

March 23rd Daily Prayer

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. (Isaiah 55:6)

Lament in Time of War and Famine - *Jeremiah 14:17-21*

Let my eyes stream with tears day and night, without rest,
Over the great destruction which overwhelms
the virgin daughter of my people,
over her incurable wound.

If I walk out into the field, look! those slain by the sword;

If I enter the city, look! those consumed by hunger.

Even the prophet and the priest forage
in a land they know not.

Have you cast Judah off completely?

Is Zion loathsome to you?

Why have you struck us a blow that cannot be healed?

We wait for peace, to no avail;

for a time of healing, but terror comes instead.

We recognize, O Lord, our wickedness, the guilt of our fathers;
that we have sinned against you.

For your name's sake spurn us not, disgrace not the throne of your glory;
remember your covenant with us, and break it not.

Father, forgive us:

for closing ourselves to the driving of your Holy Spirit;

for choosing to live in the places of comfort rather than being led into the wilderness;

for letting fear of the person who is different rule our lives rather than letting your love
for all people fill our hearts;

for our separation from one another in the Body of Christ;

for not trusting that you hold the future in your hands. Amen.

(Elizabeth Welch)

Loving God, please grant me **peace** of mind and calm my troubled heart. ... Give me
the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you've laid out
for me. I trust your Love God and know that you will heal this stress. Just as the sun
rises each day against the dark of night.

A reading from Mark 11: 20 – 25

²⁰ In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig-tree withered from the roots. ²¹ Peter remembered and said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, look! The fig-tree you cursed has withered!'

²² 'Have faith in God,' Jesus answered. ²³ 'Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, "Go, throw yourself into the sea," and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be

yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.'

A LENTEN LITANY

Because temptation is woven into the fabric of our lives,
and we know the weariness of forty days in the desert,
and the beckoning power of sweet fruit,
and the vain promises of the world,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because we see the broken before the whole,
and the half empty cup, and the unfinished task,
and the thirst in freedom's quest,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because we trust in what we can see,
and we are blinded by our prejudices,
and we do not know what we do not know,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because our need for correctness exceeds our need for truth,
and our excuses preempt the cry of the wounded,
and our celebration of blessing is mindless of those displaced,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because you came among us,
and breathed into our sinewy souls,
and healed our pain and let us wound you,
and loved us to the end,
and triumphed over all our hatred,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.