



# FIFTH SUNDAY

## *In Lent*

MARCH 29, 2020  
+ EVENING LENTEN DEVOTIONAL +

✘ Read the following call to worship, either on your own or in a small group:

**O Lord, open my lips.  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Give me a pure heart,  
that I may see Thee;  
a humble heart,  
that I may hear Thee;  
a heart of love,  
that I may serve Thee;  
a heart of faith,  
that I may abide in Thee.**

✘ Followed by this prayer of confession:

**When we resist your call to change our hearts and allow a deepening of relationship:  
God, have mercy.**

**When we nurse our wounded hearts and withhold forgiveness, which may transform  
relationship: Christ, have mercy.**

**When fear for our own security leads us to close our hearts from those who are in need:  
God, have mercy.**

**The One who makes a covenant on our hearts is faithful and forgives us our sins and failures. In Christ, God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope.**

**Let us give thanks for the mercy of God.**

✘ Take a few minutes of silence to confess your sins, acknowledge your own humanity, and ask for forgiveness from our merciful God.

✘ Have one person read aloud the following assurance of pardon:

**The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:8-12)**

✘ Read the following scripture passages and, if you'd like, meditate on or discuss the questions that follow:

Psalm 102:12-17

Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

1. *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. (v. 8)*

What does this mean for us today in our specific time and our specific place?

2. Amid the uncertainty we are currently living in, we have SO very much to look forward—both in this world and in the world to come. What are you looking forward to the most?

✘ Pray aloud this prayer:

**Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom. Hear our prayers.**

**For your church around the world,**

**we ask new life.**

**For all who carry out ministries in your church,**

**we ask grace and wisdom.**

**For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines,**

**we ask inspired discipleship.**

**For Christians of every land,**

**we ask new unity in your name.**

**For Jews and Muslims and people of other faiths,**

**we ask your divine blessing.**

**For those who cannot believe,**

**we ask your faithful love.**

**For governors and rulers in every land,  
we ask your guidance.  
For people who suffer and sorrow,  
we ask your healing peace.**

**Heavenly Father, you gave your only Son to be a life to redeem us, an example to follow,  
the word for our rule, the grace for our guide, the lamb on the cross for the sins of our  
souls. Send your Spirit to enter into us and take possession of our hearts, and dwell with us  
forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

✘ As an ending to this short devotional time, read the words written below (aloud or in silence),  
Hymn 214, “Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”:

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,  
teach us to overcome our sins, and close by you to stay.  
And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,  
for evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.  
Abide with us and through this life our doubts and pain relieve.  
An Easter of unending joy we shall at last receive.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.