

## Lent prayer practice 4

### Desert Prayer

A variation on a prayer by Pierre Talec from France

Lord Jesus  
you alone can reveal to us  
the riches of God's solitude  
in the communion of persons.

Alone in the desert  
and alone in Gethsemene,  
alone on your cross  
between men who were alone on theirs,  
you assumed everyone's solitude within yourself  
so that everyone might commune  
with God.

O God of encounters,  
May each of us  
In our desert  
Detect a sign of your presence.  
With you  
May each of us be for one another  
A traveling companion in the fellowship of the Father and the Spirit.

Lord Jesus  
By taking part in your death and resurrection  
We pass from solitude to communion.

For prayerful reflection:

- Have you visited wildernesses, deserts or lonely places? Or perhaps read or seen images of them? What were your impressions?
- Can you describe a time in life which felt like a desert? What sustained you? What do you wish you had had? Was there anything you learned then which might not have been so evident elsewhere? Would you agree with the idea that such desert times can be both about struggle and renewal? Why/ why not?
- Which biblical story involving a wilderness or lonely place is most vivid to you? Perhaps you spend some time re-reading it again and reflecting on what it says about human nature and experience and about God. What might you take from it to live by this Lent?