

Lord, you endured spiritual thirst
to give us streams of living water,
that we may never thirst again.

**We will drink deep from your river
We will be washed from our sins.
We will overflow with your life
that others may be blessed.**

For fullness of life released through your death,
we worship you with grateful hearts. Amen

New start won by triumphant finish

Lord Jesus Christ, Living Word,
you utter the words of eternal life
as you speak from the cross.
Death cannot silence them,
ringing out to all generations.

**Our words of deep gratitude
rise to meet yours in precious communion
wrought at such price. Amen**

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."
With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. *John 19:30*

Your words of triumph herald the end of all that holds us from God –
the end of despair, the end of sin, the end of separation.

Your words of triumph herald the start of all that draws us to God –
the start of hope, the start of goodness, the start of relationship.

**Hallelujah, Lord Jesus
Your words of triumph echo through the universe,
proclaiming to all "It is finished!"
The door is flung wide,
the way is revealed,
and we go forth to meet our God. Amen**

Final Blessing

**May Christ's words of eternal life
fill our hearts with joy
as we go to serve the world
in his name. Amen**

Lent reflective prayer activity

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
Psalm 139:23-24 (NRSV)

Prayer for Ash Wednesday & though Lent

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in
us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of
all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The sanctuary of the wilderness

Introduction

During the season of Lent we take time to draw aside from the
busyness of life to repent, reflect and receive from God. We recall
Christ's forty days in the wilderness where he was led by the Holy
Spirit, found strength to resist temptation and was ministered to by
angels. The wilderness is not a negative place; rather it is where we
find solace, refreshment and direction.

In the wilderness we find your grace;
You love us with an everlasting love.

Lord, have mercy.

Confession 5, Common Worship

Sanctuary and solitude

In the quiet, prepare to enter the sanctuary of the wilderness.

Decide what in your life to take and what to leave behind.

Consider what you wish to address during your time there.

I would flee far away
and stay in the desert;
I would hurry to my place of shelter,
far from the tempest and storm.

Psalm 55:7-8

In this season of Lent
we open our hearts to the counsel of God
and take refuge in the shelter of his love.
We listen for his still, small voice.
We pause in contemplation,
taking time to assess our lives.
We reflect with gratitude on what has brought joy
and examine with honesty that which has caused pain.
In the sanctuary of the wilderness
we find healing and peace.
Thanks be to God.

Repentance and renewal

*Consider what in your life needs to be cleared away.
Be open to what God may want to plant in your life in the space left
by the forgiveness of sin.*

Justice will dwell in the desert,
and righteousness live in the fertile field.
The fruit of righteousness will be peace. *Isaiah 32:16-17*

In this season of Lent
we embrace with gladness the rites of repentance
and turn with purpose from our selfish ways
that regeneration may be seen in our lives.
*Lord, forgive our sinful ways.
May your justice dwell in us.*

We marvel at the grace of God
who uses our penitence to bring renewal;
to create joy from shame, life from decay,
fruit out of barrenness.
*Lord, forgive our sinful ways.
May your righteousness grow in us.*

you utter the words of eternal life
as you speak from the cross.
Death cannot silence them,
ringing out to all generations.
**Our words of deep gratitude
rise to meet yours in precious communion
wrought at such price. Amen**

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved
standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your
son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." *John 19:26-27*

**As children of God,
included in his family through grace,
we adore our heavenly Father;
we worship Christ our Brother.**

His love paved the way for our acceptance,
his blood paid the price for our adoption.

**As children of God,
included in his family through grace,
we embrace our brothers and sisters;
we thrive in our unity.**

May we be known for our family likeness,
may we reflect our Father's true love.

**We are the family of God
Hallelujah! Amen**

Living water from divine thirst

Lord Jesus Christ, Living Word,
you utter the words of eternal life
as you speak from the cross.
Death cannot silence them,
ringing out to all generations.

**Our words of deep gratitude
rise to meet yours in precious communion
wrought at such price. Amen**

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture
would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." *John 19:28*

Lord, we thank you for the freedom your suffering has won.

Forgive us when we fail to believe
that your forgiveness can reach our deepest sins.

Lord, we thank you for the freedom your suffering has won.

Forgive us when we deny others
forgiveness, though you give to us.

Lord, we thank you for the freedom your suffering has won.

Amen

Eternal life achieved through death

Lord Jesus Christ, Living Word,
you utter the words of eternal life
as you speak from the cross.
Death cannot silence them,
ringing out to all generations.

**Our words of deep gratitude
rise to meet yours in precious communion,
wrought at such price. Amen**

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me
in paradise." *Luke 23:43*

As we dare to dream of life eternal;
in perfect harmony, at one with our God,
we thank you Lord Jesus, for your costly sacrifice.

**Thank you for facing the power of death
that we may know life evermore.**

As we revel in the promise of perfection;
no mourning or pain, at one with our God,
we thank you Lord Jesus, for your costly sacrifice.

**Thank you for facing the power of death
that we may know life evermore.**

**Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?
All glory be to our victorious Lord. Amen**

Family gained through loss

Lord Jesus Christ, Living Word,

Rest and refreshment

Identify the burdens you are carrying through life.

Hand them over to Christ and find spiritual rest.

Be refreshed by living water and nourished by God's word.

I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen. *Isaiah 43:20*

Loving Lord,
in the sanctuary of the wilderness
we drink deeply of your provision
and are refreshed by your water of life.

Christ our Saviour,
you endured spiritual thirst
to give us streams of blessing,
that we may never thirst again.

We will overflow with your love,
that others may be blessed.

With thankful hearts we worship you.

The company of Christ

Focus on Christ's presence with you in the wilderness.

Reflect on his death and resurrection.

Consider how your relationship with him shapes your life.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. *Luke 4:1*

Holy Spirit, lead us to Christ
that we may walk with him the way of self-denial;
the path which guides us through the wilderness.

Holy Spirit, lead us to Christ
that we may walk with him the way of sacrifice;
the path which points us towards the cross.

Holy Spirit, lead us to Christ
that we may walk with him the way of resurrection;
the path which takes us onwards to new life.

The glory of God

Draw near to God through his grace.

Gaze on the glory of God and worship him for his holiness.

Ask for renewed vision and to reflect God's glory to others.

Moses led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. *Exodus 3:1-2*

In the sanctuary of the wilderness
we look to encounter the living God.

We approach with reverence
his burning presence,

to be touched by the fire of his holiness.

We would fan the flames of our love for God;
fan into flame his gift of grace.

We would be transformed
in the presence of God;
made holy and ready for service.

Blessing

**May the blessings of the wilderness
fill our hearts with joy
as we go in peace to serve the world. Amen**

Words from the Cross: Holy Week reflection

Reconciliation through abandonment

Lord Jesus Christ, Living Word,
you utter the words of eternal life
as you speak from the cross.
Death cannot silence them,
ringing out to all generations.

**Our words of deep gratitude
rise to meet yours in precious communion,
wrought at such price. Amen**

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" *Matthew 27:46*

For your willingness to face divine abandonment
to restore our relationship with God,

we worship you with thankful hearts.

For your willingness to face divine rejection
so we can be accepted by God,

we worship you with thankful hearts.

For your willingness to face divine isolation
for us to know fellowship with God,

we worship you with thankful hearts. Amen

Forgiveness through suffering

Lord Jesus Christ, Living Word,
you utter the words of eternal life
as you speak from the cross.
Death cannot silence them,
ringing out to all generations.

**Our words of deep gratitude
rise to meet yours in precious communion,
wrought at such price. Amen**

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." *Luke 23:34*

Forgive us when we live still bound by the chains
that your forgiveness has loosed.