Regular Prayer
Shaping Life and Belief in the JUBILEE OF MERCY

♦ Sundays 3-4-5 of Lent ♦

in Year A & the RCIA Scrutinies

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy continues to enrich our lives. The Lectionary for Mass Year A readings for the middle of Lent present us with the Good News of Christ knowing us, saving us, and claiming us for himself. Week by week and season by season, the Church unfolds – by means of readings, prayers, and liturgical music – the great mystery of Christ. Use these seasonal booklets as preparation for preaching and catechesis, as inspiration for prayer and reflection, as help for thinking of and doing mercy works.

♦ ♦ ♦

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♦ ♦ ♦

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Open on 8 December 2015,
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Close on 20 November 2016,
Solemnity of Christ the King

♦ ♦ ♦

See Luke 6:36:
Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful [NAB].

♦ ♦ ♦

Lectionary for Mass,
Year C – the year for reading the Gospel of Luke

Lent, Steve Ersipamer.
### Acknowledgements


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### Document Key

- **BB** = *Book of Blessings*
- **CCC** = *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- **CDWDS** = Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
- **CSL** = *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*
- **FDLC** = Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions
- **HD** = CDWDS, *Homiletic Directory*
- **LM** = *Lectionary for Mass*
- **LMIntro** = *Lectionary for Mass, Introduction*
- **RM3** = *Roman Missal, Third Edition*
- **UNLYC** = *Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*
- **USCCB** = United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

*Christ facing the Evil One, Steve Erspamer.*
Concerning the Liturgical Time for Lent

♦ Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

102. …Within the cycle of a year, moreover, the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ … Recalling thus the mysteries of redemption, the Church opens to the faithful the riches of the Lord’s powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present in every age in order that the faithful may lay hold on them and be filled with grace.

♦ Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar

II. The Cycle of the Year

17. Over the course of the year the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ, from the Incarnation to Pentecost Day and the days of waiting for the Advent of the Lord.

III. Lent

27. Lent is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian Initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance.

28. The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord’s Supper exclusive.

29. On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, which is observed everywhere as a fast day, ashes are distributed….

31. Holy Week is ordered to the commemoration of Christ’s Passion, beginning with his Messianic entrance into Jerusalem….

♦ Lectionary for Mass, Introduction

3. Lent

a) The Sundays

97. The Gospel readings are arranged as follows:

The first and second Sundays maintain the accounts of the Temptation and Transfiguration of the Lord, with readings, however from all three Synoptics.

On the next three Sundays, the Gospels about the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus have been restored in Year A. Because these Gospels are of major importance in regard to Christian Initiation, they may also be read in Year B and Year C, especially in places where there are catechumens.

Other texts, however, are provided for Year B and Year C: for B, a text from John about Christ’s coming glorification through his Cross and Resurrection and for Year C, a text from Luke about conversion.

On Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion the texts for the procession are selections from the Synoptic gospels concerning the Lord’s solemn entry into Jerusalem. For the Mass the readings is the account of the Lord’s Passion.

The Old Testament readings are about the history of salvation, which is one of the themes proper to the catechesis of Lent. The series of texts for each Year presents the main elements of salvation history from its beginning until the promise of the New Covenant.

The readings from the Letters of the Apostles have been selected to fit the Gospel and the Old Testament readings and, to the extent possible, to provide a connection between them.

♦ FDLC Mystagogy on Mass Texts

The Collect and the Prayer after Communion are rich sources for our Christian life. These reflections may be downloaded and printed for free. A link for the Lent booklet is: http://www.dio.org/worship/mystagogy.html
The Scrutinies in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment [Lent] and the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Eliot Kapitan, Office for Worship and the Catechumenate, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Here are seven truths concerning three ancient sets of readings for the three Scrutinies and proper ritual texts that must be used (and some that may be used) every Lent – regardless of the Lectionary year.

**ONE ● Scrutinies Are Celebrations with the Elect.**

Elected catechumens – children, youth, adults – chosen by God and affirmed by the Church in the Diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, entrust their lives to the 40 Days of Purification and Enlightenment. So does the rest of the Church. “In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent the reminder of baptism already received [by us] or the preparation for its reception [by them], as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery [us and them]…” [RCIA, no. 138]. Three Scrutinies are a necessary part of this journey. They are so important, all three must be celebrated. Only the diocesan Bishop may dispense.

**TWO ● Scrutinies: Why Are There Required Texts?**

We would not celebrate a birthday with cake, candles, and the “Star Spangled Banner”. We would not read Dante’s *Inferno* at high school graduation. We strive to match texts and tunes with the nature of the celebration. In Church life, likewise, we do not celebrate a funeral, Marriage, or Confirmation without using the readings and prayer given in the Lectionary and Missal. It is the same for the three Scrutinies in Lent with the Elect. The proper texts in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and the *Roman Missal* are written in the biblical language of Year A readings; not Year B or C. That is why they all are required.

**THREE ● Scrutinies and Required Lectionary for Mass Readings.**

Because the Scrutinies in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* are written in biblical language, each celebration requires the proclamation of Year A readings for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. See the Ritual Mass section in the *Lectionary for Mass* [LM], Volume IV, nos. 745, 746, and 747 – the “readings and chants are always taken from” the respective texts for the Sundays in Lent, LM, nos. 28, 31, and 34. Priests and pastoral ministers do not have the option to use other biblical texts with these Scrutiny celebrations; “pastoral reasons” do not apply. This norm is affirmed in the Missal, Ritual Masses, “For the Celebration of the Scrutinies”.

**FOUR ● Year A Readings Are Treasured by the Church.**

For the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Year A readings may always be used in place of the Year B and Year C readings even when the Scrutinies are not celebrated. See the rubrics in LM, nos. 29B, 30C, 32B, 33C, 35B, and 36C.

The readings given for Year A, no. 28 [and nos. 31 and 34], may be used in place of these.

The fact that the Church gives permission for this to take place, supports an ancient and treasured practice that these readings fill us with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water, the light for the world, and the resurrection and the life for us all. This permission permits a homilist to prepare a weekend of preaching using only one set of biblical texts.
FIVE ●
Scrutinies and Required Roman Missal Prayers.

Because the three Scrutinies are Ritual Masses, most of the prayers are found in the back part of the Missal at the beginning of the Ritual Mass section. With the exception of the three Prefaces (The Samaritan Woman, The Man Born Blind, and Lazarus), the presidential prayers for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent in the Missal front are not used. Not only are the usual antiphons, Collects, Prayers over the Offerings, and Prayers after Communion provided for each of the Scrutinies, there are also prayers for godparents and the elect to insert in Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III. What a blessing. What a grace.

SIX ●
Scrutinies and RCIA Texts.

The three Scrutinies are necessary rites belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. RCIA, no. 143 gives the reason for the importance of these Liturgies:

• to inspire in the elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ;
• to be instructed gradually about the mystery of sin;
• to long to be delivered and saved from sin’s present and future consequences,
• to be filled with Christ the Redeemer – who is the living water, the light for the world, and the resurrection and the life for us all; and
• to progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation.

SEVEN ●
Missal Text Pages.

For the ease of catechumenal ministers who do not have easy access to the Roman Missal, the proper prayers from it for celebrating the three Scrutinies are located at this diocesan link: http://www.dio.org/worship/three-scrutinies.html.

| Inserts for the Eucharistic Prayers When the Scrutinies Are Celebrated |
|---|---|
| **When the Roman Canon is used**, in the section Memento, Domine (Remember, Lord, your servants) there is a commemoration of the godparents, and the proper form of the Hanc igitur (Therefore, Lord, we pray), is said. | **Proper form of Memento, Domine** (Remember, Lord, your servants):
Remember, Lord, your servants who are to present your chosen ones for the holy grace of your Baptism, Here the names of the godparents are read out. and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you . . .

**Proper form of the Hanc igitur** (Therefore, Lord, we pray):
Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation which we make to you for your servants, whom you have been pleased to enroll, choose and call for eternal life and for the blessed gift of your grace. (Through Christ our Lord.)

**When Eucharistic Prayer II is used**, after the words and all the clergy, the following is added: Remember also, Lord, your servants who are to present these chosen ones at the font of rebirth.

**When Eucharistic Prayer III is used**, after the words the entire people you have gained for your own, the following is added: Assist your servants with your grace, O Lord, we pray, that they may lead these chosen ones by word and example to new life in Christ, our Lord.
### Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief in the Jubilee of Mercy –

#### Third Sunday of Lent
– For the First Scrutiny
Year A
LM, no. 28A
28 February 2016

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| **Lectionary for Mass**  
Exodus 17:3-7 – Give us water, so that we may drink.  
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 – (8) **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 – The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us  
Verse before the Gospel – cf. John 4:42, 15  
Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
John 4:5-42 – The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.  
**USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:**  
Year A readings:  
**FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – FOR THE FIRST SCRUTINY**  
**Entrance Antiphon**  
Ez 36:23-26  
When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.  
Or:  
Cf. Is 55:1  
Come to the waters, you who are thirsty, says the Lord; you who have no money, come and drink joyfully.  
**The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.**  
**Collect**  
Grant, we pray, O Lord, that these chosen ones may come worthily and wisely to the confession of your praise, so that in accordance with that first dignity which they lost by original sin they may be fashioned anew through your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**The Creed is said.**  

CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix  
Baptism, rebirth of water and Spirit  
- CCC, nos. 1214-1216, 1226-1228  
Jesus reveals the Holy Spirit  
- CCC, nos. 727-729  
The Holy Spirit, the living water, a gift of God  
- CCC, nos. 694, 733-736, 1215, 1999, 2652  
God takes the initiative; hope from the Spirit  
- CCC, nos. 604, 733, 1820, 1825, 1992, 2658  

Steve Erspamer.
### Prayer

**Prayer over the Offerings**
May your merciful grace prepare your servants, O Lord, for the worthy celebration of these mysteries and lead them to it by a devout way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

**Preface for the Third Sunday of Lent**

**The Samaritan Women**
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For when he asked the Samaritan woman for water to drink, he had already created the gift of faith within her and so ardently did he thirst for her faith, that he kindled in her the fire of divine love.

And so we, too, give you thanks and with the Angels praise your mighty deeds, as we acclaim….

**Communion Antiphon**
Cf. Jn 4:13-14
For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

**Prayer after Communion**
Give help, O Lord, we pray, by the grace of your redemption and be pleased to protect and prepare those you are to initiate through the Sacraments of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.

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### Meaning

**Roman Missal, Third Edition**

**Collect**
Grant, we pray, O Lord, that these chosen ones may come worthily and wisely to the confession of your praise, so that in accordance with that first dignity which they lost by original sin they may be fashioned anew through your glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

♦ **Meaning for the Christian Life ♦**
To be chosen by God is a first grace. The elect now stand in that select number of chosen ones along with us.

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**Prayer over the Offerings**
May your merciful grace prepare your servants, O Lord, for the worthy celebration of these mysteries and lead them to it by a devout way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

♦ **Meaning for the Christian Life ♦**
We show them this way of life and are nourished, are strengthened to do it be eating and drinking Christ Jesus the Lord at his table.

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**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

The pastoral notes (introduction) for the Scrutinies are found at RCIA, nos. 141-145. The ritual texts for the First Scrutiny are found at RCIA, nos. 150-156.

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*Roman Missal, © 2010, ICEL.*

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*Woman at the Well, Steve Erspamer.*
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
– For the Second Scrutiny  
Year A  
LM, no. 31A  
06 March 2016

Scripture Readings

**Lectionary for Mass**
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a – David is anointed as king of Israel.  
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 – (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Ephesians 5:8-14 – Arise from the dead, the Christ will give you light.  
Verse before the Gospel – John 8:12  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
John 9:1-41 – The man who was blind went off and washed himself and came back able to see.

USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:  
Year A readings:  
http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/030616-fourth-sunday-lent-scrutinies.cfm

**CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix**  
Christ the light of the nations  
- CCC, nos. 280, 529, 748, 1165, 2466, **2715**  
Jesus is the Son of David  
- CCC, nos. 439, 496, 559, **2616**  
Baptism is illumination  
- CCC, no. 1216  
Christians are to be light of the world  
- CCC, nos. **782**, 1243, 2105

Prayer

**Roman Missal, Third Edition**

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES

FORTH SUNDAY OF LENT – FOR THE SECOND SCRUTINY

**Entrance Antiphon**  
Cf. Ps 25 (24):15-16  
My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

**Collect**
Almighty ever-living God,  
give to your Church an increase in spiritual joy,  
so that those once born of earth may be reborn as citizens of heaven.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The Creed is said.

**Prayer over the Offerings**
We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for those who seek salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.
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| **Preface for the Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
The Man Born Blind.  
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.  
By the mystery of the Incarnation, he has led the human race that walked in darkness into the radiance of the faith and has brought those born in slavery to ancient sin through the waters of regeneration to make them your adopted children.  
Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth sing a new song in adoration, and we, with all the host of Angels, cry out, and without end acclaim….  
Communion Antiphon  
Cf. Jn 9:11, 38  
The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.  
Prayer after Communion  
Sustain your family always in your kindness, O Lord, we pray, correct them, set them in order, graciously protect them under your rule, and in your unfailing goodness direct them along the way of salvation. Through Christ our Lord.  
Roman Missal, Third Edition  
Meaning for the Christian Life  
Sustain, correct, protect, and direct. What more could we ask for? Our God, who is ever kind, will do it. Our God, who is relentlessly good, does it anew. God who saves yesterday, today, and for ever does it always.  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults  
The pastoral notes (introduction) for the Scrutinies are found at RCIA, nos. 141-145. The ritual texts for the Second Scrutiny are found at RCIA, nos. 164-170.

*Man Born Blind, Steve Erspamer.*
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
– For the Third Scrutiny  
Year A  
LM, no. 34A  
13 March 2016

### Scripture Readings

*Lectionary for Mass*

Ezekiel 37:12-14 – *I will put my spirit in you that you may live.*  
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 – *(7)* _With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption._  
Romans 8:8-11 – *The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you._  
Verse before the Gospel – John 11:25a, 26  
*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die._  
John 11:1-45 – *I am the resurrection and the life._

**USCCB link to Lectionary Texts:**  
Year A readings:  

**CDWDS, Homiletic Directory, Appendix**  
The progressive revelation of resurrection  
- CCC, nos. 992-996  
Raisings a messianic sign prefiguring Christ’s Resurrection  
- CCC, nos. 549, 640, 646  
The prayer of Jesus before the raising of Lazarus  
- CCC, nos. 2603-2604  
Our present experience of resurrection  
- CCC, nos. 1002-1004  
The Eucharist and the Resurrection  
- CCC, nos. 1402-1405, 1524  
The resurrection of the body  
- CCC, nos. 989-990

### Prayer and Meaning

*Roman Missal, Third Edition*

**FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – FOR THE THIRD SCRUTINY**

**Entrance Antiphon**  
*Cf. Ps 18 (17):5-7*  
The waves of death rose about me; the pains of the netherworld surrounded me. In my anguish I called to the Lord; and from his holy temple he heard my voice.

*The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.*

**Collect**  
Grant, O Lord, to these chosen ones that, instructed in the holy mysteries, they may receive new life at the font of Baptism and be numbered among the members of your Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*The Creed is said.*

**Prayer over the Offerings**  
Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the first fruits of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.
### Prayer

**Preface for the Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
Lazarus.  
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For as true man he wept for Lazarus his friend and as eternal God raised him from the tomb, just as, taking pity on the human race, he leads us by sacred mysteries to new life.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

**Communion Antiphon**  
*Cf. Jn 11:26*  
Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**  
May your people be at one, O Lord, we pray, and in wholehearted submission to you may they **obtain this grace:** that, safe from all distress, they may readily live out their joy at being saved and remember in loving prayer those to be reborn. Through Christ our Lord.

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### Meaning

**Roman Missal, Third Edition**

**Prayer after Communion**

May your people be at one, O Lord, we pray, and in wholehearted submission to you may they **obtain this grace:** that, safe from all distress, they may readily live out their joy at being saved and remember in loving prayer those to be reborn. Through Christ our Lord.

**Meaning for the Christian Life**

Such deeply profound words: **to readily live out the joy of being saved!** Here we are, after four-and-half weeks of Lenten praying, fasting, and giving – we are filled with grace. We are not beat down. We are joyful. Because we are saved.

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**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

The pastoral notes (introduction) for the Scrutinies are found at RCIA, nos. 141-145. The ritual texts for the Third Scrutiny are found at RCIA, nos. 171-177.

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*Lazarus is not dead. Steve Erspamer.*
Bulletin Shorts for Lent Using the Year A Readings
for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays

FDLC Mystagogy on Mass Texts.
The Collect and the Prayer after Communion are rich sources for our Christian life. These reflections may be downloaded and printed for free. A link for the Lent booklet is:
http://www.dio.org/worship/mystagogy.html

NOTE: The Lectionary readings for Year A must be used when the Three Scrutinies are celebrated. The Lectionary readings for Year A may always be used on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent in any year. The Church loves these texts that much. Use these Bulletin Shorts when the Year A readings are used.

First Scrutiny – The Third Sunday of Lent – 28 February 2016
We should be thirsty. Sin and sadness, unkindness and isolation dry us out, parch our insides, make us thirsty. We thirst for something more that no one of us alone can provide. We thirst for the One who alone slakes our real thirst. Just like the Woman at the Well, we stand next to Jesus who knows us better than we know ourselves. We stand next to Christ the Lord who stands with us. In our thirst for life, we find resurrected life in him.

• What dries out my life of faith?
• What will I “drink” to give me life?
• How can this Blood of Christ I drink in Communion sustain me?

We should open our eyes. Sometimes we blindfold ourselves to bad behavior (in ourselves, in others), to wrongdoing, to injustice. Sometimes we pretend that sin is not here, sin is not there. We do not look. We do not see. But Christ, who is Light from Light (we proclaim in the Creed), changes it all. Just like the Man Born Blind, when we do what Christ tells us to do (go and wash…think Baptism and Renewal of Baptism), we see with new eyes and we tell the truth.

• What blinds me from seeing with eyes of sacramental faith?
• What truth must I tell?

Stop being dead! Sometimes we let others bind us up; sometimes we bind ourselves and lay down as if we were dead. Dead to thirsty, hungry, and homeless people. Dead to sick, suffering, and imprisoned people. Dead to those who do not think like us. Dead to friends, neighbors, and family. It is Christ who wakes us up from this deadening sleep – this day, next week, next month – and one last time after we really die.

• Who needs me to be alive?
• What can I do for him, for her, for them?