



Wednesday Prayer

Ash Wednesday and 1st Sunday in Lent – Forgive us

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. Romans 5:19

“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.” We pray this each and every Sunday and anytime we pray the Lord’s Prayer, but Lent is a time to take a step back and take a more serious look at our sins and what we can do to repent, literally to change our minds and to turn away from sin. This Sunday’s lessons point to the reality that we are all tempted to sin, and except for Christ, we all sin in one way or another.

We’re all born into a broken social structure, and we live in brokenness. Some people live out this brokenness by exploiting children and youth in a system that allows them to gain money and power. Others show their brokenness by buying what these perpetrators are selling, and some people’s brokenness is seen in their act of ignoring the needs of children and youth. Sin is messy, and it’s complicated. Even in the church, the messiness continues, just as the devil tried to tempt Jesus to sin by using scripture (Matthew 4:6).

During this season of Lent, pray for yourself and for others to look and see the devastation that sin causes. Follow the example that Jesus sets and turn away from anything you are doing or failing to do that adds to the messiness of the world. Turn away from the evil and move toward the redeeming power of Christ by creating, implementing, and supporting child safety plans in your congregations, and by praying, educating and advocating for all caught in the cycle of exploitation, trafficking and injustice.

Cherish All Children has created prayers to be used during Lent, for your own personal prayer time and to share with your worshipping community as you pray together. Find this [Lenten Prayer Series here](#), or find them on our website at www.cherishallchildren.org under Prayers.

God of justice and righteousness and redemption, give us the sight to recognize evil in the world, especially the evil of sexual exploitation and trafficking. We ask for the strength to turn away from the temptations that face us, and to turn toward redemptive actions to help those who cannot help themselves. We give our thanks and praise that despite our sinful nature, Jesus came to live and die for all to make us right in your eyes. Amen.

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