Lent:

Encountering God in prayerful silence

Taizé Service | March. 2, 2023

Introduction

Lent is a Season of Repentance. We are called to renew our commitment to our Baptism. Repentance is a turning away from the sins and mistakes of the past and a turning toward God.

The psalms of Lent share the message of God's mercy and the people's redemption. Penance does not mean sadness. We take joy in God's mercy and love!

Lent is an opportunity for the community of faith to pause and reawaken to the bounty of God's love. The goal of this season is to deepen our communal and individual awareness that God deeply loves us, and as our awareness deepens, so too do our relationships.



This month, let us rest in God's mercy and love. Let us encounter God in prayerful silence.

Chime

Chant: Psalm 33 Let Your Mercy Be on Us

Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and



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brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Chant: Psalm 80 Make us turn to you

Reading: Reflections on Lent 2023 by Matthew Kelly

As you begin Lent 2023, are you satisfied with your life? Go deep into your dissatisfaction. It is a profound messenger that comes to reveal your future. The Season of Lent offers us the power to explore new possibilities and the power to get unstuck. Unleash your power to collaborate with God in the creation of someone new. Make a plan of action for living more Holy Moments. One moment at a time, we are invited to explore the depths of our soul

potential, and test the limits of our goodness in the world. Are you ready to discover a new and exciting vision for the rest of your life?

It's hard to know if you've made it when you don't know where you want to go. Now is your chance to decide what you want to accomplish this Lent.

- Is it a regular prayer routine?
- Is it more self-discipline in a specific area of your life?
- Is it better communication in your marriage?
- Is it more peace?

Now is your chance. Forty days allow you the time to create a new habit that will help you become



the-best-version-of-yourself.

Remember, you are not alone. We are surrounded by a cloud of great witnesses. God's grace is always at your disposal. You are well on your way to accomplishing whatever it is God has placed on your heart this Lent

In the silence now, complete the following statements:

This Lent I want to improve in this way:

I will know I have achieved my goal at the end of the forty days, if this is true:

Extended Silence

Chime

Petitions: O Lord, hear my prayer

That our Lenten disciplines will truly renew us to be better disciples of Christ, we pray:

That the voices of hatred and bigotry will be silenced with love; we pray:

That the RCIA Elect and Candidates in our parishes will feel the embrace of

God's love and our love as they solemnly prepare for the Easter Sacraments; we pray.

That those who live now in the shadow of death may rest in the gentle arms of God's peace; we pray:

You are invited to add additional prayers as you light a votive candle from the Easter Candle.

The Lord's Prayer

Chant: Give to us your peace

Closing Prayer

Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have created a wide and wonderful world in which we can travel.

We ask Your Blessing upon us as we make this Lenten journey.

Be our ever-near companion, and spread the road before us with beauty and adventure.

May we be accompanied by Your holy spirits, Your angelic messengers, as were the holy ones of days past.

On this journey may we take with us, as part of our traveling equipment, a heart wrapped in wonder with which to rejoice in all that we shall meet.

May we have room in our luggage for a mystic map by which we can find the invisible meanings of the events of this journey, of possible disappointments

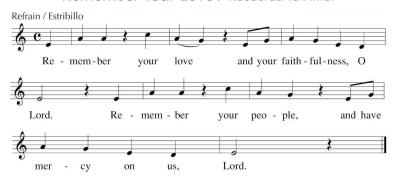
O LORD. HEAR MY PRAYER



Give to Us Your Peace



Remember Your Love / Recuerda Tu Amor



and delays, of possible breakdowns and rainy day troubles.

Always awake to Your Sacred Presence, to Your Divine Compassionate Love, may we see in all that happens to us, in the beautiful and the bad, the Mystery of Your Holy Plan.

May the Blessing of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon us throughout this journey, and bring us home in safety and peace. Amen.

Closing Song: Remember Your Love

Thank you for joining us this evening.

Because the first Thursday of April is also Holy Thursday this year, there will be no Taize Service at Precious Blood Renewal Center in April. Please plan to join us on May 4 for our next Taize Prayer Service.

God bless your Lenten Journey.

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