

Space for God Mercy And Justice

PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
2 Corinthians 5:8

WORSHIP

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say,
"The Lord is great!" But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.
Psalm 40:16-17

CONFESSION

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;
and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.
Hebrews 9:27-28

MEDITATION – Luke 16:19-31*

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.
"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'
"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'
"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ""No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'
"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

ANCHORING PRAYER

I am poor and needy. You are my help and my deliverer. I am listening.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

*How have I loved the poor as Jesus loves them?
Is there a "Lazarus" at my gate that I have overlooked?*

WISDOM

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.
Revelation 20:12

Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.
Proverbs 21:13

Mercy, detached from Justice, grows unmerciful.
–CS Lewis, The Horse and His Boy.

TESTIMONY What is God saying to me?

INTERCESSION Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.

BENEDICTION

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
[Amen]
Psalm 73:24-26

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.
Speak and act from a listening heart.
Actively serve in community with others.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year C
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