

16 March 2022



ST. SAVIOUR'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH.

DIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN.

Lent 2

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty and holy God, your Son, in obedience to the Spirit, fasted forty days in the desert: give us grace to discipline ourselves that we may press on towards Easter with eager faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PREACHER & PRESIDERS: Revd. Chesnay Frantz

READING: Esther 4:10-5:2

HYMNS: AMR

Introit: 92 Forty days and Forty nights

Offertory: 236 Breathe on me, Breath of God

Recessional: 290 Through all the changing scenes of life,

Lent 2022: Week 2

It seems as if the days are passing by so quickly. Lent is generally a time of retreat, slowing down, in the life and rhythm of the Church. However, what we are going through at the moment is the complete opposite, we find ourselves in a space where the World is switched ON after a 2-year hiatus. As a faith community we are challenged as to how we navigate this tension of withdrawing as per our Lenten tradition whilst rising to the occasion of switching on our economy and livelihoods.

Many, if not all families have been hard hit by the economic effects of Covid, with many people losing their jobs, some working less hours for less money, whilst for many the pressure of working from home has simply become too much, costing them their financial, social and mental wellbeing. These challenging times have forced us into a space of busyness even whilst attempting to retreat. It challenges us to live out faith and traditions boldly whilst not losing sight of that which grounds us, the gift of prayer.

At the heart of retreating or drawing aside during this time of Lent, is indeed to deepen our discipline of prayer. Prayer is at the core of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Prayer is that which sustains us as we go on our sojourn through life, prayer is what gives us life.

This week amidst the changing scenes of life; let us pray!

God bless.

Fr. Chesnay

Esther: The gift of Favour

In our reading of Esther this week (Chapters 3,4,5) we encounter all the main characters of the story. For the chapters under review and in line with our theme; the gift of favour, the 2 characters I draw your attention to is Hamman and Esther. Both these characters have gained favour with the King, for two very different reasons. Hamman gains favor with the King for his desire to kill Mordechai, who as we know refused to bow down to the empire and its rulers, for he was a Jew. Esther on the other hand gains favour with the King because of her beauty. Both Esther and Hamman plan to exploit their favour, Hamman to gain power and authority, Esther to set the Jewish nation free. Herein lays that which we are called to reflect upon, we have gained the favour of God through acts of faithful and right living. How will we us this favour?

Questions for reflection:

1. How does one gain favour with God?
2. What does it mean to be favoured by God?
3. How can we invite others to also come and enjoy God's favour?

LENT PROGRAM

BOOK OF ESTHER

Week 2: 16 March 2022- Chapter 3,4,5	<i>(The gift of Favour)</i>
Week 3: 23 March 2022- Chapter 6,7,8	<i>(The gift of courage)</i>
Week 4: 30 March 2022- Chapter 9,10	<i>(The gift of Power)</i>

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