

Friday, 3/10

Read **Psalms 117-118** and praise the Lord.

Consider fasting today as an aid to your prayers.

Pray, "Almighty God, Your Son fasted for forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to Your Spirit, that as You know our weakness, so we may know Your power to save through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Come to the weekly prayer meeting this morning at 6:30.

Saturday, 3/11

Read tomorrow's sermon passage **Matthew 26:31-46**.

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

Pray for God to direct you and us as a community of faith in real repentance.

Sing a song of lament that expresses your heartfelt agony over your own sin.

## A Word About Lent and Fasting

Many have misunderstood the foundation of biblical fasting and as a result have slipped into all sorts of error. Fasting does not curry favor with God. Even in our most sincere attempts at piety, we are stained with our unrighteousness. We fast out of gratitude and love, not in an attempt for merit. By giving up something that is essential for our life, we are demonstrating our dependence upon God. He is our life. Without Him we cannot survive. He is more necessary than food and drink.

Many who fast today refrain from luxuries like chocolate or television and not from necessities like food and drink. While this may be an appropriate *starting* place, it is not what is intended by the biblical admonitions to fast and pray. Fasting is going without food as a way of entering into the reality that we need God more than sustenance. While it may be that we need to realize our need for God is greater than for candy or entertainment, that misses the depth of our true dependency.

We also fast to identify with Christ in His suffering. We must see that Christ has not saved us for our comfort, but for His own glory. This is a much-neglected truth in the American Church today. We do not suffer for the sake of suffering, but we acknowledge that Christ has called us to a life of suffering together with Him, and we seek to enter into that gladly knowing that to be *with Him* in pain or trial or torture is far greater than being rich and comfortable without Him.

Let us pray for one another to enter into this season of prayer and fasting out of love for our Savior and for His glory alone.



CHRIST the  
REDEEMER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## BETRAYAL AT THE KING'S TABLE

**Matthew 26:14-30**

Sermon notes from 3/5/06

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

Outline

- The Credentials of the King**—*Who is Jesus?* Focus during Advent  
1:1-4:11 Genealogy, Virgin Birth, adoration by Magi, rescue out of Egypt, baptism, temptation and purity all point to His spotless resume as King.
- The King's Deeds and Words**—*What He Did and Said to Show that He is King*  
4-7 Kingdom Beginnings  
8-10 Kingdom Order  
11-13 Kingdom Mysteries  
14-18 Kingdom Authority  
19-25 Kingdoms in Conflict
- The Death and Resurrection of the King**—focus during Lent  
26:6-13 Alabaster jar—preparing for sacrificial death  
**26:14-30 Jesus, Judas, and Communion**—betrayed at His own table  
26:31-46 Gethsemane—facing the reality of death  
26:47-56 Peter's sword—two ways of fighting death  
26:57-68 Sanhedrin trial—a mockery of death  
26:69-27:10 Peter & Judas—the hope of resurrection  
27:11-26 Pilate—the king's confession  
27:27-61 Crucifixion—the death of the King  
27:62-28:10 Resurrection—the King's victory for His brothers  
28:11-20 Great Commission

Message

- I. Jesus Is the Focus of Passover**
- II. Jesus Is Betrayed by a Friend to Save His Enemies**
- III. The Coming Consummation of the Kingdom**

Application

Please consider the following, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you:

1. How does understanding Jesus as the Passover Lamb change your life?
2. Matthew juxtaposes extravagant devotion and fiendish betrayal. Do you see both in your own life and attempts to follow Jesus?
3. How does the coming consummation give us hope?

# Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

This is the first full week of Lent. Our study in the Gospel According to Matthew now focuses on the Passion of Jesus, that is His sufferings from the Last Supper until His death on the cross. As a congregation we will be considering the misery He endured and how that drives us to deep grief over our sin and eventually even greater joy in the sufficiency of His sacrifice for us. He truly is our King.

## A Brief History of Lent

Lent is the period of days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, Ash Wednesday being the seventh Wednesday before Easter Sunday. It is a time of fasting and penitence in anticipation of the celebration of the resurrection. Lent began simply as a time of fasting from Friday at the ninth hour to Sunday morning, commemorating the time of Christ's death. Though not universally applied in the early centuries, this forty-hour fast was widely recognized as identifying oneself with Christ. Some practiced this fast on a weekly basis (which is where the Roman Catholic practice of refraining from meat on Fridays arose), while others only fasted once a year.

By the fourth century, the annual feast of Easter was in a further state of development, and the forty hours had become forty days during which a period of fasting was emphasized (though still not practiced universally by the church). The forty days not only commemorated the forty hours that Christ was in the tomb, but also recalled the forty-day fasts by Moses and Elijah, in addition to the forty days that Jesus was in the wilderness prior to his earthly ministry.

## How Do We Observe Lent?

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church observes Lent primarily as a preparation time before Easter. It is a time when we consider the depth of our sin and misery to which the good news of the Gospel is the answer. The good news will be all the more sweet as we recognize our need for a Savior. We also look forward in anticipation to the celebration of His resurrection. Because of this, we encourage people to fast during times of this season – inasmuch as they are able. This is not to be done legalistically, but in recognition of our desperate need for Christ's salvation. In addition, we have prepared family worship liturgies based on the Ten Commandments. One of the primary functions of the law is to point us to our sinful nature and our need for salvation, and so we believe that this is highly appropriate during this season.

We would like to emphasize that even during this recognition of our sinfulness and desperate need for Christ's love and forgiveness, that we do have a hope in our salvation—Christ has come and borne our sins – and so, even during this time, there is great hope.

**Sunday, 2/26** Read the context for this morning's sermon: **Matthew 26:1-30**.

**Discuss** the sermon. Why does Christ's Table force a decision?

**Sing** one of the songs from this morning's worship service.

**Pray** for those who worship at CTR that we would worship Christ.

**Monday, 2/27** Read the passage **Psalms 41:1-13** from which Jesus quotes and consider the hurt of betrayal by a friend.

**Grieve** the pain that sin causes. What does it mean to have godly sorrow about this fallen world? What does it mean to be sorry for *your* sin?

**Pray** for God to direct you and us as a community of faith in real repentance.

**Sing** one of the songs from this morning's worship service.

**Tuesday, 2/28** Read **Joel 2:12-27**.

**Meditate** on God's faithfulness to His promises even though His people continually sin and wander away from Him.

**Consider** fasting today as an aid to your prayers. *See article below.*

**Pray** for Christ to awaken people in Portland to the reality of our sin. Ask Him to bring conviction and repentance throughout our city.

**Wednesday, 3/8** Read **Matthew 26:14-30**.

**Meditate** on the wonder of the Lord's Supper.

**Mourn** for the ways we take His sacrifice lightly.

**Pray** that the people of Portland would rightly see His glory and give Him praise and honor for it.

**Thursday, 3/9** Read **Psalms 115-116** *Consider Jesus singing them at Passover.*

**Consider** fasting and praying during a mealtime today.

**Pray**, "Lord Jesus, Your name is glorious. Teach us to praise You. Give us the breath and the voice and the passion to sing Your praises with our lives, families, occupations, and recreations, all that we are, we pray."

## Scripture Memory for the Week

*"'Even now,' declares the Lord, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing..."* —Joel 2:12-14