**Contemporary Reading:** This contemporary reading is from

Peter Millar’s contemplation on Lent.

With the beckoning and dawning of another day

can the fragile, yet extraordinary

words of Jesus

propel us to a wider awareness,

a gentler compassion?

To the rediscovery of the sacred in ourselves,

and in our world?

To that risk-taking place

where the imprisoning bonds

of our self-enclosed lives are finally shattered?

To a different journey

in a listening companionship

with the prophets of our time –

the wounded and weary

who announce the Kingdom

and carry in their stories the seeds of the morrow?

The ‘hidden ones’

in our global culture,

whose pain and joy

when threaded through our lives

enlarge the heart

and bring new meaning

to our common future:

that ‘sacred future’

where, impossible as it seems,

we ‘love our neighbour as ourselves’.

pause

For fresh insight into the Lenten journey

We give thanks.

**Gospel:** Listen for words of faith in the Gospel of Luke.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

Jesus said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.'"

pause

For the Word that was in the beginning,

For the Word that invites and inspires

For the Word embodied in Jesus and in us

We give thanks.