

# Journey through Lent – Week 3

## Phase 1: Meditation on Baptism and the Love of God

This week, PC will lead a short meditation and prayer!



## Phase 2: Contemplating Evening Prayer – Some Thoughts to Keep in Mind

Take a look at last week’s worship folder (handout), or [the one linked online](#).

	Pages	Theme	Movement	Function
<b>Part 1</b>	p.2-3	Jesus the Light	God to Us	Grounding in Shalom
<b>Part 2</b>	p.3-6	Incense of Prayer	Us to God	Glorification of God
<b>Part 3</b>	p.7-9	Eschatological Kingdom Coming	God in Us to World	Growth in Action
<b>Part 4</b>	p.10	Benediction (incl. hymn)	Rest	All within Shalom

### **Pt 3 Keystones: “now in these last days,” Magnificat: God’s rectifying judgment enacted**

- Scripture and Homily: growing toward our goal, moving into life
- Litany: joining God in effecting the kingdom come through prayer
- Collect for Peace: rest in God even as we act
- Prayer for Guidance in our Calling: carry us forward in our particular vocations

## Phase 3: Holy Conversation – Where is Jesus Going?

Friday: Mt 2:1 “...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King...”

Saturday: Mt 2:23 “Joseph went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.”

Bethlehem: 5.5 miles S of Jerusalem; Nazareth: 65.5 miles N of Jerusalem

- Nazareth to Bethlehem = about 70 miles as crow flies, 90 miles by road route

The Cities Described:

Micah 5:2 “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”

John 1:44-46 “Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ 46 Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’”

*How were these cities characterized, and what does it tell us about Jesus that it was to such that he came?*

**Lk 4: 18-19:** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

**Nazareth Platform:** healing and freeing of poor, captive, blind, oppressed is central to Christ and the Gospel, Salvation and Kingdom he brings

- AND YET also at Nazareth....

Connection: Good Friday – and our Discipleship

Matthew 27:32-35: “<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.”

- Golgotha was outside the city gates...

Hebrews 13:10-16: “<sup>10</sup> We have an altar from which those who serve the tent<sup>[a]</sup> have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup> For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup> So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup> For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

*How do we “join Jesus” in his journey to the margins “outside the camp”?*

**Phase 4: Practical Worship** - Gathering Hymn: “The God of Abraham Praise” (LSB 798), v.4

The God of Abraham praise, whose all-sufficient grace  
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.  
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God.  
And He shall save me to the end through Jesus’ blood.

Abraham too is a pilgrim, and an obedient servant of God. Yet he is also called God’s friend (II Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, and James 2:23) and Jesus calls his disciples “friends” in John 15:15. *How might it change our approach to “Christian living” to engage it also, like Abraham, as an ongoing process of FRIENDSHIP with God?*