

Prayer of Intercession

We pray today for all who are walking a hard journey:

for those whose daily paths encounter barbed wire and guns;

for those who did not want to leave home but were forced to;

for those who set out today in search of food and water;

for those whose journey is shattered by economic hardship;

for those whose journey is marred by pain or despair,

and for those who faithfully journey alongside them;

for those who are making a move and beginning again;

for those who are clinging on to something that has ended;

for those who are being bullied, and for those who are bullying;

for those who have just taken their first breath, and

for those who today will take their last.

May this Lenten journey, with its stories

about the hard places of Jesus' experience,

give strength and courage to all

whose journey is far from easy.

And may it inspire us to risk Christ's Way of love

as we share the journey with other travelers.

We make this prayer in his name. Amen.

(Written by Ann Siddall; see <https://stillpointsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2012/04/Prayers-and-liturgies-for-Lent-and-Easter-2009.pdf>)

Late have I loved you

Late have I loved you,
Beauty so ancient and so new,
late have I loved you!

Lo, you were within,
but I outside, seeking there for you,
and upon the shapely things you have made
I rushed headlong – I, misshapen.

You were with me, but I was not with you.
They held me back far from you,
those things which would have no being,
were they not in you.

You called, shouted, broke through my deafness;
you flared, blazed, banished my blindness;
you lavished your fragrance, I gasped;
and now I pant for you;

I tasted you,
and now I hunger and thirst;
you touched me,
and I burned for your peace.

When at last I cling to you with my whole being
there will be no more anguish or labor for me,
and my life will be alive indeed,
alive because filled with you.

(Extract from Augustine of Hippo: *Confessions* (CSEL 33, 255-256))

Prayer of Dependence on God

Lord God,

as we seek to identify with Jesus in these 40 days of reflection on

how he turned away from making life easy for himself;
how he lived without companionship;
how he lived without plenty of food and water;
how he resisted the temptations of the devil;

we ask you for the strength of commitment and love
to follow him in his way.

Help us to come to you when we are thirsty;
to come to you when we have nothing to offer but our need of food.

We thank you for the bread of life,
for every word that comes from your mouth,
sustaining us at every turn.

We thank you for your gifts,
which richly satisfy us
and in which we delight.

Lord God,

as we seek to identify with Jesus in these 40 days of reflection

help us to listen carefully for your word to us
that we may live in and with Jesus. Amen.

(Written by Walter Riggans; based on Isaiah 55:1-3a and Matthew 4:4)