in his task;

he will be highly honoured.

**Many people were shocked when they saw him;**

**he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human.**

But now many nations will marvel at him,

and kings will be speechless with amazement.

**They will see and understand**

**something they had never known.** *(Isa 52:13-15 TEV)*

# Opening Prayer

Let us pray (that God will renew us in the image of Christ).

*(Silent prayer)*

Heavenly Father,
teach us to welcome the discipline of the gospel,
and conform us to the image of your Son,
so that we may be kind in thought,
gentle in speech
and generous in action.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
**Amen.**

# Hymn

# First Passion Reading and Response

**Luke 22:1-23 Judas prepares to betray Jesus, and the last supper**

*(Silent meditation followed by:)*

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me. Woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.

**It would have been better for that one not to have been born.**

The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.

**It would have been better for that one not to have been born.**

# PSALM 31 Or 32

*(sung or spoken: see Music Suggestions Document for Psalm response settings, hymns and songs for these psalms).*

# Second Passion Reading and Response

**Luke 22:24-38 Jesus' words after the supper**

*(Silent meditation followed by:)*

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together

**against the Lord and his Anointed.**

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain

**against the Lord and his Anointed?**

# Address/Meditation

# Prayers

*Prayers may be preceded by this response:*

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,

**and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.**

*Prayers may be selected from the following, or the litany may be prayed.*

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
you sent your Son to reveal your love to us
and to show us the way to life.
Change our ungrateful hearts
to respond to your gift of grace with thanks and praise,
so that we may live with joy
despite the difficulties and trials we experience.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
**Amen.**

OR

Lord Jesus Christ,
for our sake you experienced deprivation, shame, and pain.
We confess the times
when we have refused to carry the burden of your cross,
the times when we have denied you
rather than face insult,
and the times when we have sought comfort and security
rather than answer the challenge and risk of the gospel.
Forgive our sin,
help us to do better,
and give us courage to endure.
**Amen.**

OR

Heavenly Father,
give calmness and control of thought
to all who are facing uncertainty and anxiety;
let their hearts be firm,
believing in the Lord.
Be all things to all people,
knowing all individuals and their prayers,
each house and its need;
for the sake of Jesus Christ.
**Amen.**

OR

Almighty God,
you have shown us in the life and teaching of your Son
the true way of happiness.
You have also shown us in his suffering and death
that the path of love may lead to the cross,
and the reward of faithfulness may be a crown of thorns.
Help us to learn these hard lessons.
May we take up our cross and follow Christ
in the strength of patience
and the loyalty of faith.
By our fellowship with him in his sorrow,
may we know the secret of his strength and peace,
and, even in our darkest hour,
always see the beauty of his eternal light;
for he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
**Amen.**

OR

Look on us, Lord,
and let all our darkness vanish in your brightness.
Fill us with holy love,
and open to us the treasures of your wisdom.
All our desires are known to you;
so make perfect what you have begun
and what your Spirit has awakened us to ask for.
We seek your face;
turn your face towards us and show us your glory,
so that our longing is satisfied
and our peace is made perfect;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen.**

OR

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

For your long-suffering with the sins of humankind,

**we thank you, Lord.**

For the suffering of Christ on earth
and for his intercession for human beings in glory,

**we thank you, Lord.**

For the redemption of the world
through the shame of the cross and the pain of death,

**we thank you, Lord.**

For all who have suffered in their own bodies
for love of Jesus and their fellow human beings,

**we thank you, Lord.**

For the martyrs and confessors;
for all who have chosen poverty or solitude for your sake;
for all people of prayer;
and for all saints in common life;

**we thank you, Lord.**

For all suffering dared and endured for the sake of justice,
and for all pain bravely borne and turned to patience of character and purity of life,

**we thank you, Lord.**

From all misunderstanding of your purpose in pain;
and from complaining that you do not care about our suffering;

**good Lord, deliver us.**

From refusing to share the sufferings of the world;
and from forgetting the pain and sorrow of others;

**good Lord, deliver us.**

From seeking comfort and pleasure above your will;
from refusal to share the burdens of others;
and from neglect of our Christian duty;

**good Lord, deliver us.**

From the selfishness which brings needless sorrow and pain,
**good Lord, deliver us.**

Almighty Father,
you suffer in the sufferings of your people
and are full of compassion and tender mercy;
hear us as we pray for those who suffer;

**hear us, good Lord.**

For all who are handicapped in the race of life through no fault of their own,
for all who suffer permanent disability from injury or illness,
and for all are suffering a terminal disease,

**hear us, good Lord.**

For those whose livelihood is insecure: the unemployed, the overworked, the hungry, and the destitute,
and for those who have been oppressed, ruined, or driven to despair,

**hear us, good Lord.**

For children whose surroundings hide from them your love and beauty,
and for all those who have no parents to care for them,

**hear us, good Lord.**

For those who bear their burdens alone,
and for all who have lost those whom they love,

**hear us, good Lord.**

For those who are in doubt and anguish,
and for those who are oversensitive and afraid,

**hear us, good Lord.**

For those whose suffering is unrelieved by the knowledge of your love,

**hear us, good Lord.**

For those who suffer through their own wrongdoing,

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

# Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

# Blessing

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with *you/us* all.

**Amen.**

# Silent Prayer