

Lenten Psalm of Awakening

Come, O life-giving Creator,
and rattle the door latch
of my slumbering heart.
Awaken me as you breathe upon
a winter-wrapped earth,
gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these fortified days
of Lenten prayer and discipline
my youthful dream of holiness.
Call me forth from the prison camp
of my numerous past defeats
and my narrow patterns of being
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,
through the passion of my love.

Show to me during these Lenten days
how to take the daily things of life
and by submerging them in the sacred,
to infuse them with a great love
for you, O God, and for others.

Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer
the real works of reform and renewal
of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,
help me not to waste
these precious Lenten days
of my soul's spiritual springtime.

(Edward Hays)

Lenten Psalm of Longing

I thank you, O God,
for the warming of the winds
that brings a melting of the snow,
for daylight hours that daily grow longer
and richer in the aroma of hope.

Spring lingers beneath the horizon
as approaching echoes of Easter
ring in my ears.

I lift up my heart to you, Beloved,
in this season of Lent
that gently sweeps across
my sluggish and sleeping heart,
awakening me
to a deeper love for you.

May the wind of the Spirit
that drove Jesus into the desert,
into the furnace of prayers,
also drive me with a passion
during this Lenten season
to enkindle the fire of my devotion
in the desert of Lenten love.

Birds above, on migratory wings,
signal me to an inner migration,
a message that draws me homeward bound
on Spirit's wings
to the heart of my Beloved.

May I earnestly use this Lenten season
to answer the inner urge
to return.