

Texts of the service for Estomihi (the last Sunday before Lent) February 14, 2021

Prayer *(read by Heribert Kolosko and Ulrike Jerosch):*

May the Lord bless and protect you.

He will not save you from suffering and pain,
but in suffering and pain he will preserve you,
so that your life will be sustained.

May the Lord let his countenance shine above you
and show you his mercy.

His face lights up with joy when he looks at you,
when he contemplates the bright and the dark sides of your life.

May the Lord turn his face to you
and give you peace.

He does not turn away from you, whatever may happen.
He does not grant you harmony, but in all conflict
he is your peace.

May the Lord bless you.

May his fervent love be alive in you
and through you in everyone you encounter –
in this way you will be a blessing.

Pastor Wolfgang Knopp:

“From Isaiah, Chapter 58:

The Lord said to Isaiah: “Shout the message! Don’t hold back. Say to my people Israel: You’ve sinned! You’ve turned against the LORD. Day after day, you worship him and seem eager to learn his teachings. You act like a nation that wants to do right by obeying his laws. You ask him about justice, and say you enjoy worshiping the LORD. You wonder why the LORD pays no attention when you go without eating and act humble. But on those same days that you give up eating, you think only of yourselves and abuse your workers. You even get angry and ready to fight. No wonder God won’t listen to your prayers! Do you think the LORD wants you to give up eating and to act as humble as a bent-over bush? Or to dress in sackcloth and sit in ashes? Is this really what he wants on a day of worship? I’ll tell you what it really

means to worship the LORD. Remove the chains of prisoners who are chained unjustly. Free those who are abused! Share your food with everyone who is hungry; share your home with the poor and homeless. Give clothes to those in need; don't turn away your relatives. Then your light will shine like the dawning sun, and you will quickly be healed. Your honesty will protect you as you advance, and the glory of the LORD will defend you from behind. When you beg the LORD for help, he will answer, "Here I am!" Don't mistreat others or falsely accuse them or say something cruel. Give your food to the hungry and care for the homeless. Then your light will shine in the dark; your darkest hour will be like the noonday sun. The LORD will always guide you and provide good things to eat when you are in the desert. He will make you healthy. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water or like a stream that never runs dry. You will rebuild those houses left in ruins for years; you will be known as a builder and repairer of city walls and streets." <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+58&version=CEV>

Words from Isaiah, chapter 58. As a rule pastors are to interpret the scriptures. But in all honesty: Who among you does not understand this plain language?
I wish you an exceptional Lent."

Vater unser im Himmel.	Our Father in heaven.
Geheiligt werde dein Name.	Hallowed be your name.
Dein Reich komme.	Your kingdom come.
Dein Wille geschehe,	Your will be done,
wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.	as in heaven, so on earth.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.	Give us today our daily bread.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,	And forgive us our sins,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.	as we forgive those who sin against us.
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,	Lead us not into temptation,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.	but deliver us from evil.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft	For the kingdom, the power
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.	and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.	Amen.