

Welcome everyone to our all age service.

We come to praise and thank God.

We come to learn together, think together
and pray together.

God is here and welcomes us all.

Lent Cross

Bible Reading John 13 verses 1-5 & 12-17

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Towel & basin are brought forward and placed at the foot of the cross.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, remind us that the king who leads us does so with humility as well as majesty.

Help us to follow your example.

Give us the strength to seek out and to offer acts of service for those around us.

Amen.

Bible Story

Today's Bible story is found in the book of Daniel chapter 6

It happened like this.

The king Darius made Daniel one of his three helpers.

The king was so impressed with Daniel that he was planning on putting Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom. Some of the other leaders wanted to find something wrong with Daniel.

But Daniel was trustworthy and they could find no fault in him.

So the leaders came to King Darius and got him to make a new rule.

The rule said that for 30 days no one could pray to any god or man other than the king.

Rule breakers would have to be thrown into a den of lions.

This new rule did not keep Daniel from praying to the one true God.

Daniel prayed three times a day to God.

The leaders saw Daniel praying and they told the king.

The king was sad that it was Daniel who was not following the rule.

The king ordered that Daniel be thrown into a den of lions.

The king said to Daniel, "May God protect you."

A stone was placed over the opening of the den.

The king could not sleep that night. He was worried about Daniel.

In the morning, the king went to the lion's den.

The king called out to Daniel saying, “Has your God been able to rescue you?”

Daniel called out to the king saying,

“O king, live forever! My God has sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions.

They did not hurt me because I didn’t do anything wrong.”

The king was very happy and gave orders to pull Daniel out of the lion’s den.

Now the king knew that Daniel served the living God who is God over all.

Action Rhyme

Daniel always stopped to pray (Fold hands)

Many, many times a day (Hold up one, two, then three fingers)

Thrown into the lions' pit (Throw hands and make lion claws)

God kept Daniel from being bit (Pretend to bite your hand)

Reflection on the story

When we read the Bible we discover that God called people to do difficult things.

But God promised to help them and showed them what to do and what to say.

For example, the Lord said to Joshua:

“Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”.

And as we have seen God was faithful to Daniel and kept him safe.

Daniel was taken out of the Lion’s den unharmed because he had trusted in his God.

In Lent and Easter we remember how Jesus was strong and brave in the face of his enemies.

He was delivered from the grave just as Daniel was delivered from the Lion's den.

The risen Jesus told his disciples that they would be his witnesses.

Standing up for Jesus and being his witnesses would bring trouble and opposition to the disciples.

As they spread the good news about Jesus, some would laugh at their faith, some would persecute them, rulers would put them in prison or even have them killed.

But Jesus promised that he would be with them always, even to the end of the age, even to the end of their lives.

In life and in death they belonged to the Lord.

These men, women and children were giants of faith.

What about us?

Who inspires us to stand up for Jesus today?

You too can be a giant of faith.

Jesus will always be with you.

Applying the story

Believed

Obedient

Loyal

Defended

1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 verses 17-18

Never stop praying.

Give thanks whatever happens.

That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

Prayers for others

Dear God,

Daniel was a victim of a bad law.

We pray you will give rulers today the wisdom to back down and change their minds when it is needed.

Dear God,

Daniel prayed to God 3 times a day.

Help us to pray often knowing we can talk to you anytime.

Dear God,

Daniel was thrown into the lion's den.

We pray for Christians in danger today. Protect them and keep them from harm.

Dear God,

The angel of God shut the mouths of the lions.
We pray that you will silence the oppressors and
break their power to harm others.

Dear God,

Daniel was pulled out of the lion's den.
We pray that you will lift us up and we shall know
your saving power.

Dear God,

Daniel was brave and true.
We pray that each of us may stand strong in our faith
and be your witness today, tomorrow and always.

Amen.

Lion Blessing

Love go with you

Into this new week

Over your life be blessing

Now and always.

Amen.