

Come, Lord Jesus,
 visit us, we pray:
 sit with us and stay with us,
 for we are lost and alone
 and we have sinned and turned away
 from the life of your kingdom.
 Make your presence known to us
 as we listen to your word,
 that your salvation may come to us now
 through your reconciling love,
 and make us worthy of the life of heaven,
 where you live and reign
 with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God for ever and ever. Amen.

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God our Father,
 you are the source of life,
 the fount of forgiveness
 and the well-spring of all holiness.
 Bring us back to you,
 fill our hearts with love and compassion,
 and renew our lives,
 that we may live to your glory,
 and come with Christ our Saviour
 to the glory of your kingdom,
 where he reigns forever and ever. Amen.

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May the power of your love,
 Lord Christ,
 fiery and sweet,
 so absorb our hearts
 as to withdraw them from all
 that is under heaven;
 grant that we may be ready
 to die for love of your love
 as you died for love of our love. Amen.

Francis of Assisi - © 1992 The European
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Benefice of Eglwysilan & Caerphilly

*Prayers for
 Lent*



Produced by the Benefice



Lead us into the desert of purging
 that through reflection and prayer
 we may leave behind the things
 that tie our spirits down
 and learn again to be your pilgrim people.
 Through fasting from the frenzied
 feeding of false desires,
 through study of your word,
 meditation and acts of service,
 restore the clearness of our seeing
 and free us to share your
 generous love with all.

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A Litany for Lent

Lord Jesus, you were in the form of God
but laid no claim to equality with God.
Lord, have mercy.

You made yourself nothing and
assumed the form of a slave.
Lord, have mercy.

You bore the human likeness and
shared our human lot.
Lord, have mercy.

You were humble and obedient,
even to death, death on a cross.
Lord, have mercy.

God raised you to the heights and
gave you the name that is above
all other names
Lord, have mercy.

At your name every knee shall bow and
every tongue confess that you are Lord
to the glory of God the Father.
Lord, have mercy.

God is at work in us. With fear and
trembling, let us ask him to
inspire our will and our deed,
for his own chosen purpose.

*You may wish to end with
the Lord's Prayer.*

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O Holy Fire, O Holy Grace,
O Overflowing Silent One:
by your birth
enable us,
by your overcoming of spirits
arm us,
by your integrity
make us true,
by your fortitude in trials
establish us,
by your self-giving in death
change us,
by your mission to unquiet spirits
raise us.

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Into a dark world
a snowdrop comes
a blessing of hope and peace
carrying within it
a green heart;
symbol of God's renewing love.

Come to inhabit our darkness
Lord Christ,
for dark and light
are alike to you.

May nature's white candles of hope
remind us of your birth
and lighten our journey
through Lent and beyond.

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Dragons lurk in desert spaces
penetrating the mind with evil claw.
Serpent's teeth seek out the chinks
insidiously, relentlessly,
gnawing on the bone;
searching out the interstices of muscle
and sinew.

Such is the pain of the wilderness.
Alone, alone, alone,
Christ sits
in the waste place of abandoned
pleas and questions
until exhausted
finally, at last
the realisation comes
that in the end
there is only
God.

In the night-time of our fears
in the present reality of abandonment
when family and friends turn and run,
be present, ever present God.
Be present with those
camped out in the fields of hopelessness
with refugees and homeless,
those who live lives of quiet desperation.
Be present until the desert places
blossom like the rose
and hope is born again.

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