

LENTEN PSALM OF LONGING

I thank You, O God,
For the warming of the winds
That brings a melting of the snow,
For daylight hours that daily grow longer
And richer in the aroma of hope.
Spring lingers below the horizon
As the approaching echoes of Easter
Ring in my ears.

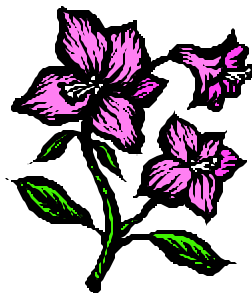
I lift my heart to You, Beloved,
In this season of Lent
That gently sweeps across
My sluggish and sleeping heart,
Awakening me
To a deeper love for You.

May the wind of the Spirit
That drove Jesus into the desert,
Into the furnace of prayer,
Also drive me with a passion
During this Lenten season
To enkindle the fire of my devotion
In the desert of Lenten love.

Birds above, on migratory wings,
Signal me to an inner migration,
A message that draws me homeward
On Spirit's wings
To the heart of my Beloved.

May I earnestly use these last few
days of Lent
To answer the inner urge
To return.

-Edward Hays,
Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim



CONCLUDING PRAYER

Through your whole life,
O Lord Jesus Christ,
You suffered so that we might be saved.
And yet Your suffering is not at an end.
For You still have to bear with us,
stumbling as we walk along the path,
and constantly going astray.
How often have we become impatient,
wanting to give up Your way!
And how often have You
given us the encouragement
and helping hand that we need.
Every day, we increase the burden that
You must bear; but just as we are impatient
so You are infinitely patient.
Amen

-Soren Kierkegaard

*Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York Catholic District School Board*

*"I am Jerusalem,
I am the city of David,
The City of Longing
Awaiting the time
Preparing
Hoping
Are you the one?"*

Passion Sunday



INTRODUCTION

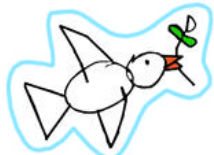


Reader 1: Scripture records Jesus' entering Jerusalem, the Holy City, city of prophets and kings, site of God's temple, just before His passion and death.

Reader 2: Crowds, excited by the news of Lazarus, raised from the dead, welcomed Him. Some were natives of Jerusalem, some pilgrims for the Passover from other parts of the world, some of His disciples now convinced of His extraordinary power. Most misunderstood Him still.

Reader 3: "God save the Son of David!" they cried, casting coats and palm branches before Him as He approached the city gates. They wanted a new David to breathe life into their nation. Wearing David's mantle, He could liberate them this Passover, the feast of Jewish liberation.

Reader 4: John's gospel records that Jesus rejected the call to be a warrior king. Mounting a young donkey, He rode into Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy of Zephaniah: "Fear not, Daughter of Zion, your king is coming, mounted on a donkey's colt".



Reader 5: Not a fearsome warrior, He was the humble King the prophet Isaiah described. In Jerusalem, He would open His arms to the poor outcasts of the world... "At the time, His disciples did not understand this..." John concludes.



-Source Unknown

THE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Reader 1: I am Jerusalem,
I am the City of David,
The City of Longing
Awaiting the time
Preparing
Hoping
Are you the one?
Are you the one on the colt coming
Down through the Olive Groves?
Are you the Prince of Jerusalem?
The Prince of Peace?
Are you coming to set us free?

Reader 2: I sit waiting,
Thinking I'm ready
Preparing for you.

Reader 3: When Jesus had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it, and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" (Mark 11: 1-3)

Reader 4: But am I ready? Ready to carry you into the city? To dwell in the Jerusalem of my heart?

Reader 5: So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it". Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. (Mark 11: 1-8)

Reader 1: Will my words be honest?
Will my deeds be loving?
Will my heart be hopeful?



Reader 2: As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

All: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" (Mark 11: 9-10)

-Les Miller

