

Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

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Luke 3:17

The winnowing fork
yielded by an unseen hand
haunts the imagination.

Tossed in the air,
the breath of God
sifts and sorts.
The wheat ground to new life,
the chaff discarded and burned.

Masks broken and useless
vulnerability exposed
spasms of grief reshaping
transition interminable...
New life emerges.

The winnowing fork
yielded by an unseen hand
trembles.

Luke 4:21-30 (2004)

A hometown boy
made good.
Isn't that Joseph's son?
His ministry begins
prophetic words.
Who is that man?
The message haunts
painful challenge.
Is that Joseph's son?
Welcome worn thin
dismissed, forgotten.
Who is this man?

Luke 4 and Isaiah 61 (2004)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.
The Spirit of the Lord is in us.
Anointing us,
Sending us.
To bring good news
to bind up
to proclaim favor
to comfort
to provide
to loosen.
The day of the Lord is coming.
The day of the Lord has come.

Luke 6 (2004)

Happy are we
when our treasures cannot be quantified.
Happy are we
when our knowledge is tempered by

mystery.

Happy are we
when our pain is held in the balm of love.
Happy are we
**when our delight comes from beyond
ourselves.**

Blessed are we when we let go of possessions
for the kingdom of God unfolds in open places.

**Woe to us when we gather into barns
for soon this life will be over**

Blessed are we who know the ache of hunger
for the empty places in body and soul are the
fertile soil for new growth.

**Woe to us who fill our lives to capacity
for we fail to recognize what is missing.**

Blessed are we who know sorrow
for the ache of love lost is witness to the seed
planted.

**Woe to us who have yet to know the pain of
grief, for the fullness of love is woven with
sorrow.**

Blessed are we who know scorn
for the rejection of humans keeps us mindful of
that beyond.

**Woe to us who depend on the approval of
others, for to dance with Spirit appears
foolish.**

Blessed are we who live in the harmony of life
in the Spirit,

For we will recognize abundance. Amen.

Luke 6 – see 1 Samuel 17:1-58 - Strength (1997)

Luke 7

A drop of water.
Insignificant in isolation.
When dropped in a pool
The ripples move out into infinity
The water is changed
By one drop of water.
A drop is falling
Now
Into the pool of our spirit.
The water begins to ripple...

*Holy God, as we consider
the magnitude of a drop of water
to touch and change the pool,
may we hear the power of your touch in our
lives,
the potential for our lives to touch others.
Amen.*

Luke 8:4-8 – see Genesis 19 – Parable of the Sower
meets Lot

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Luke 8:4 - see Matthew 13:1ff

Luke 9:18-22 - see Mark 8:27-33 - "Who do you say?"

Luke 9:28-36 - see Matthew 17:1-6 - Transfiguration

Luke 10

Carrying the myriad of relationships which define us,
Lugging complicated family relationships that we'd rather not mention,

We come to God's table of welcome and healing.

Bearing God's image in our physical beings,
Dragging painful medical histories that threaten our welcome,

We come to God's table of welcome and healing.

Holding the promise of life before us,
Grasping at the frayed edges of our youthful dreams,

We come to God's table of welcome and healing.

Luke 10:25-37 (2004)

he walks by preoccupied frightened

we walk by

he lies helpless dazed overwhelmed

we lie helpless

dear god, may they find each other.

dear god, may we find each other.

Luke 10:25ff - see Matthew 22:34-40

Luke 11:2-4 (and Matthew 6:9-13)- Lord's Prayer
Litany

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**Mystery beyond our knowing,
close to us as our breathing,
in humble awe we pray.**

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven

**We pray for your vision of justice and mercy
to be made real in our world even now.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**We pray for your vision of enough;
enough sustenance, enough warmth,
enough healing for all of your children.**

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**We pray for the grace to let go of that which
is death dealing
as we embrace your vision for life,
that we might follow you safely through the
obstacle course.**

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours.

Now and for ever.

**Giving thanks for presence that defies
definition
in this life and beyond.**

Amen.

Amen.

Luke 12:51 - see Matthew 10:34

Luke 14:7-10 - see Matthew 18:1-3 - Litany of
Greatness

Luke 16 (1998)

Gospel Reflection

Masters,
two and more,
competing for our money
clamoring for our time
creating chaos in our lives.
Master,
one God,
quiet us and draw us near.

Prayer of Dedication

Knowing that many voices clamor and
compete,
we pray that these offerings given
may become symbolic of our decision
to serve one master, one God.

Luke 18:9-14 - see Matthew 18:1-3 - Litany of
Greatness

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Luke 21 and Acts 4

Scriptural Reflection

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury;

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.

Gather us in, Holy One, show us the way home.

and Jesus saw a poor widow put in two copper coins.

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

Gather us in, Compassionate Christ, help us to see safety and hear welcome.

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had."

They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Gather us in, Sustaining Spirit, enable us to open our arms extend the circle.

Litany based on Starhawk quote

We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been - a place half-remembered and half-envisioned - we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community.

Gather us in, Holy One, show us the way home.

Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats.

Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us,
eyes will light up as we enter,
voices will celebrate with us
whenever we come into our own power.

Gather us in, Compassionate Christ, help us to see safety and hear welcome.

Community means strength that joins our strength

to do the work that needs to be done.

Arms to hold us when we falter.

A circle of healing. A circle of friends.

Someplace where we can be free.

Gather us in, Sustaining Spirit, enable us to open our arms extend the circle.

Luke 24 - Call to Worship

We gather to remember the ancient stories of revelation.

We read from our ancient texts.

We gather to interpret the meaning these stories reveal in our lives.

We hear from our traditions.

We gather to share the revelation of the risen Christ.

We experience in ritual and story.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 24 - Prayer of Dedication

Their eyes were opened.

Our eyes are opened.

They recognized him.

We recognize her.

He vanished from their sight.

She vanishes from our view.

Their eyes were still open.

Our eyes can still be open.

They claimed the truth of their experience.

We can claim the truth of our experience.

He vanished from their sight, but not from the souls.

Even when we cannot see her, her presence is real.

Open eyes,

Recognizing Christ,

Vision beyond sight.

Christ has risen. Christ has risen indeed.