

# 2023 Lent: It Depends on Faith

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**ENTRANCE**

**REFLECTION**

*Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid. When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendor of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion – its message becomes meaningless.*

*– Abraham Joshua Heschel,  
God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism, p. 3*



## **LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader:                    In the presence of our Creator  
let us sing thanks and praise  
to the rock of our salvation.

People:                    We worship the Holy One,  
who inspired our faith in times past  
and calls us to faithful love today.

Leader:                    Let us follow the Chosen One,  
who said, "I am the Light of the world,"  
who opens our eyes to the crisis here and now.

People:                    We come to worship and follow  
the One who heals our blindness  
and teaches us to reach out  
with healing compassion.

Leader:                    Let us breathe in the Spirit of Love  
and worship our God with vital, lively faith.

All:                        We come to renew our faith,  
to drink from the well of living water,  
to become living fountains of faith.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **HYMN**

### **SILENCE**

### **CONFESSION**

Leader:                    When Jesus was tempted  
to bow down to Satan in the wilderness,  
he served and worshipped only the Living God.

People:                    We confess that too often

we worship our customs and ideas,  
rather than living in loving relationship  
with God and with one another.

Leader:                   When Jesus met the Samaritan woman,  
he told her about the living water of faith,  
so that she would never be thirsty again.

People:                   We confess that too often  
our faith becomes dry sand,  
rather than an overflowing fountain  
giving living water to a thirsty world.

Leader:                   When Jesus healed the person born blind,  
he offered compassion and caring,  
and did not blame anyone for some unnamed sin.

All:                        Forgive us when we speak in the name of  
authority,  
rather than with the voice of compassion.

#### INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE

Leader:                   The Holy One forgives and loves us,  
filling us with the living water of faith.

All:                        Amen.

#### THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

#### INTERCESSION AND PETITION

#### COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today  
to claim our relationship with you.  
We pray for the commitment to grow together,  
sharing the gifts you give us with others  
here and in the wider world.

Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,  
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.

Give us strength and discipline  
to nurture our relationship with you;  
to care for every part of your creation;  
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;  
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;  
and to respond joyfully when you call,  
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your creation  
in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

## **HYMN**

### **THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

### **OFFERING**

### **COMMUNION**

PREPARATION

Leader 1: This is the table of the heavenly feast,  
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the  
table.

Here we celebrate God's presence among us,  
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once.

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,  
sinner and forgiven, we make one circle  
of knowing, believing, rejoicing, being,  
as God lights and rests among us.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader 1: Holy Ground of our being,

we are thankful that you keep us  
anchored in your strength  
and secure in your love.

People: We are grateful for presence of Jesus  
within us and among us,  
our living fountain of faith.

Leader 2: With gratitude we feel  
the power of your Holy Spirit,  
giving us the strength to offer healing compassion  
to your hurting world.

People: We offer thanks for your Holy Church,  
where we renew our faith  
in the loving company of the faithful.

#### BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,  
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall never hunger;  
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night he gave himself up,  
Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,  
This is my body,  
broken for the healing of the world.  
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,  
This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all.  
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit  
that these gifts of grain and grape,

and work of human hands  
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Unite us with Christ forever  
and bring us with the whole creation  
to your eternal realm.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,  
we give joyful thanks  
for your eternal love and healing presence  
in our celebration of bread and cup.  
Bless this Body of Christ  
that we may attend faithfully  
to our call to be your servants,  
with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

#### SHARED REFLECTIONS

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### HYMN

#### BENEDICTION

Leader: Let us go out into the world,  
worshipping the Holy One,  
whose living fountain of faith  
fills us with the caring and compassion we need  
to help bring healing to this hurting world.

And as we greet one another with signs of peace,  
let us remind each other that we are not alone.  
It depends on faith.

All: Amen.