**Tuesday of Holy Week**

**Our Journey Through Life**

**Opening Prayer**

Generous God

Bringer of justice

**YOU ARE THE SOUCE OF OUR TRUTH**

Gathering God

Lover of courage

**YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH**

Glorious God

Light of the nations

**YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY**

**Bible Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6**

Listen to me, you islands;  
    hear this, you distant nations:  
Before I was born the Lord called me;  
    from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name.  
**2**He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
    in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me into a polished arrow  
    and concealed me in his quiver.  
**3**He said to me, “You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”  
**4**But I said, “I have labored in vain;  
    I have spent my strength for nothing at all.  
Yet what is due me is in the Lord’s hand,  
    and my reward is with my God.”

**5**And now the Lord says—  
    he who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to bring Jacob back to him  
    and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am[[a](about:blank#fen-NIV-18642a)] honored in the eyes of the Lord  
    and my God has been my strength—  
**6**he says:  
“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
    to restore the tribes of Jacob  
    and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
    that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

**Reflection** *by Dave*

I honestly hadn’t planned to give up quite this much for Lent – like going to work, seeing friends and popping to the shops… we have heard that we should get used to the ‘new normal’, but how do we make sense of it?

Unlike previous years of Lent where we are either encouraged to give up something, or if you are part of one of the youth groups ‘to take something up’ we are all facing similar losses. None of us chose our present situation but it happened anyway and now we have the opportunity to respond.

This week it may be that we have more free time, it may be that our free time has seriously been reduced. It may be that we feel a sense of liberation from the old ways and we have adopted new habits, alternatively this time may be one of intense frustration and loss.

It is worth reminding ourselves that we are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27 & 5:1) and as such whatever our stage of faith is today, whatever our age, whatever our feelings are or what our head says to us – we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

As a consequence, God qualifies us to join Him in bringing order to a chaotic world, or sowing hope where there is despair, forgiveness where there is injury and His love in all situations. We do this today with an eye on the end of the week where the obedient death and resurrection of Jesus Christ himself reminds us that it is only through Him that we can do these things and none of our actions are in vain.

**Time of Prayer** *Spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer,*

*led by the Holy Spirit*

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*All* **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name;**

**your kingdom come;**

**your will be done;**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

**Song Blessed be your name**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnWKehsOXu8](about:blank)

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, Jesus Christ,

as you live on through us all –

our Lord, Saviour and friend –

give us strength for today,

hope for tomorrow,

and life everlasting,

that we may stand in Your

radiant beauty, glory,

presence and splendour.

**Amen**.