

GABC Service Readings for April 26, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 95; Hebrews 12)

Today, on this day that You have made
We come to worship and bow down.
We kneel before you, O Lord, our Maker.

**You, alone, are our God.
We, collectively, are Your people
 Pastured by the still waters,
 Fed by Your hand
 Guided by Your Spirit.**

Today, we long to hear Your voice.

**Today, do not let us harden our hearts.
Soften us.
Prepare us for the planting of Your Word.
Bury it deep within.**

Let it yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness
That touches our families, our neighbors and our world.

To You be the glory and the dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION (adapted from Octavius Winslow *The God of Comfort*)

Lord, this season of fiery trial has been sanctified by the grace of Your Holy Spirit.
Let it do its work to break up the crusted ground of our hearts,
to penetrate beneath the surface,
to dissect and winnow and separate the wheat from the chaff.

**Detect and expose our secret sins.
Reveal the carelessness of our walks.
Uncover the spiritual decay of our souls
And lead us to a deep self-loathing that only a crucified and risen Savior can
mend.**

REMEMBER THE GOSPEL (adapted from *The Valley of Vision*)

O Father, You have loved us and sent Jesus to redeem us;
O Jesus, You have loved us and assumed our nature,
 Shed Your blood to wash away our sins,
 And worked righteousness to cover our unworthiness;
O Holy Spirit, You have loved us and entered our hearts,
 There You implanted eternal life,
 And revealed to us the glories of Jesus.
Three Persons and one God, we bless and praise You,
 For love so unmerited, so unspeakable, so wondrous,
 So mighty to save the lost and raise us to glory.

To You be the glory and the dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION (from the letters of John Berridge)

May this season of trial be sweetened with a sense of the Lord's presence,
bringing many tokens of His fatherly love,
and sanctifying the painful visitation by drawing your hearts more vigorously to Him
and fixing it on Him!

**May the Lord bring eternity nearer to our minds,
and Jesus nearer to our hearts.**