

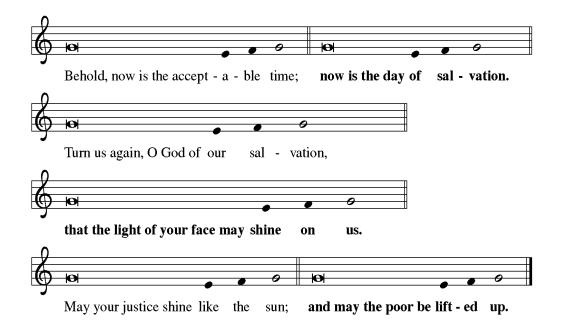
Midweek Prayer during Lent

Offering Reminder

This year's Lenten offerings are designated for Ukrainian refugee relief.

Stand

Opening



Hymn of Light ELW 561 (next page)

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

Reading

Numbers 13:17-33 (New English Translation)

The Spies' Instructions

17 When Moses sent the selected men to investigate the land of Canaan, he told them, "Go up through the Negev, and then go up into the hill country 18 and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, few or many, 19 and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or fortified cities, 20 and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether or not there are forests in it. And be brave, and bring back some of the fruit of the land." Now it was the time of year for the first ripe grapes.

The Spies' Activities

21 So they went up and investigated the land.... 22 When they went up through the Negev, they came to Hebron where...the descendants of Anak, were living... 23 When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a staff between two men, as well as some of the pomegranates and the figs. 24 That place was called the Eshcol Valley, because of the cluster of grapes that the Israelites cut from there. 25 They returned from investigating the land after forty days.

The Spies' Reports

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and to the whole community of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran at Kadesh. They reported to the whole community and showed the fruit of the land. 27 They told Moses, "We went to the land where you sent us. It is indeed flowing with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 But the inhabitants are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. Moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the land of the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses, saying, "Let us go up and occupy it, for we are well able to conquer it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against these people, because they are stronger than we are!" 32 Then they presented the Israelites with a discouraging report of the land they had investigated, saying, "The land that we passed through to investigate is a land that devours its inhabitants. All the people we saw there are of great stature. 33 We even saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak came from the Nephilim), and we seemed like grasshoppers both to ourselves and to them."

Reflection

Hymn of the Day ELW 808 (English only)

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song



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Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931 Music: Les Petites Soeurs, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville

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Stand

Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

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For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Silence for meditation

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord. **To you, O Lord.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer



Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.



When did you first notice this paralyzing fear of small shepherd boys?