

Contributions by:

Priests for Life

Holy Scripture (Bible)



Prayers and Songs

Prayers

A Prayer of Commitment to the Unborn (Priests for Life)

Almighty Father, we gather here today in repentance,
in resolve, and in rejoicing.

We gather in repentance, because we, Your people, could
long ago have ended child-killing in this nation.

We gather in repentance, for so many of Your people
rightly call on You to act to save the unborn, but fail
to realize that You call them to act to save the unborn.

We gather in repentance, for so many of Your people
rightly lift up their hands and say "Lord have mercy,"
but fail to lift a finger to have mercy on the unborn.

We gather in repentance, because not one drop of innocent
blood is shed upon the land, without every person in the
land sharing responsibility for it.

We gather, Lord, in resolve.

We are resolved to reach our goal, not just to *fight* abortion,
but to *end it*.

We will stop at no sacrifice and count no cost in
defending the unborn.

We resolve that we will continue to challenge public
servants who fail to serve the public yet unborn, and will
continue to challenge voters to elect only those who will advance
a Culture of Life.

Finally, Lord, we gather in rejoicing.

We rejoice that You have called us to do pro-life work, not as
some "hobby" to be squeezed in when we have time, but as
the very heart and soul of our quest for justice in this world.

This Little Light of Mine (African-American Spiritual)

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Prayer of St. Francis

(Sebastian Temple)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood, as to understand.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

A Prayer for the Murder of the Innocent

Our hands did not shed this blood, and our eyes did not see the deed. Absolve, O LORD, your people whom you have ransomed, and let not the guilt of shedding innocent blood remain in our midst. (Dt 21:7-8 mod.)

Prayer for the Closing of the Abortion Mill (Priests for Life)

Heavenly Father, all life is in Your Care.
You have entrusted us to one another, that we may show our brothers and sisters the same love You have for us.
We pray then, for the least among us,
the children in the womb.
Protect them from the violence of abortion.

We pray for those that are scheduled to die at
WomanCare of Southfield, the other abortion mills
and wherever abortions are performed.
Save them from death.
Give new hope to their parents,
that they may turn away from the desperate act of abortion.
Grant conversion to the abortionists and the staff.

Show us how we are to respond to the bloodshed in our midst, and lead us to the day when this place of death will be transformed into a haven of life.
Guard us with your joy and your peace,
for in You, life is victorious.
We pray in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Litany in Response to Abortion (Priests for Life)

Leader:

Lord, have mercy on us,
Lord, have mercy on us, Christ, hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven,
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God, the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

All:

Christ, have mercy on us
Christ, graciously hear us.
Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.

Leader:

The Response is: Have mercy on us.

God, the Son, through whom all things were made,
God, the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life,
Lord Jesus, the Beginning and the End,
Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life,
Lord Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,
Lord Jesus, Eternal Word of Life,
Lord Jesus, living in the womb of the Virgin Mary,
Lord Jesus, Lover of the poor and weak,
Lord Jesus, Defender of the helpless,
Lord Jesus, Bread of Life,
For every sin against life,
For the sin of abortion,
For the daily killing of innocent babies,
For the bloodshed throughout our land,
For the silent screams of your children,
For the killing of your future disciples,
For the exploitation of women by abortion,
For the silence of your people,
For the apathy of your people,
For the cooperation of your people in this tragedy,
For our pre-born brothers and sisters killed by abortion.

Leader:

The Response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our pre-born brothers and sisters threatened by abortion,
For our brothers and sisters who have survived abortion,
For mothers who have had abortions,
For mothers tempted to have abortions,

Our Father, We Have Squandered

Tune: O Sacred Head Surrounded (Magnificat July, 2007)

Our Father, we have wandered
And hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
Your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
We rise with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling,
We hear You call our name.

And now at length discerning
The evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning
With hope and trust to You.
In haste You come to meet us
And home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us
With calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living,
Both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving
And ever caring, Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing,
Our faithlessness may cease,
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
In pardon and in peace.

Amazing Grace

(John Newton)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Leader: The Response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For mothers pressured to have abortions,
For mothers who have refused to have abortions,
For the fathers of aborted babies,
For the families of aborted babies,
For the families of those tempted to have abortions,
For the conversion of abortionists,
For the conversion of all who assist and cooperate in abortions,
For doctors and nurses, that they may nurture life,
For government leaders, that they may defend life,
For the clergy, that they may speak up for life,
For the pro-life movement,
For those who speak, write, and work to end abortion,
For those who help provide alternatives to abortion,
For those who promote adoption,
For national and local pro-life groups,
For unity in the pro-life movement,
For courage and perseverance in pro-life work,
For those who suffer ridicule and rejection for their stand for life,
For those imprisoned for defending life,
For those who have been injured and mistreated for defending life,
For legal professionals, courts and judges,
For police officers,
For educators, and media professionals,
In thanksgiving for the babies saved from abortion,
In thanksgiving for the mothers saved and healed from abortion,
In thanksgiving for former abortion providers who have become pro-life,
In thanksgiving for all those who take a stand against abortion,
In thanksgiving for the call to be part of the pro-life movement,

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have created all things through your Son, Jesus Christ. He trampled the power of death by His Paschal Mystery. May all who acknowledge You promote the sacredness of life and always serve You faithfully, through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 10

R: Why, Lord, do you stand at a distance and pay no heed to these troubled times?

In their insolence the wicked boast:
“God doesn’t care, doesn’t even exist.”
Yet their affairs always succeed;
They ignore Your Judgment on high;

R: Why, Lord, do you stand at a distance and pay no heed to these troubled times?

They sneer at all who oppose them.
They say in their hearts, “We will never fall;
Never will we see misfortune.”
Their mouths are full of oaths, violence and lies.

R: Why, Lord, do you stand at a distance and pay no heed to these troubled times?

Their eyes watch for the helpless.
To murder the innocent in secret.
The helpless are crushed, laid low;
They fall into the power of the wicked.

R: Why, Lord, do you stand at a distance and pay no heed to these troubled times?

Why should the wicked scorn God,
Say in their hearts, “God doesn’t care?”
But You do see; You do observe this misery and sorrow;
You take the matter in hand.

Jerusalem, My Destiny

(Rory Cooney)

R: I have fixed my eyes on your hills,
Jerusalem, my destiny!
Though I cannot see the end for me,
I cannot turn away.
We have set our hearts for the way;
This journey is my destiny.
Let no one walk alone.
The journey makes us one.

Other spirits, lesser gods,
have courted me with lies.
Here among you I have found a truth
which bids me rise.

R:

All the worlds I have not seen
You open to my view
Here among you I have found a vision,
bright and new.

R:

To the tombs I went to mourn
the hope I thought was gone
Here among you I awoke to unexpected dawn.

Prayer of St. Patrick

Tune: Morning has Broken

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, Never to part,

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, Shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in rising, Light of my life.

Peace is Flowing Like a River

Peace is flowing like a river,

R: Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Joy is flowing like a river, R:

Faith is flowing like a river, R:

Hope is flowing like a river, R:

Love is flowing like a river, R:

Psalm 22

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why so far from my call for help,
From my cries of anguish?
My God, I call by day, but you do not answer;
By night, but I have no relief.

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

But I am a worm, hardly human,
Scorned by everyone, despised by the people.
Do not stay far from me,
For trouble is near,
And there is no one to help.

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Like water my life drains away;
All my bones grow soft.
My heart has become like wax,
It melts away within me.

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

But You, Lord, do not stay far off;
My strength, come quickly to help me.
Deliver me from the sword.
Then I will proclaim Your Name to the assembly;
In the community I will praise You.

Psalm 36

R: Lord, Your Justice is like the highest mountains;
Your Judgments, like the mighty deep.

Sin directs the heart of the wicked;
Their eyes are closed to the fear of God.
For they live with the delusion:
Their guilt will not be known and hated.

R: Lord, Your Justice is like the highest mountains;
Your Judgments, like the mighty deep.

Empty and false are the words of their mouth;
They have ceased to be wise and do good.
In their beds they hatch plots;
They set out on a wicked way;
They do not reject evil.

R: Lord, Your Justice is like the highest mountains;
Your Judgments, like the mighty deep.

Lord, Your Love reaches to Heaven;
Your fidelity to the clouds.
Your Justice is like the highest mountains;
Your judgments, like the mighty deep;
All living creatures You sustain, Lord.

R: Lord, Your Justice is like the highest mountains;
Your Judgments, like the mighty deep.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

(Omer Westendorf)

Where Charity and Love Prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love
By Love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength
Now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown,
Let all contention cease;
Be His the glory that we seek,
Be ours, His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells God's Begotten Son;
As members of His Body joined,
We are in Him made one.

They'll Know We Are Christians

(Petre Scholtes)

We are one in the spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the spirit
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

R: And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.

R:

All praise to the Father,
From whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

R:

Psalm 51

R: Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in Your Goodness;
In Your abundant compassion blot out my offense.
Wash away all my guilt;
From my sin cleanse me.
For I know my offense;
My sin is always before me.

R: Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned

Against You alone have I sinned;
I have done such evil in Your sight
That You are just in Your sentence,
Blameless when You condemn.
Turn away Your Face from my sins;
Blot out all my guilt.

R: Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned

A clean heart create for me, God;
Renew in me a steadfast spirit.
Do not drive me from Your Presence,
Nor take from me Your Holy Spirit.

R: Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned

For You do not desire sacrifice;
A burnt offering You would not accept.
My sacrifice, God, is a broken spirit;
God, do not spurn a broken, humbled heart

Psalm 127

Unless the Lord build the house,
they labor in vain who build.
Unless the Lord guard the city,
in vain does the guard keep watch.

Children, too, are a gift from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb, a reward.
Like arrows n the hand of a warrior
are the children born in one's youth.

Psalm 139

R: I praise You, so wonderfully You made me;

You formed my inmost being;
You knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise You, so wonderfully You made me;
wonderful are Your works!

R: I praise You, so wonderfully You made me;

My very self You knew;
my bones were not hidden from You,
When I was being made in secret,
fashioned as in the depths of the earth.

R: I praise You, so wonderfully You made me;

Your eyes foresaw my actions;
in Your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came to be.

We Are the Light of the World

(Jean A. Greit)

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit,
Theirs is the kingdom of God,
Bless us O Lord, make us poor in spirit;

R: Bless us, O Lord, our God.
We are the light of the world, May our light shine before all.
That they may see the good that we do, And give glory to God.

Blessed are they who are meek and humble,
They will inherit the earth.
Bless us O Lord, make us meek and humble; R:

Blessed are they who will mourn in sorrow,
They will be comforted.
Bless us O Lord, when we share their sorrow; R:

Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice,
They will be satisfied.
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice; R:

Blessed are they who show others mercy,
They will know mercy, too.
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for mercy. R:

Blessed are hearts that are clean and holy,
They will behold the Lord,
Bless us, O Lord, make us pure and holy; R:

Blessed are those who bring peace among us,
They are the children of God.
Bless us, O Lord, may your peace be with us; R:

Bless those who suffer from persecution,
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Bless us, O Lord, when they persecute us; R:

How Great Thou Art

(Stuart K. Hine)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed!

R: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin!

R:

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

R:

Scriptural Readings

A reading from the book of Genesis

Chapter 1:

Then God said: "Let Us make man in Our Image, after Our Likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in His Image, in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them. ... God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good.

Chapter 4:

The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not. Cain greatly resented this and was crestfallen. So the Lord said to Cain: "Why are you so resentful and crestfallen? If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master." Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out in the field." When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He answered, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord then said: "What have you done! Listen: Your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil!"

Reflection: Everything God created is good and when He created human beings, He found His creation to be very good. How deeply He is offended when we kill one another.

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide
for all peoples.
On this mountain He will destroy the veil
that veils all peoples.
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces.
The reproach of His people He will remove from the whole
earth; for the Lord has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for who we looked;
Let us rejoice and be glad that He has saved us!

Canticle of Daniel 3

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
R: Praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

And blessed is Your Holy and glorious Name.
R: Praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are You in the temple of Your Holy Glory,
R: Praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are You on the throne of Your Kingdom,
R: Praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are You in the firmament of Heaven
R: Praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Reflection: God is in charge and all creation gives Him
praise. Shall we not honor He who is so gracious to us

We Shall Overcome

(Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Gary Corowan, Pete Seeger)

We shall overcome, We shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday,

R: Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome someday.

We shall live in peace, We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday, R:

We are not afraid, We are not afraid,
We are not afraid today, R:

We shall stand together, We shall stand together
We shall stand together someday R:

The truth will make us free, The truth will make us free.
The truth will make us free someday, R:

The Lord will see us through, The Lord will see us through
The Lord will see us through someday, R:

We Walk by Faith

(Henry Alford/Marty Haugen)

We walk by faith and not by sight:
No gracious words we hear
Of Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His Hands and Side,
Nor follow where He trod;
Yet in His promise we rejoice,
And cry "My Lord and God".

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
And may our faith abound;
To call on You when You are near,
And seek where You are found:

That when our life of faith is done
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are
In full and endless sight.

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 32:

A faithful God, without deceit, How just and upright He is!
Yet basely has He been treated by His degenerate children,
a perverse and crooked race!
Is the Lord to be thus repaid by you,
O stupid and foolish people?
Is He not your Father who created you?
Has He not made you and established you?

Think back on the days of old,
Reflect on the years of age upon you,
When the Most High assigned the nations their heritage.
He shielded us and cared for us,
guarding us as the apple of His eye.

But we spurned the God who made us.
We provoked Him with strange gods
and angered Him with abominable idols.
We offered sacrifice to demons, to "no gods",
to gods we had not known before.

What a fickle race we are,
sons with no loyalty in them!
For we are a people devoid of reason,
having no understanding.
Learn then that God, alone, is God,
And there is no god besides Him.

Reflection: God is so good to us, His people made in His image. Yet we are worse than ungrateful children because we not only ignore God but we pursue cheap imitations of Him.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The people of Judah have done what is evil in My eyes, says the Lord. They have defiled the house which bears My Name by setting up in it their abominable idols. In the Valley of Ben-hinnom they have built the high place of Topheth to immolate in fire their sons and daughters, such a thing as I never commanded or had in mind. Therefore, beware! Days will come, says the Lord, when Topheth and the Valley of Ben-hinnom will no longer be called such, but rather the Valley of Slaughter.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom 2, 3

The wicked know not the hidden counsels of God;
neither do they count on a recompense of holiness
Nor discern the innocent souls' reward.
For God formed man to be imperishable;
The image of His own nature He made him.
But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world,
And they who are in his possession experience it.

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
And their passing away was thought an affliction.
And their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished.
Yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them and found them worthy of Himself

We Remember

(Marty Haugen)

R: We remember how You loved us to your death,
And still we celebrate, for You are with us here;
And we believe that we will see You
when You come in Your glory, Lord.
We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

Here, a million wounded souls
are yearning just to touch You and be healed.
Gather all your people, and hold them to your heart.

R:

Christ, the Father's great Amen
to all the hopes and dreams of ev'ry heart,
Peace beyond all telling, and freedom from all fear.

R:

See the face of Christ revealed
In ev'ry person standing by our side,
Gift to one another, and temples of His love.

R:

Psalm 23 Shepherd me, O God

(Marty Haugen)

R: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears from death into life.

God is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want,
I rest in meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by quiet waters of peace.

R: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears from death into life.

Gently You raise me and heal my weary soul,
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of Your Name.

R: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears from death into life.

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for You are at my side,
Your rod and Your staff, my comfort and my hope.

R: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears from death into life.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

The wrath of God is indeed being revealed from heaven against every impiety and wickedness of those who suppress the truth by their wickedness. For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them.... As a result, they have no excuse; for although they knew God they did not accord Him glory as God or give Him thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds were darkened. While claiming to be wise, they became fools.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians

[E]ven if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit, looking to yourself, so that you also may not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is deluding himself. ... Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. John

I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. The way we may be sure that we know Him is to keep His Commandments. Whoever says, "I know Him", but does not keep His Commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, the love of God is truly perfected in him.... Whoever claims to abide in Him ought to live [just] as he lived.

Reflection: The Law of God is written in our human nature – and it is given to us Christians through Holy Scripture. How well do I live according to the Teachings of Jesus Christ? How compassionately do I admonish others to live accordingly?

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.
Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

“Everything is lawful for me”, but not everything is beneficial.
“Everything is lawful for me, but I will not let myself be dominated by anything... The body, however, is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; ... Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. John

God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say, “we have fellowship with Him”, while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. ... If we say, “We are without sin” we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. If we say, “We have not sinned”, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.

Reflection: Let us not call evil, good – or good, evil. Rather, let us be honest about the outcomes of our actions for “by their fruits, you will know them”

The Rocks would Shout (Magnificat July, 2007)

Tune: Lord, who throughout these 40 days

R: The rocks would shout if we kept still
And failed to preach the Word.
It is the Lord’s insistent will
The Truth be told and heard.

We’re called to speak disturbing things
Though wealth and power conspire
To hush the messenger who brings
God’s purifying fire.

R: The rocks would shout if we kept still
And failed to preach the Word.
It is the Lord’s insistent will
The Truth be told and heard.

We’re called to preach by Jesus Christ
Who with the Spirit’s breath
Will make our fragile words suffice
To raise new life from death.

R: The rocks would shout if we kept still
And failed to preach the Word.
It is the Lord’s insistent will
The Truth be told and heard.

Songs

Here I am

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My Hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

R: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My Word to them.
Whom shall I send?

R: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.:

Readings from the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Luke 1

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you. ... Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age." ...

Then the angel departed from her. During those days, Mary set out and traveled to the hill country *in haste* to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Reflection: God, becoming man in the Person of Jesus Christ, restored the dignity of mankind as the crown of His creation. The embryonic Jesus reveals Himself to Elizabeth and John the Baptist probably even before implantation in His mother's womb.

Readings from the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Luke (Chapter 12)

“There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known

... I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. ... Do not be afraid.

... I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.”

Mark 9 - 10

“Whoever receives one child such as this in My Name, receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but the One who sent Me. ... Let the children come to Me; do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.

Matthew 15

“Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me; in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.

... The things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy.”

John 3

And this is the verdict, that the Light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the Light and does not come toward the Light, so that his works might be exposed.

Reflection: Jesus loves us but He despises sin.

Readings from the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Matthew 4

The tempter approached and said to [Jesus], “*If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.*”

[Jesus] said in reply, “**It is written: ' One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'**”

Then the devil took Him to the holy city, and made Him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to Him, “*If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written 'He will command his angels concerning you, and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*”

Jesus answered him, “**Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'**”

Then the devil took Him up to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to Him, “*All these I shall give to You, if You will prostrate Yourself and worship me.*”

At this, Jesus said to him, “**Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve.'**”

Reflection: The devil preys on our insecurities – our fear that God will not provide for us, that we must fend for ourselves. He can quote Scripture and misuses it to lead us away from God. And he uses power, fame and wealth to lure us into rejecting God in favor of these cheap substitutes.