

PAX CHRISTI USA COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE – week 2

Second week of Lent – [Readings are from Wednesday, March 3rd](#)

Welcome

Opening song

Singer will be the only one unmuted but feel free to sing along wherever you are!

Litany of Repentance

LEADER: We ask forgiveness for our complicity in the violence and suffering present in our world and we repent of the violence and selfishness present in our own hearts.

Our first response will be, “Forgive us we pray.”

For hardness of heart... **ALL: “Forgive us we pray.”** (Repeat after each line.)

- For wasting our gifts...
- For wanting too much...
- For wounding the earth...
- For neglecting the poor...
- For trusting in weapons...
- For ignoring racial injustice...
- For refusing to listen...
- For exporting arms...
- For desiring dominance...
- For wanting to win...
- For lacking humility...
- For failing to risk...
- For failing to trust...
- For failing to act...
- For failing to negotiate...
- For failing to hope...
- For failing to love...
- For our arrogance...
- For our impatience...
- For our cowardice...
- For our pride...
- For our silence...
- For our complicity...

Our next response will be, “Change our hearts.”



That we learn compassion... **ALL: "Change our hearts."** (Repeat after each line.)
That we embrace nonviolence...
That we act in justice...
That we live in hope...
That we might be strong...
That we do your will...
That we might be peace...

ALL: Amen.

First reading: From the book of Jeremiah...

The people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem said,
"Come, let us contrive a plot against Jeremiah.
It will not mean the loss of instruction from the priests,
nor of counsel from the wise, nor of messages from the prophets.
And so, let us destroy him by his own tongue;
let us carefully note his every word."
Heed me, O God,
and listen to what my adversaries say.
Must good be repaid with evil
that they should dig a pit to take my life?
Remember that I stood before you
to speak in their behalf,
to turn away your wrath from them.

The word of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel reading: From the gospel of Matthew...

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem,
he took the Twelve disciples aside by themselves,
and said to them on the way,
"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,
and the Human One will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes,
and they will condemn him to death,
and hand him over to the Gentiles
to be mocked and scourged and crucified,
and he will be raised on the third day."
Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Jesus with her sons
and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something.
He said to her, "What do you wish?"
She answered him, "Command that these two sons of mine sit,
one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom."
Jesus said in reply, "You do not know what you are asking.
Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"
They said to him, "We can."
He replied, "My chalice you will indeed drink,

but to sit at my right and at my left, this is not mine to give
but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my God.”
When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers.
But Jesus summoned them and said,
“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and the great ones make their authority over them felt.
But it shall not be so among you.
Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.
Just so, the Human One did not come to be served but to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The gospel of our God. **ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

A reflection from this year’s Lenten reflection booklet – Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace Nancy Small: Nancy will read her reflection and offer a few additional words to expand it to include the context we’re living in today.

Jesus said, “Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest. And anyone among you who wishes to be first must serve the needs of all as if a slave; just as the Chosen One came not to be served but to serve, and to die for the ransom of the many.” (Mt 20:26b-28)

Jesus calls us to humility. Our culture calls us to “be all you can be”, to get ahead, to climb the ladder of success. To let others go ahead of us, to pull back from our competitive impulses, even to serve, is to be countercultural. But then again, to be a Christian is to be countercultural. Speaking of Christianity, Thomas Merton said, “What is most important is not to be successful. It is to be faithful.”

Where is there room for greater humility in your life?

Silent reflection

We invite you to quietly reflect on tonight's readings and reflection, and to consider this Lenten question from the Nancy’s original reflection: **Where is there room for greater humility in your life?**

After our prayer service is over, we encourage you if you are with others, to share your answer to tonight's question. If you aren't with others but would like to share in a small group after tonight's prayer, we'll send everyone into breakout rooms with a few other people to share. We'll take now just about 3-4 minutes of silence to reflect quietly.

(In preparation for the Prayers of the Faithful, feel free to enter into the chat any prayers you have that you want those of us on this call to lift up over the coming week.)

Prayers of the faithful

Our response is: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Closing prayer

Ground Us in Your Grace (Ted Loder)

Eternal One,

Silence

From whom our words come;

Questioner

From whom our questions arise;

Lover

Of whom all our loves are hints;

Disturber

In whom alone we find our rest;

Mystery

In whose depths we find healing
and ourselves.

Enfold us now in your presence

Restore to us your peace

Renew us through your power

And ground us in your grace.

(In 1-2 minutes everyone who wants to stay on the call will be sent to breakout rooms to discuss tonight's reading, reflection and Lenten question. Breakout rooms will automatically close after 20 minutes.)