

Our mission is to learn the way of
Jesus together as we invite others to join
us at His Table.

Our Common Practices

We Gather

We gather for worship more often than not.
We gather in smaller groups to connect, learn, and grow.
We create hospitable space for one another.

We Grow

We attend the means of grace daily. (i.e. We attend to the
presence of God through Scripture reading and meditation,
prayer on behalf of others and myself, breath prayer,
spiritual reading and study...).

We nurture our faith.

We attend to relationships that promote growth.
We develop and learn as human beings made in the image
of God.

We Give

We are a generous people who give our time and resources
to the mission of God and the world.
We tithe as the means through which our community enjoys
fiscal health so as to minister generously.

We Go

We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.
We help the vulnerable among us.
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at
His Table.

A Breath Prayer for the Lenten Season:

*"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have
mercy on me."*

If you are a guest with us today, please take time to fill out
a Connection Card located in the sanctuary chairs. After
worship, an usher will be waiting to receive your card at
the guest table in the lobby. As an expression of our
hospitality, you will receive a mug filled with chocolates.

Jesus, Remember Me

J. Berthier
Taizé



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CHURCH OF
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE
CHURCH



Order of Worship
01 March 2020
The First Sunday in Lent

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Sermon Series: Singing in the Dark
Sermon: "A Song for Sinners"
Scripture Reading: Psalm 32; Matthew 4.1-11

We Come to the Table

Passing the Peace of Christ
Song of preparation
Prayer of Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Gossiping the Good Stuff
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

Sermon Reflection Guide

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you,

and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Matthew 4.1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Question for Everyone:

(1) I am a sinner saved by grace. (10) I am a child of God liberated from sin. Where would you place yourself on this "sin" range?

Lenten Formation Plan

Talk about the elements of your Lenten fast and about how you hope to grow in grace.

Sin

The word "holiness," a word Nazarenes love so much, has been defined rather optimistically by some as "sinless perfection." This definition is very optimistic, if perhaps lacking in self-awareness, because I've been around Nazarenes all of my life. How does one resist having a cavalier response to sin? "Oh, we're all just sinners saved by grace?"

Four Flavors of Sin from Psalm 32

First, there's the word **transgression**, willful disobedience. There's the word "chattah" meaning **missing the mark**, or aiming at the wrong target. There's the word **iniquity** meaning twisted or bent out of shape, contorted. Finally, there's the word **deceit** treachery or not being reliable. How might the nuances of the meaning of sin help one understand the gravity sin?

Deadly Silence

There is a kind of silence that leads to destruction. It is silence before God. There is a listless silence, acedia, boredom, a zombie-like going through the motions like the undead: consuming and fretting and worrying and coping and doing it all over again, while remaining silent before God. Why do we go silent before God?

Confession as a Means of Grace

Confession is a relational word. It is acknowledgment, not just for willful transgression, but for the brokenness of the human condition. Healing from sin won't happen through a cavalier attitude of invincibility. Humility through confession, admitting fault, asking often for forgiveness in the small things are the only safeguards from a deep dive into the murky waters of sin. Scale from 1-10, is it easy or hard for you to ask for forgiveness? Why?

A Song for Sinners

The last word of Psalm 32 is not sin; it is joy. And joy, no matter how you slice it, is impossible while sin runs rampant. The sinner of Psalm 32 deals with his sin, not by remaining silent but by confession. Psalm 32 is the opposite of a cover up. Consider how your experience of joy may be diminished by the presence of sin. What are you going to do about it?