

Litany to Begin the Season of Lent

Leader: Who among us has ever seen life as clearly as did Jesus?

Reader 1: From this time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes,

Reader 2: and be killed

Reader 1: and on the third day be raised.

Leader: Who among us has ever been consumed with the urgency of his mission as was Jesus?

Reader 1: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve

Reader 2: and to give his life a ransom for many!

Leader: Who among us has ever demonstrated the determination and the sheer will power that Jesus did?

Reader 1: When the days drew near for him to be received up,

Reader 2: He set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Leader: It is necessary(!), says Jesus that if any man would come after me,

Reader 1: He must deny himself,

Reader 2: He must deny himself!

Leader: It is necessary, says Jesus, "To Watch and Pray"

Reader 1: Watch and pray

Reader 2: Watch and pray!

Leader: If we would be followers of Christ, it is necessary, says the Apostle Paul.

Reader 1: that we stand firm.

Reader 2: Stand firm.

Leader: If we are to survive in the world of darkness, it is necessary, says the Apostle Paul, that we put on the whole armor of God.

Reader 1: The belt of truth, buckled around your waist,

Reader 2: *The breastplate of Righteousness in place,*

Leader: And your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace,

Reader 1: **Take up the shield of faith**

Reader 2: *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Reader 1: **And pray**

Leader: As we begin this season of Lent, let us examine the life of Jesus and note the determination that led him in his ministry.

Reader 2: *It is necessary*

Leader: that Jesus make his way to the cross

Reader 1: **It is necessary**

Reader 2: *that those who would participate in Jesus' resurrection also follow him in his suffering.*

Reader 1: **It is necessary**

Leader: that we watch and pray.

Reader 2: *It is necessary*

Reader 1: **that we stand firm.**

Leader: From this time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. Amen.