

Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

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Genesis (1999) - Patriarchs

Genesis 1:1 - Call to Worship

In the beginning

When God created the heavens and the earth

When the breath of God moved over the face of
the waters

There was evening

There was morning

There was light

In the beginning God created

Let us worship God.

Call to Worship

Our ancient Hebrew brothers and sisters
were thirsty.

Parched lips
and dry souls.

Their voices carried in the wilderness
cries of despair....
cries that were heard.

Even today

the people of God are thirsty.

Dry lips
and parched souls.

Voices carry into the wilderness and beyond
desperation...

cries that are heard.

Come, children of God, come
into the presence of the living God
who listens
who hears.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

With Abraham

**We have ventured forth in faith
and missed opportunities for fear.**

With Sarah

**We have given generously in love
and ruthlessly destroyed for greed.**

With Jacob

**We have gifted our children with our visions
and shackled them with our pain.**

Forgive us for the ways we have failed you and
each other.

Inspire us to live the love you offer.

The God of Abraham and Sarah
knows our selfishness and our
shortsightedness.

The God of Abraham and Sarah
who built a nation on human pillars
is building even today.

God has loved you, loves you know, and will
love you always.

Thanks be to God.

Genesis 11 and Acts 2 (2004)

Fire consumes harvest and dross
indiscriminately

Fire heats the homes and melts the rock

Fire illumines the path for sojourner and
firefighter alike

Invocation

Holy Spirit,

move through the babble of our worship words
that we might hear the lucidity of your Word.

We celebrate the distinctions with each
passage of life,
hoping for infamy that will hold our lives
unique.

**While we are building towers we miss the
invitation to humility.**

We crave a place of security for our persons
and our things

where we can claim confidence and freedom
from fear.

**While we are building towers we forfeit the
power of vulnerability.**

We create visions of unity where voices are
held in harmony

and conformity grows in the absence of
conflict.

**While we are building towers we forget to
embrace the richness of diversity.**

We are building towers while God beckons
from the low places.

**In the humility, the vulnerability, the
diversity**

**we find the good news; our end is our
beginning.**

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Genesis 19 – Parable of the Sower with Lot in Sodom

Three visitors knock on Abraham's door
and he responds with confident hospitality
calling for the calf, setting the feast, making
the guest welcome.

He offers the best of what he has to the
stranger in need.

And the community responds in kind.

The seeds of compassion find fertile ground.

Two angels beckon at Lot's door
and he responds with nervous hospitality
gathering the bread, pouring the wine, offering
words of welcome.

Still, he offers the best of what he has for to the
stranger in need.

Yet the community thwarts his efforts.

The seeds of compassion fall into the weeds.

Somewhere in between the good intentions
something goes bad.

Abraham is blessed and becomes a mighty
nation.

Lot's homeland is laid waste and his wife a
pillar of salt.

The individual held in the context of
community.

The seeds of compassion are vulnerable.

A single stranger beckons now
and we respond with timid commitment
writing a check, drafting a letter,
offering promises of welcome.

**May our seeds of compassion be sown in
fertile ground.**

Genesis 19:24-26 – Called to be Salt –
with Leviticus 2:13, Judges 9:45, 2 Kings 2:19-22,
Colossians 4:6, Matthew 5:13

You shall not omit from your grain offerings
the salt of the covenant with your God; with all
your offerings you shall offer salt. (*Lev 2:13*)

We are a people of the salted covenant.

We are the salt of the earth.

Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah
sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven;
and he overthrew those cities, and all the
Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and
what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife,
behind him, looked back, and she became a
pillar of salt. (*Genesis 19:24-26*)

**We are a people who cannot help but look
back. We are the salt of the earth.**

Abimelech fought against the city all that day;
he took the city, and killed the people that
were in it; and he razed the city and sowed it
with salt. (*Judges 9:45*)

**We are a people tempted to sow destruction.
We are the salt of the earth.**

Now the people of the city said to Elisha, "The
location of this city is good, as my lord sees;
but the water is bad, and the land is
unfruitful." He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and
put salt in it." So they brought it to him. Then
he went to the spring of water and threw the
salt into it, and said, "Thus says the Lord, I
have made this water wholesome; from now on
neither death nor miscarriage shall come from
it." So the water has been wholesome to this
day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.
(*II Kings 2:19-22*)

**We are a people who discover the miracle of
'enough' in the presence of God.**

We are the salt of the earth.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned
with salt, so that you may know how you ought
to answer everyone. (*Colossians 4:6*)

We are a people with a mission.

We are the salt of the earth.

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost
its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It
is no longer good for anything, but is thrown
out and trampled under foot. (*Matthew 5:13*)

**We are the salt of the earth; offering flavor
and preserving the corpse,**

symbolic of faithlessness and offering life.

We are the salt of the earth.

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Genesis 32 (1999)

Wrestling
Struggling, resisting
Powers beyond understanding
Embracing, reconciling
Sacred

Let us wrestle
Let us worship
that which is sacred.

Genesis 45 (1999)

Broken hearts
scattered
yet never lost.
Voices calling
from deep beyond
inviting wholeness.
Tears molding pieces
together again.

Hearts for God.
Hearts of God.

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