

Lent 4 Jerusalem, prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare to receive the one who comes in the name of the Lord, Prepare your heart to receive the Christ anew

Song 112 – Prepare the way of the Lord

*Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am faithful; save the servant who trusts in you. **You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. Give joy to your servant, O Lord, for to you I lift up my soul.***

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **In the day of distress I will call and surely you will reply. Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, nor work to compare with yours.** All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord, **for you are great and do marvelous deeds, you who alone are God.** (from Psalm 86)

Song 206 – Jesus, remember me

Reading: Paul wrote: The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.** The scripture says, **“No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10,8-13)
(Silence)

" 24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."...

34 And they drove him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see,' your sin remains. (An exercise in lectio divina)

Song Come Rejoice in God 417 Silence

Intercessions

Lord Christ, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.

—**May your word enlighten us.** Lord Christ, you tell us: You are the salt of the earth.

- May your word enlighten us.** Lord Christ, you tell us: Love your enemies.
- May your word enlighten us.** Lord Christ, you tell us: Do good to those who hate you.
- May your word enlighten us.** Lord Christ, you tell us: Be merciful.
- May your word enlighten us.** Lord Christ, you tell us: Pray, ask, seek and you will find.
- May your word enlighten us.** Lord Christ, you tell us: Seek first the Kingdom of God.
- May your word enlighten us.** (Continue in prayer Our Father)

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall not thirst.

Song 527 – Eat this bread

With Christians around the world and throughout the centuries, we gather around these symbols of bread and wine - simple elements that speak of nourishment and transformation.

Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you that you are as close to us as breath, that your love is constant and unending. **We thank you for all that sustains life, and especially for Jesus Christ, who teaches us how to live out an ethic of justice and peace, and for the promise of transformation made manifest in his life, death and resurrection.** We ask you to bless this bread and this cup. **Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, that we may join with you in promoting the well-being of all creation. Amen.**

We remember on the night when Jesus and the disciples had their last meal together, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying **“This is my body, which is broken for you. Take and eat it, and as often as you do, remember me.”** In the symbol of the broken bread, we participate in the life of Christ **and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.** In the same way he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to the disciples, saying: **“Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.** In the symbol of the cup, we participate in the new life Christ brings, **and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.**

(The people of God come forward and take bread and dip in the cup and share in this communion with Christ.)

Let us pray. **We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.**

Songs 424 – Sing, praise and bless the Lord