

Catholic Bible Institute – March 18, 2017
Opening Prayer – James Group

Opening Song: “All Are Welcome” (vv. 1-3)

Reading: *James 4:1-10*

Reader: A reading from the letter of James.

Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. Adulterers! Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that the scripture speaks without meaning when it says, “The spirit that he has made to dwell in us tends toward jealousy”? But he bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says:

*“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”*

So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial: *Psalm 4:2-6*

ALL: Answer me when I call, my saving God.

Men: When troubles hem me in, set me free. Take pity on me, hear my prayer.

ALL: Answer me when I call, my saving God.

Women: How long, O people, will you be hard of heart?
Why do you love what is worthless, chase after lies?

ALL: Answer me when I call, my saving God.

Men: Know that the Lord works wonders for his faithful one; the Lord hears when I call out to him.

ALL: Answer me when I call, my saving God.

Women: Tremble and sin no more; weep bitterly within your hearts, wail upon your beds.

ALL: Answer me when I call, my saving God. Offer fitting sacrifices and trust in the Lord.

Intercessions: *(adapted from faithandworship.com)*

Leader: God of love, hear the cry of those who yearn for love; fractured families, broken homes, people neglected, unwanted, alone.

All: God of love, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of justice, hear the cry of those who yearn for justice; people persecuted and oppressed, exploited, ill-treated, broken.

All: God of justice, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of peace, hear the cry of those who yearn for peace; people in battle zones and broken states, frightened, fearful, anxious.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of healing, hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy; people convicted, in need of your grace, contrite, humble, bowed down.

All: God of healing, hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer:

ALL: Lord Jesus, you are the master of life and death. Everything we have is yours. Just one touch from you restores the sick, heals the broken, and transforms the darkness. Only you can do this. Only you. So we ask that you would be with us right now, that we may sense your presence, your power, your love. Thank you Lord, that you hear our prayer, and that you have given us the promise of eternity, in our hearts forever. Amen.

Closing Song: “All Are Welcome” (vv. 4-5)

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Closing Prayer – John the Baptist Group

Call to Prayer (based on Pope Benedict XVI 2009 encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate, Charity in Truth*)

Leader: Father, your truth is made known in your Word. Guide us to seek the truth of the human person. Teach us the way to love because you are love. Jesus, you embody Love and Truth. Help us to recognize your face in the poor. Enable us to live out our vocation to bring love and justice to your people. Holy Spirit, you inspire us to transform our world. Empower us to seek the common good for all persons. Give us a spirit of solidarity and make us one human family. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Reading: Hebrews 3:7-19

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice, 'Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion in the day of testing in the desert, where your ancestors tested and tried me and saw my works for forty years. Because of this I was provoked with that generation and I said, "They have always been of erring heart, and they do not know my ways." As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest." Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil and unfaithful heart, so as to forsake the living God. Encourage yourselves daily while it is still "today," so that none of you may grow hardened by the deceit of sin. We have become partners of Christ if only we hold the beginning of the reality firm until the end, for it is said: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice: 'Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion.' Who were those who rebelled when they heard? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt under Moses? With whom was he "provoked for forty years"? Was it not those who had sinned, whose corpses fell in the desert? And to whom did he "swear that they should not enter into his rest," if not to those who were disobedient? And we see that they could not enter for lack of faith.
The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial: Psalm 23

ALL/Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Women: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. (**Response**)

Men: He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff that give me courage. (**Response**)

Women: You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (**Response**)

Men: Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. (**Response**)

Concluding Prayer (from *Daily Reflections for Lent*)

All: God of truth, grant us the grace to know and to believe in your love for us as we are,
and to allow that love to transform us into the people you have made us to become. **Amen.**

Final Blessing and Closing Hymn: 10,000 Reasons (*Rend Collective; vv. 1-2*)

Ref: Bless the Lord, oh my soul, oh my soul
Worship his holy name
Sing like never before, oh my soul,
I'll worship your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes (**Ref.**)

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger
Your name is great, and your heart is kind
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (**Ref.**)

