

EASTERTIDE DEVOTION

30 DAYS OF REFLECTION ON GOD'S PROMISES



THE WAY OF PROMISE

Suggestions for use of this devotion:

- 1.) Light a candle on each Sabbath evening (Saturday) and reflect on God's promises to his people Israel as fulfilled in Christ Jesus
- 2.) Use as the Stations of the Cross once a day for twelve days

FIRST PROMISE

CREATION GENESIS 1:1-2:4



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. 14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. 20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." 21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that

creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. 4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Silence For Reflection on the wonder and promise of creation.

First Response: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, for God's mercy endures forever.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 4 who alone does great wonders, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 5 who by wisdom made the heavens, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 6 who spread out the earth upon the waters, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 7 who made the great lights for God's mercy endures forever;
- 8 the sun to govern the day, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 9 the moon and the stars to govern the night, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 23 who remembered us in our low estate, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 24 and rescued us from our enemies, for God's mercy endures forever;
- 25 who gives food to all creatures, for God's mercy endures forever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for God's mercy endures forever.

First Prayer

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

SECOND PROMISE

THE FLOOD

GENESIS 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; 3 and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." 5 And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12 The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, 14 they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind — every bird, every winged creature. 15 They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. 16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. 17 The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 7 and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; 9 but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. 10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; 11 and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. 12 Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. 13 In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw

that the face of the ground was drying. 14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh — birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth — so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." 18 So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Silence For Reflection on the promise of life.

Second Response: *Psalm 46*

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

3 though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

6 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

8 Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

10 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

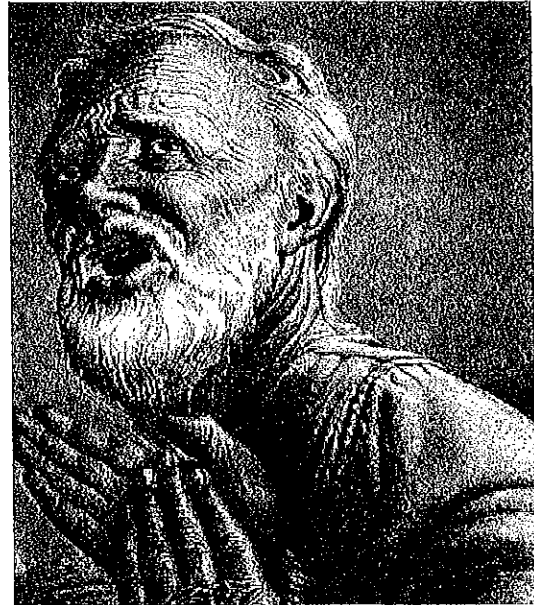
Second Prayer

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THIRD PROMISE

THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM

GENESIS 22:1-18



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. ⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Third Response: *Psalm 16*

1Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

2All my delight is in the Godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

3But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

4I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips. R

5O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

6My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

7I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

8I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

9My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

10For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

11You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Third Prayer

God and Father of all the faithful, you promised your servant Abraham that he would become the father of many nations, and through this gift of faith you increase your chosen people throughout the world. Form us anew by the death of your Son, that we may joyfully accept the new life of grace given through him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FOURTH PROMISE

THE DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

EXODUS 14:10-31 / 15:20-21



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

10 As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." 13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." 15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. 16 But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. 17 Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." 19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. 20 It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. 22 The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. 24 At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. 25 He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." 27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. 29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. 20 Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. 21 And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Silence For Reflection on the promise of Deliverance.

Fourth Response: Psalm 16

~~1bI will sing to the LORD, who has triumphed gloriously; throwing horse and rider into the sea.~~
2The LORD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation; this is my God this God I will praise; my father's God—this God I will exalt. 3The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. 4The LORD hurled Pharaoh's chariots and army into the sea; his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea. 5The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. 6Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. 7In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble. 8At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. 9The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them." 10You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. 11Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders? 12You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them. 13In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode. 17You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O LORD, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established. 18The LORD will reign forever and ever.

Fourth Prayer

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIFTH PROMISE

SALVATION FREELY OFFERED TO ALL

ISAIAH 55:1-11



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Silence for reflection on the promise of salvation for all people.

Fifth Response *Isaiah 12:2-6*

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation. 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted. 5 Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

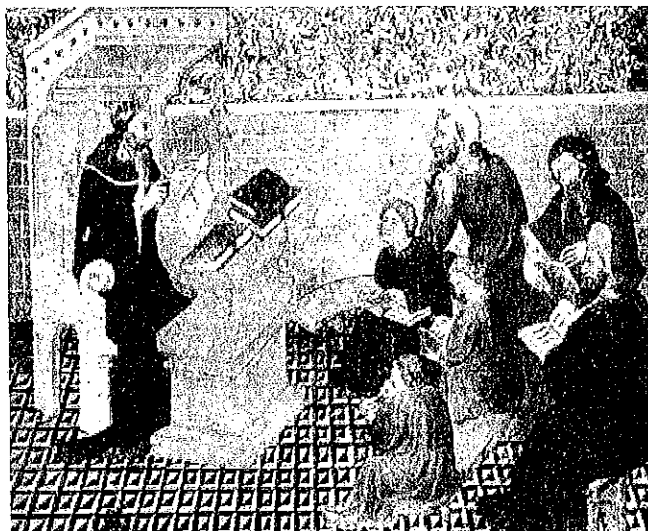
Fifth Prayer

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SIXTH PROMISE

THE WISDOM OF GOD

PROVERBS 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4B-6



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? 2 On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; 3 beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 4 "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. 5 O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. 6 Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; 7 for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. 19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, 21 endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries. 4 To those without sense she says, 5 "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. 6 Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Silence for reflection on the promise of wisdom and insight.

Sixth Response Psalm 19

- 1The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- 2One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
- 4their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- 5It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- 8The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is

clear and gives light to the eyes.

9The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

11By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

12Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

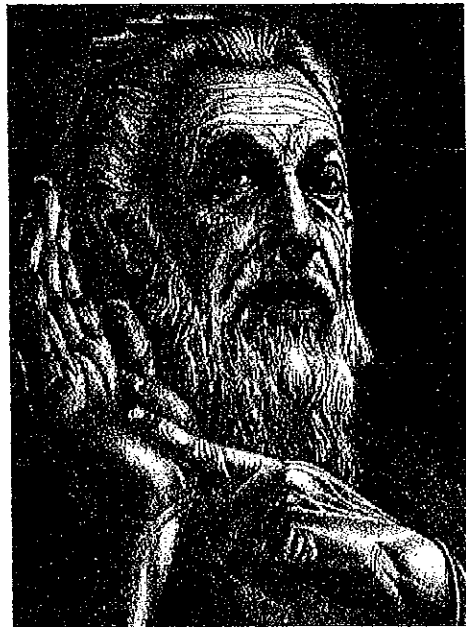
Sixth Prayer

O God, our wisdom, teacher of truth, you fill your house by continuing to call all peoples into the way of insight. With your food and drink sustain us in the path of justice, and by your love watch over those whom you have called through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SEVENTH PROMISE

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

EZEKIEL 36:24-28



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

24 I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. 28 Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Silence for reflection on the promise of a new heart and a new (right) spirit..

Seventh Response Psalm 42 and 43

1As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.

2I thirst for God, for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

3My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"

4I pour out my soul when I think on these things; how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, with shouts of thanksgiving, among those keeping festival.

5Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help and my God.

6My soul is heavy within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the peak of Mizor among the heights of Hermon.

7One deep calls to another in the roar of your cascades; all your rapids and floods have gone over me.

8The LORD grants lovingkindness in the daytime; in the night season the LORD's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

9I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you rejected me, and why do I wander in such

gloom while the enemy oppresses me?"

10While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me to my face; all day long they mock me and say to me, "Where now is your God?"

11Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help and my God.

43:1Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

2For you are the God of my strength; why have you rejected me, and why do I wander in such gloom while the enemy oppresses me?

3Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your sanctuary;

4that I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness; and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

5Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help and my God.

Seventh Prayer

God of holiness and mercy, in the dying and rising of Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation for us all. Cleanse our hearts and give us a new spirit, that by your saving grace we may live as your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

EIGHTH PROMISE

A VALLEY OF DRY BONES

EZEKIEL 37:1-14



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." 7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Silence for reflection on the promise of new life in God's Spirit.

Eighth Response Psalm 143

1 LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness.

2Enter not into judgment | with your servant, for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3For my enemy has sought my life and has crushed me to the ground, making me live in dark places like those who are long dead.

4My spirit faints within me; my heart within me is desolate. R

5I remember the time past; I ponder all your deeds; I consider the works of your hands.

6I spread out my hands to you; my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

7O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

8Let me hear of your lovingkindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you; show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you. R

9Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD, for I flee to you for refuge.

10Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

11Revive me, O LORD, for your name's sake; for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

12In your steadfast love, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to naught, for truly I am your servant.

Seventh Prayer

Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

NINTH PROMISE

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20



Listen To The Promises of God

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Silence for reflection on the promise of the communion of saints.

The Ninth Response Psalm 98

1Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
2O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.
3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
4Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
5Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
6With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.
7Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.
8Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Vinth Prayer

Sovereign God, by the resurrection of your Son you offer us victory in our struggles, a city for our refuge, the joy of the beloved, and festival celebration. Gather all the outcast into your mercy, and restore your whole creation through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

TENTH PROMISE

THE DELIVERANCE OF JONAH

JONAH 1:1-2:1



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 2 Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me. 3 But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. 4 But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. 6 The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish." 7 The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 I am a Hebrew, he replied. "I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." 10 Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so. 11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. 14 Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." 15 So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. 17 But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,

Tenth Response *Jonah 2:2-3 (4-6) 7-9*

2I called to the LORD out of my distress, and you answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

3You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

4Then I said, "I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?"

5The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head
6at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God.

7As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

8Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty.

9But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the LORD!

Tenth Prayer

O God of deliverance, you saved Jonah through the waters of death, and after three days you brought him to new life. Speak to us by this sign, and call us to repentance, that we may heed the voice of your risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ELEVENTH PROMISE

CLOTHED IN THE GARMENTS OF SALVATION

ISAIAH 61:1-459-11



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Silence for reflection on the mercy and mission of God for You.

Eleventh Response Deuteronomy 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a

1 Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; let the earth hear the words of my mouth. 2 May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. 3 For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! 4 "Great is our God, the Rock, whose work is perfect, whose ways are just: a faithful God, without deceit, just and upright." 7 Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you. 36 Surely, you will vindicate your people, and have compassion on your servants. 43 Rejoice with the LORD, you heavens; bow down in worship, all you gods!

Eleventh Prayer

O God, the life of all the earth, throughout the ages you sustain and comfort your people, and you clothe us with beauty and joy. Anoint us with the Spirit of the resurrection, that we may extend your healing to all that is broken in your world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

TWELFTH PROMISE

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

DANIEL 3:1-29



Listen To the Promise of the Lord:

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 3 So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, 4 the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." 7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 8 Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, 11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up." 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will

deliver you out of my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. 17 If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up." 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, 20 and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. 21 So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. 22 Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." 25 He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

Silence for reflection on the gift of devotion and faith.

Twelfth Response

Song of the Three 1:35–65

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord. You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord; you heavens, bless the Lord; all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord.

You sun and moon, bless the Lord; you stars of heaven, bless the Lord; you rain and dew, bless the Lord.

You winds of God, bless the Lord; you fire and heat, bless the Lord; you winter and summer, bless the Lord.

You dews and falling snow, bless the Lord; you frost and cold, bless the Lord; you ice and snow, bless the Lord.

You nights and days, bless the Lord; you light and darkness, bless the Lord; you lightnings and

clouds, bless the Lord.

Let the earth bless the Lord; you mountains and hills, bless the Lord; all you green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord.

You wells and springs, bless the Lord; you seas and rivers, bless the Lord; you whales and all that swim in the waters, bless the Lord.

All you birds of the air, bless the Lord; all you wild animals and cattle, bless the Lord; all you children of mortals, bless the Lord.

You people of God, bless the Lord; you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.

You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord; you holy and humble in heart, bless the Lord; let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Twelfth Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, ~~that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your~~ Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

