

CONFESSING CHRIST - DAILY LECTONARY AND PRAYERS

Lent 2014

Frederick R. Trost and Colleen Darling, Editors

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“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...”

(Joel 2:12-13)

<i>Ash Wednesday, 3/05</i>	<i>Isaiah 58:1-5</i>	<i>Carmen & May Porco Madison, WI</i>
<i>Thursday, 3/06</i>	<i>Isaiah 58:6-9</i>	<i>Emily B. Preston Jaffrey, NH</i>
<i>Friday, 3/07</i>	<i>Isaiah 58:10-11a +1274, Thomas Aquinas</i>	<i>William Rader Dauphin, PA</i>
<i>Saturday, 3/08</i>	<i>Isaiah 58:11b-14</i>	<i>Philip Ramstad Eden Prairie, MN</i>
<i>First Sunday in Lent (3/09) (Invocavit)</i>	<i>Psalms 91:1-4</i>	<i>Manfred Rekowski Dusseldorf, Germany</i>
<i>Monday, 3/10</i>	<i>Psalms 91:11-12 1872, First Protestant Congregation in Japan +1913, Harriet Tubman 1987, Conscientious Objection declared a human right by the United Nations</i>	<i>Thomas Ressler St. Louis, MO</i>
<i>Tuesday, 3/11</i>	<i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	<i>Mark Rideout Somersworth, NH</i>
<i>Wednesday, 3/12</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 6:1-10 *1607, Paul Gerhardt +1977, Rutilio Grande, El Salvador</i>	<i>Franz Rigert Cedarburg, WI</i>
<i>Thursday, 3/13</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:11b-17</i>	<i>Edzard & Gisela Rohland Bonn, Germany</i>

<i>Friday, 3/14</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:18-22</i> <i>*1879, Albert Einstein</i>	<i>Homer Royer</i> <i>East Greenville, PA</i>
<i>Saturday, 3/15</i>	<i>Romans 12:1-2</i>	<i>Saint Matthew's UCC</i> <i>Hamburg, NY</i>
<i>Second Sunday in Lent, 3/16</i> <i>(Reminiscere)</i>	<i>Psalms 121</i>	<i>Paul Sangree</i> <i>Foxboro, MA</i>
<i>Monday, 3/17</i>	<i>Romans 12:3-8</i> <i>+1970, Günther Dehn</i>	<i>Rudy Schade</i> <i>La Grange, IL</i>
<i>Tuesday, 3/18</i>	<i>Romans 12:9-13</i> <i>+386, Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	<i>Karl C. & Elizabeth Schaffenburg</i> <i>Sheboygan, WI</i>
<i>Wednesday, 3/19</i>	<i>Romans 12:14-21</i>	<i>Gerhard W. Schmidt</i> <i>West Lafayette, IN</i>
<i>Thursday, 3/20</i>	<i>John 3:1-10</i>	<i>Nikolaus Schneider</i> <i>Berlin, Germany</i>
<i>Friday, 3/21</i>	<i>John 3:11-17</i> <i>*1685, Johann Sebastian Bach</i> <i>1960, Sharpeville Massacre,</i> <i>South Africa</i> <i>1965, Selma March to Montgomery, AL</i>	<i>Gerald Schrankler</i> <i>Fond du Lac, WI</i>
<i>Saturday, 3/22</i>	<i>John 3:18-21</i>	<i>Lothar Schreiner</i> <i>Wuppertal, Germany</i>
<i>Third Sunday in Lent (3/23)</i> <i>(Oculi)</i>	<i>Psalms 95</i>	<i>Daniel Ray Schroeder</i> <i>West Orange, NY</i>
<i>Monday, 3/24</i>	<i>Psalms 37:1-6</i>	<i>Ralph Schultz</i> <i>Waukesha, WI</i>
<i>Tuesday, 3/25</i>	<i>Psalms 37:7-9</i>	<i>Catherine Marie Shetler</i> <i>Quarryville, PA</i>
<i>Wednesday, 3/26</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:3-9</i>	<i>John Silliman</i> <i>Shamokin, PA</i>
<i>Thursday, 3/27</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:10-12</i> <i>+1327, Meister Eckhart</i>	<i>James Silver</i> <i>Middletown, CT</i>
<i>Friday, 3/28</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:13-16</i>	<i>Betsy Skinner</i> <i>Archer, FL</i>

<i>Saturday, 3/29</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:17-25 +1788, Charles Wesley</i>	<i>David & Connie Slater Dover, NH</i>
<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent, 3/30 (Latare)</i>	<i>Psalms 23</i>	<i>Samuel Slie West Haven, CT</i>
<i>Monday, 3/31</i>	<i>John 9:1-12</i>	<i>Norman R. Small Gilmanton, NH</i>
<i>Tuesday, 4/01</i>	<i>John 9:13-17</i>	<i>Stephen A. Small West Boylston, MA</i>
<i>Wednesday, 4/02</i>	<i>John 9:18-23</i>	<i>Sally S. Smith Sonora, CA</i>
<i>Thursday, 4/03</i>	<i>John 9:24-34 +1953, Katharina Staritz</i>	<i>Toni T. Smith Chester, CT</i>
<i>Friday, 4/04</i>	<i>John 9:35-41 +1968, Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	<i>Jeannette Solimine Colfax, WA</i>
<i>Saturday, 4/05</i>	<i>Proverbs 4:1-4</i>	<i>Scott Spencer Rehoboth, MA</i>
<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent, 4/06 (Judica)</i>	<i>Psalms 130</i>	<i>Peter B. St. Martin Grand Rapids, MI</i>
<i>Monday, 4/07</i>	<i>John 11:1-16</i>	<i>Sharon Stier West Bend, WI</i>
<i>Tuesday, 4/08</i>	<i>John 11:17-27</i>	<i>Gary Stillwell Janesville, WI</i>
<i>Wednesday, 4/09</i>	<i>John 11:28-37 +1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer</i>	<i>Karl Strohmeier Lenexa, KS</i>
<i>Thursday, 4/10</i>	<i>John 11:38-44 *1953, Jean Donovan</i>	<i>James Tilbe Raynham, MA</i>
<i>Friday, 4/11</i>	<i>John 11:45-54 1963, Pacem in Terris</i>	<i>Gary Titusdahl Cannon Falls, MN</i>
<i>Saturday, 4/12</i>	<i>John 11:55-57</i>	<i>Harley C. W. & Shirley Tretow Berlin, WI</i>
<i>Palm Sunday, 4/13</i>	<i>Matthew 21:1-9</i>	<i>Ann Trost Grand Rapids, MI</i>

<i>Monday, 4/14</i>	<i>Matthew 21:10-13 1972, Pax Christi, USA</i>	<i>Christine Trost Berkeley, CA</i>
<i>Tuesday, 4/15</i>	<i>Matthew 21:14-17</i>	<i>Frederick & Louise Trost Elkhart Lake, WI</i>
<i>Wednesday, 4/16</i>	<i>Matthew 11:18-27</i>	<i>Jonathan H. Trost Rochester, NY</i>
<i>Maundy Thursday, 4/17</i>	<i>John 13:1-20 1521, Luther at Worms</i>	<i>Margaret L. Trost Berkeley, CA</i>
<i>Good Friday, 4/18</i>	<i>John 19:1-19</i>	<i>Marianne Trost Fountain Hills, AZ</i>
<i>Holy Saturday, 4/19</i>	<i>John 19:20-42 1529, Protest of Speyer +1560, Philip Melanchthon</i>	<i>Paul G. & Shelly Trost Sheboygan, WI and Sarah E. Trost Whitefish Bay, WI</i>

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PRAYERS AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR LENT 2014

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Grant... that we may love one another...

Grant unto us, O Lord God, that we may love one another unfeignedly; for where love is, there You are, and they that love one another are born of You, and dwell in You and You in them. And where we do glorify You with one accord, there You pour out Your blessing upon us. Love us, therefore, O Lord, and shed Your love into our hearts, that we may love You and one another in You and for You, as all children to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Book of Christian Prayers, 1578, adapt.)

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Lord, perfect... the faith of us who believe...

Lord, perfect the faith of us who believe, and sow the good seed of faith in the hearts of those who as yet lack it, that we all may look steadfastly to You and run with patience the race that is set before us. Give us grace to show our faith by our works; teach us to walk by faith, having respect to the promises which of Your mercy You make good to us in Your own good time, O most Gracious Lord God and Savior. (Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894, adapt.)

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Feed Thy people, O Lord...

Feed Thy people, O Lord, with Thy grace, and deliver our souls from the death of sin so that, being filled with Thy mercy, we may be united with the joys of the righteous, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Sarum Breviary, 1085)

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Merciful God, full of compassion...

Merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering and of great pity, make me earnestly repent, and heartily to be sorry for all my misdoings. Make the remembrance of them so burdensome and painful that I may flee to You with a troubled spirit and a contrite heart. And, O merciful Lord, visit, comfort, and relieve me. Excite in me true repentance. Give me in this world knowledge of Your truth and confidence in Your mercy, and in the world to come, life everlasting. Strengthen me against sin and enable me so to perform every duty that while I live I may serve You in that state to which You have called me, and, at last, by a holy and happy death, be delivered from the struggles and sorrows of this life, and obtain eternal happiness, for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Your Son Jesus Christ. (Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784, adapt.)

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Guide us in Thy way, O Lord...

Guide us in Thy way, O Lord, and mercifully show the fountain of wisdom to our thirsting minds; that we may be free from sorrowful heaviness and may drink in the sweetness of life eternal. (Mozarabic, before 700)

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Lord, give us all grace and strength...

Lord, give us all grace and strength to overcome every sin; sins of resentment, deliberation, surprise, negligence, omission; sins against You, ourself, our neighbor; sins great, small, remembered, forgotten. (Christina Rossetti)

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Almighty God, who sees that we have no power of ourselves...

Almighty God, who sees that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities, which may happen, to the body and from all evil thoughts, which may assault and hurt the soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Gregorian, 590)

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Eternal Purity! Thou art brighter than the sun...

Eternal Purity! Thou art brighter than the sun, purer than the angels, and the heavens are not clean in Thy sight. With mercy behold Thy servant, apt to be tempted with every object and to be overcome by every enemy. I cannot, O God, stand in the day of battle and danger unless Thou coverest me with Thy shield and hidest me under Thy wings. Thou didst make me after Thine image. Be pleased to preserve me so pure and spotless that my body may be a holy temple and my soul a sanctuary to entertain Thy divinest Spirit, the Spirit of love and holiness. (Jeremy Taylor, 1613-1667)

[Jeremy Taylor served as a bishop and theologian in the Anglican Church. His "Rule and Exercises of Holy Living," published in 1650, and his "Rule and Exercises of Holy Dying," published in 1651, are among his most well-known writings and remain treasures of devotional literature in the English language. Because of his sermons and other writings, he has been described as "the Chrysostom of England."]

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O Thou who camest from above...

O Thou who camest from above the pure celestial fire to impart, Kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart. There let it for Thy glory burn. (Charles Wesley, 1708-1788)

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The Difficulty of Preaching:

One part of our work, and that the most excellent, because it tends to work on many, is the public preaching of the Word. A work that requires greater skill and especially greater life and zeal than any of us bring to it. It is no small matter to stand up in the face of a congregation and deliver a message of salvation... as from the living God, in the name of our Redeemer. It is no easy task to speak so plain that the ignorant may understand us and so seriously that the dearest hearts may feel us and so convincingly, that contradicting cavaliers may be silenced. (Richard Baxter, 1615-1691)

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It is a Venturesome Thing to Preach:

It is a venturesome thing to preach; for when I mount to that sacred place (the pulpit)—whether the church be crowded or as good as empty—I have, though I myself may not be aware of it, one hearer in addition to those that are visible to me, namely, God in heaven, whom I cannot see, it is true, but who verily can see me. This Hearer listens attentively to discover whether what I say is true, and looks also... to see whether my life expresses what I say... (Soren Kierkegaard, 1813-1855)

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A Good Preacher...

A good preacher should have these qualities and virtues. First, he (or she) should be able to teach in a right and orderly way. Second, he (or she) should have a good head. Third, he (or she) should be able to speak well. Fourth, he (or she) should have a good voice. Fifth, a good memory. Sixth, he (or she) should know when to stop. Seventh, he (or she) should be sure of (the) material and be diligent. Eighth, he (or she) should stake body and life, goods and honor on it. Ninth, he (or she) must suffer... to be vexed and flayed by everybody. (Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

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The Preacher:

A preacher is not a product of an ecclesiastical academy. A preacher is not one of the seven wise men of Greece, not a peddler of truisms (or) a teacher of wisdom and virtue, not a professor of morals who must be tolerated... A preacher is a sower who sows... for a better world; a teacher of the great saving doctrine of God, a comforter of the congregation, a weak, unworthy, imperfect person, but with lightning in (the) hand,... received not from others but from God and which is used not for anything trivial, but to pierce the bone and marrow of the people and of princes for their betterment, that they may obtain a salvation glorious above all things... It would have been well if this view had always prevailed. (Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815, adapt.)

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The Servant:

If I have a servant in my house, and I send a message by him or her to the door, and the servant amends it on his or her own authority, the servant may take away the very soul of the message by so doing, and... will remain responsible for what he or she has done. That servant will not remain long in my employ, for I need a servant who will repeat what I say, as nearly as possible, word for word; and if the servant does so, I am responsible for the message and the servant is not. If anyone should be angry with that servant on account of what is said, they would be very unjust (for) their quarrel lies with me and not with the person whom I employ to act as mouth for me. Let the one who has God's Word speak it faithfully, and that servant will have no need to answer gainsayers, except with 'Thus said the Lord.' This, then, is the matter concerning which we are decided. (Charles Haddon Spurgeon, 1834-1892, adapt.)

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Pastor as Student:

Not to read or study at all is to tempt God. To do nothing but study is to forget the ministry. To study only to glory in one's knowledge is a shameful vanity. To study in search of the means to flatter sinners is a deplorable prevarication. But to store one's mind with the knowledge proper to the saints by study and by prayer, and to diffuse that knowledge in

solid instructions and practical exhortations—this is to be a prudent, zealous and laborious minister. (Pasquier Quesnel, 1634-1719)

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Divine Inspiration:

When I was forty-two years and seven months old, a burning light of tremendous brightness coming from heaven poured into my entire mind. Like a flame that does not burn but enkindles, it inflamed my entire heart and my entire breast, just like the sun that warms an object with its rays... All of a sudden, I was able to taste of the understanding of the narration of books. I saw the psalter clearly and the evangelists and other Catholic books of the Old and New Testament.... The visions which I saw I did not perceive in dreams nor when asleep nor in a delirium nor with the eyes or ears of the body. I received them when I was awake and looking around with a clear mind, with the inner eyes and ears, in open places according to the will of God. (Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179)

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The Twenty-first Century:

There is no doubt about it: The twenty-first century will be a difficult and a dangerous one. Whatever shall propel us through it...? This desert is our desert. This time is our time. This challenge is our challenge... We need a new respect for the poor and exploited. We need a new model of women. We need a new kind of man. We need new models of holy madness and wisdom and justice and fire. We need new models of holiness. We need a new kind of conscience and a new sense of God's righteous anger. We need a commitment to non-force and a sense of gentle strength. We need to look eye to eye into the Face of Truth and come brow to brow with the prescience of God and stand face to face with the heart of God. We need exemplars of all these things—or how shall we ever come to them ourselves, in our time, at our age, with our great needs? We need to stand up together, to link arms with the Great Ones of the past in order to find within ourselves the Great Heart it will take to shape the future. (Joan Chittister, OSB, in "A Passion for Life: Fragments of the Face of God," Maryknoll, Orbis Books, 2001)

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You are invited to refer to the Confessing Christ website at the following address: <http://confessingchrist.net>
 Confessing Christ materials are being prepared at the Mission House Center, Lakeland College. Those no longer wishing to receive materials or those with address changes should contact Colleen Darling, Lakeland College, P.O. Box 359, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0359, by e-mail darlingca@lakeland.edu or by calling 920-565-1538.

“For no one can lay foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ.”

(1 Cor. 3:11, NRSV)