



ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE February 17th, 2021

Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary or on [Facebook](#) and use this guide to pray along with us.

• **INTRO**

Welcome to Prayer Service! Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent leading us to Easter. Lent is a season of *preparation* observed by Christians since ancient times. The Resurrection of Jesus changes *everything* and as believers prepare to celebrate this world-changing reality each year, we dedicate ourselves to a season of prayer, reflection, fasting, and repentance. Repentance simply means to *turn* or to *change* our hearts and minds: it's easy to get out of alignment with God and we are always in need of more transformation in our lives. We are called to live *lives* of repentance as we follow Christ, constantly surrendering to His leading, but Lent is an intentional time to recommit ourselves to Christ and be renewed. Let's embrace this season together as we begin the journey tonight. Our prayer through the Psalms comes at great timing with Psalm 22. We began this Psalm last week and we'll finish it tonight before ending our time with the Lord's Supper. Let's pray!

• **PAUSE**

"As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God." (Lectio365, 24-7 Prayer International) *Pause and pray.*

As we get ready pray through **Psalm 22** and journey into this 40-day season of Lent, let's pray this prayer together and sing a song of surrender to our Lord Jesus:

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you formed us and from the dust of death you will raise us up. By the redemptive power of your Cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may turn from our sin and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 353, Laurence Hull Stookey © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

• **SONG**

"I Surrender All"

VERSE 1

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

VERSE 2

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now

CHORUS

I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

VERSE 3

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine

VERSE 4

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee

Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

VERSE 5

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation
Glory glory to His name

CCLI Song # 23189 Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter | Winfield Scott Weeden © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

• **PSALM 22:1-18**

In the *Bible in One Year* program we're going through, Nicky Gumbel says this about Psalm 22 in the Commentary: "*Psalm 22 lays out a prophetic background to the cross and resurrection, which we see fulfilled in Jesus. He was 'scorned by everyone, and despised by the people' (v.6); mocked and insulted (v.7). They hurled insults at him, shaking their heads (v.7b). 'He trust in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him' (v.8a). This accurately describes the suffering of Jesus (see Matthew 27:31-46) and yet it ends in victory. The message of the psalm is about the importance of trust at our very low points (Psalm 22:4-5, 9). Jesus, at the very lowest point of his life—crucified and God forsaken—trusted in God to deliver him. The apparent defeat of the cross turned out to be the greatest victory of all time. If you are at a low point, remember that suffering does not have the last word. In Jesus, the resurrection and the victory of God have the last word. Keep trusting him.*"¹ Let's read and reflect on the first half of this Psalm together:

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? ² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. ³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. ⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. ⁵ To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ⁸ 'He trusts in the LORD,' they say, 'let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.' ⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. ¹⁰ From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. ¹¹ Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. ¹² Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. ¹³ Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. ¹⁵ My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. ¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

¹ Nicky Gumbel, *The Bible in One Year Commentary*, © 2019 Hodder & Stoughton Publishing

We have a Savior who knows the heaviness of pain and darkness more than we could imagine. The Cross of Jesus shows us the power of God to transform even our worst suffering. What suffering and pain have you experienced over the past year—in your life or in the lives of others? Would you bring it to the Cross of Jesus tonight? *Pause and pray.*

• **PSALM 22:19-31**

¹⁹ *But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.*

²⁰ *Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. ²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. ²² I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! ²⁴ For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. ²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. ²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!*

Jesus spoke the first verse of Psalm 22 from the Cross before his final breaths: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” But surely he had the whole message of this Psalm in mind. Even in His darkest hour, Jesus trusted in His Father’s power to deliver. “All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord... They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!” If Jesus’ Crucifixion was foreshadowed in the first half of this Psalm, then the second half looks to His resurrection—God’s great victory! We know as we journey through these 40 days of Lent in a spirit of repentance that we’re on a journey from death to life, from the Cross to the Resurrection. Reread this passage and choose one phrase to meditate on. As you worship the Lord, let it fill your heart with faith, hope and love to sustain you in the journey ahead! *Pause and pray.*

• **SONG**

“Knowing You”

VERSE 1

All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

VERSE 2

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness

CHORUS

Knowing You Jesus knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord

VERSE 3

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

• **COMMUNION**

As we prepare to celebrate the awesome sacrifice of Jesus and receive His loving gift of Life, let's take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit to search our hearts: is there anything we need to let go of? Anything we need to surrender? Anything we need to confess and receive Jesus' freedom? *Pause and pray.*

On the night before meeting with death Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let's pray together: ***Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your table for ever. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.***

• **SONG**

"Is He Worthy"

VERSE 1

Do you feel the world is broken (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen (We do)
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through
(We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made
new (We do)

VERSE 2

Is all creation groaning (It is)
Is a new creation coming (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this
(It is)

CHORUS 1

Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open
the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the
grave

He is David's Root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this? He is

VERSE 3

Does the Father truly love us (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us (He does)
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us
(He does)

CHORUS 2

Is anyone worthy, is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open
the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the
grave
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave

From ev'ry people and tribe
Every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy, is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy, is He worthy
Is He worthy of this?

ENDING

He is, He is
Is He worthy, is He worthy?
He is, He is
He is worthy, He is worthy
He is

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- **Closing**

“Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.” (Lectio365, 24-7 Prayer International)