

Seeking God's Face

Praying with the Bible
through the Year

Written and compiled by Philip F. Reinders

Foreword by Eugene H. Peterson

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for the study and renewal of worship

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Seeking God's Face: Praying with the Bible through the Year
(compact version)

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FOREWORD



“Wendy, do you ever pray?”

She shook her head negatively. “No. Never.” Then a shy, self-deprecating smile played at the edges of her lips. “Sometimes I wish upwards.”

I didn’t know Wendy very well. I had married her and Jacob, a young man who was a member of my congregation, six months earlier. I met with them three or four times for conversations about marriage and their understanding and expectations of it. I remembered that Wendy was quite open about having no Christian commitment and only the sketchiest acquaintance with church. They were both immature. I asked them if and when they found difficulties in their relationship that they come back and talk with me.

Now she was back. I hadn’t seen her or Jacob since the day of the wedding. Things were not going well with their marriage; I wasn’t surprised. I suggested a marriage counselor that I trusted.

“Wendy, marriage is wonderful but complex, and being human is complex—a lot of things can go wrong. You and Jacob aren’t doing too well on your own. Dr. Shelly would be a good companion with you as you learn how to understand and give yourselves to one another. You probably ought to think in terms of several months.”

She wanted me to tell her what she could do on her own. She wasn’t interested in “several months.” I never saw her again.

But her sentence, “Sometimes I wish upwards,” stayed with me. It burrowed into my imagination and has lodged there ever since as a wonderful naming of what I began to think of as “pre-prayer”—a spontaneous response “upwards” out of the self-enclosed nature to meaning or fulfillment, or, who knows, God?

“Sometimes I wish upwards” is a nudge towards prayer, an opening crack of a door into mystery, a seed that if nurtured could soon

become prayer. I am convinced that everyone wishes upwards sometimes, maybe even often. The wish upwards is evidence, I've come to think, that everyone has the stuff within them, the capacity, even the longing, to be a person of prayer. But also, more often than not, nothing comes of it. The wish has no root in relationship, in language, in love, in God.

The life of prayer doesn't start from scratch. The wish upwards is evidence of a readiness to pray. But how do we get from wish to prayer? How do we get the elusive, wispy, insubstantial wish embodied into actual prayer?

This book, *Seeking God's Face*, is one way. The Christian community in every generation has written and published daily prayer books to accomplish this transition among men and women, followers of Jesus, who want their relation with God and their family and friends and neighbors to be something more than a wish upwards.

Daily prayer books take different forms and enter into different cultures and times, but most of them share certain essential characteristics that provide congenial conditions for developing a life of mature prayer, no longer praying by fits and starts, "clouds without rain . . . autumn trees, without fruit . . . wild waves of the sea . . . wandering stars . . ." (Jude 12-13).

Seeking God's Face melds prayer and Scripture into a companionable guide for becoming a participant—both listening and speaking—in the great salvation conversation that is the Christian gospel.

Prayer. Prayer is as natural and simple as language itself. The only difference between prayer and our mother tongue as we commonly use it is that in prayer God is a major voice. We all learn language without formal instruction. We are wondrously created with all the bodily parts in throat and mouth and ears that are necessary to speak and listen. A prayer book respects this basic and elementary at-home-ness, this aptitude that we all have for prayer. A prayer book is not a book about prayer, not an explanation of prayer, not a theological essay on prayer. It is prayers, usually brief, to be prayed.

Prayer is a natural and authentic substratum of language. But there is irony here: prayer, language at its most honest, is also the easiest form of language to fake. We discover early on that we can pretend to pray, use the words of prayer, practice the forms of prayer, assume postures of prayer, acquire a reputation for prayer, and never pray. Our “prayers,” so called, become a camouflage to cover up a life of nonprayer.

Set prayers are prayers provided for us to keep our praying in company with our ancestors, prayers of others so that we stay in touch with the authentic world of prayer revealed in our Scriptures. They are prayers that we can use to distinguish prayer from prayer impostors, fantasy, and magic. They are prayers that do not depend on our own initiative, prayers that don't wax and wane according to the phases of our moods.

In my home, a great deal of our common life is integrated into preparing meals, considering the tastes and circumstances of those who will be present, setting the table, eating the meal, cleaning up after the meal. No single meal is quite like another. They are many variables: the kinds of food that make up the meal, which members of the family will be there, guests that we anticipate. We enjoy the work. But occasionally we run out of energy and imagination. When that happens, we drive a few miles to a favorite restaurant in order to have someone else do it for us: shop for the food and prepare it, set the table, serve the meal, clear the table, and wash the dishes. A “set” meal: someone else whom we trust does it all for us. All we have to do is pick up the fork that has been set before us, eat the meal that has been set in place, and leave the cleanup to others.

When we are young children, all our meals are set meals, set before us without thought or preparation on our part. Gradually we learn to do it for ourselves and for others as we grow up. But it is still nice to have someone do the work for us when we are tired or without appetite. The analogy to prayer is not exact but it is close enough in this context.

The classic set prayers for Christians and Jews are the psalms. And the most prayed prayer in the church is a set prayer, the Lord's Prayer: “Pray then like this . . .”

Scripture. All prayer is language—language in conversation, conversation between God and us. The most frequent distortion of prayer takes place when we fail to listen to God’s Word to us. We do all the talking, demanding that God do all the listening.

Scripture provides the major way in which God speaks to us. Scripture is a huge story with many voices, but the primary voice is God’s voice. God has the first word. If we are going to get the story straight, it is important that we let God have the first word, and really listen; I mean *really* listen. Jesus’ story of the soils is a story about prayer: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

So if listening is required, silence is indispensable. Silence is a commonly overlooked element of language in general, but it must not be. Especially it must not be overlooked in the language of prayer. It is not as if the Old Testament prophets and poets and the New Testament apostles and Jesus—mainly Jesus, “the Word made flesh”—speak the revelation of God to us, and now in prayer we get to say our piece. Silence in prayer, which consists mostly in attentive listening, is nonnegotiable. Listening, which necessarily requires silence on our part, is as much a part of language as words. The colon and the semicolon, the comma and the period—all of which insist on silence as part and parcel of speech—are as essential to language as nouns and verbs. But more often than not, silence gets short shrift in our prayers. Yet if there is no silence, our speech degenerates into babble.

“But God doesn’t answer. Why don’t I get any answer?” It is the most frequent complaint regarding prayer. The obvious response is “Are you listening? Have you spent as much time listening as you have speaking?”

Only out of disciplined, quiet, attentive listening is it possible then to answer God’s speech in free prayers, unscripted—not “set” this time—prayers responding to the story. We can respond as participants, as we experience our story being assimilated into God’s story. “Let your Bibles become all autobiographical” is the way one pastor, Alexander Whyte, put it.

For Scripture is not basically a book of information in which we learn about “the furniture of heaven and the temperature of hell.” It is not for the most part a history book in which we learn all about

the cultures of the ancient East. And it certainly is not a science text in which we are instructed in the Second Law of Thermodynamics. It is a conversation between God and God's people—us. God creating us and God saving us, while we are given generous time to speak our belief and doubt, our praise and pain—whatever—and while we take our place in this marvelous story that comes together in the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

Eugene H. Peterson
Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology
Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia

HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER BOOK



Each day of prayer contains a number of different elements—an invitation into God's presence, times of quiet, Scripture, free prayer, a set prayer, and a closing blessing. All of this is meant to be experienced as prayer. We may not be used to this way of praying, but think of it as an extended conversation with God—God invites you to be with him; you quietly enjoy his presence, listen to his Word, and respond to him with the reality of your life; and God sends you with his blessing.

Of course, there is freedom within this form. Centuries ago English cleric William Law captured the right balance between our need of a form for prayer and yet the freedom we can enjoy in prayer to follow promptings from the Holy Spirit. His helpful direction is that most “Christians ought to use forms of prayer at all the regular times of prayer. It seems right for every one to begin with a form of prayer. If, in the midst of his devotions, he finds his heart ready to break forth into new and higher strains of devotions, he should leave his form for a while and follow those fervors of his heart, till it again wants the assistance of his usual petitions.”¹

I've attempted to make daily prayer simple. That doesn't mean easy, just uncomplicated. I've often been frustrated with more complex and liturgical prayer books that require flipping pages, finding the right dates, and hunting down portions of Scripture. The mechanics of such over-involved praying became a barrier to actual prayer for me. I've tried to avoid that in this book and have everything you need for one day's prayer on one page.

I'm assuming that most of us don't have the luxury of stopping several times a day for fixed prayer. Instead, I've tried to create a simple office that can be prayed in one session. The time you take can vary, but I hope that you'll leisurely enjoy God's presence;

¹ William Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press 1948), p. 91.

don't race through it, but linger with God. I'd suggest you start by carving out twenty minutes for each day. But see how you might expand that time, enjoying the quiet, dwelling in God's Word. And do think about setting up a regular time to pray. Pick out the time of day when you are most alert and available to God.

I imagine you will do this privately, on your own. Find a quiet and comfortable place where you won't be distracted. But consider this hopeful thought—there may be many others who will be praying with you. If we all pray this daily office together, we may do so privately and yet be connected as a wide community of prayer. Perhaps it might be good to find a local group of people to form a small community centered on praying this office together. You can pray it on your own and yet know that each person is also praying the same prayers and meditating on the same Scriptures—that might help shape coffee conversations or online chats you have throughout the week.

On a macro level, the prayer book follows the seasons and celebrations of the Christian calendar—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time (there's a brief introduction to each season at the beginning of that particular section). The intention in following this calendar is to mark our time with Jesus, taking our lives and placing them in the story of Jesus, allowing the shape and rhythm of his life to shape our days.

You'll notice a box near the beginning of each prayer entry. Since Christian seasons and holidays are not bound to our calendar, they move around from year to year. The box is a simple way for you to find the corresponding calendar date on which to pray your daily prayer.

Within each of the seasons, each day of prayer is a complete “office” to pray. Each day contains a number of elements for you to pray with, either quietly or aloud. Again, consider the whole time as prayer, a gentle conversation with the God who loves you.

Invitation: we begin our prayers invited into God's presence, welcomed into all the reality of the kingdom, of which we are so often unaware. The invitation is a way to open ourselves to the greater gospel reality, to become mindful of God's presence.

Quiet: there are two specific places where you're encouraged to quiet your heart and mind, to enjoy stillness before God. We hardly know what to do with silence in our wired world, with constant communications intruding into our lives. For us to hear God's voice, we must regularly practice silence. Cultivating a stilled, attentive heart before God and quieting down actual noise and internal noise is a vital step in preparing to hear God's voice. You can start with a brief period of silence, but experiment and challenge yourself with longer times of quiet.

Bible Song: each day there will be a psalm to pray. The Psalms have always been the prayer book of God's people—the "school of prayer," as Augustine called them, teaching us to respond to God. We'll be praying a different psalm each day, working our way through the 150 psalms twice in one year. During some seasons, however, we'll focus on a few specific psalms for the season.

Allow the psalm to speak for you or expand your worship of God. There will be times when a psalm does not match or connect with your immediate experience—you may hit a psalm of praise during a difficult time, a lament on a spring day bursting with life. Allow the psalm to move you beyond your immediate reality and experience, deeper into God's reality. And remember you are praying with a wide community of Christians—a specific day's psalm may not fit your circumstance, but it is expressing someone else's experience. Perhaps someone in your church or neighborhood is going through what the psalm is expressing. And it's likely something you'll go through one day, so go to school now and learn how to respond to God with a full range of emotion.

Bible Reading: every day has a further reading from the Bible, a word from God. The Bible readings will follow the particular season, allowing us to read through the story of God's salvation. This is not a time to exegete the text or to read it for information, but to listen for God's voice for you, to allow God's Word to address your life.

Dwelling: this part of the prayer time may be a new way for you to encounter God's Word and listen for his voice. It's rooted in the ancient Christian tradition called *lectio divina*, which is simply a way to read the Bible, slowly, contemplatively, and leisurely, not

seeking information but to hear the personal address of God. *Lectio divina* assumes that prayer is a two-way conversation and enables us to dialogue with Jesus by hearing and responding to the Word of God.

We're used to studying the Bible, analyzing it for truths to understand or mining it for lessons to live out, but we are mostly unschooled in listening to it. The goal of *lectio divina* is to grow in companionship with God, to be a personal participant in the story of God, lovingly listening for God's Word, allowing the text to get into us and read our lives.

How does that happen? Each day there are a series of brief instructions to lead you through this way of listening to Scripture. But let me offer a quick overview.

First, quiet yourself so that you can hear God. Then simply read the Scripture, preferably aloud and slowly. As you do this, listen for the word that addresses you—a word, thought, phrase, or image that grabs your attention, that jumps off the page for you. Don't analyze it or study it, but simply receive this word. (Turn aside any doubts about whether this is God or your imagination; trust that God desires to be in conversation with you and is addressing you.) Then read through the same passage again and listen for the way this word connects with your life. Reflect on how God is addressing your life. Next, enter into conversation with God. Honestly offer to him any feelings this text has surfaced in you, any resistance you feel, any comfort you sense. Ask Jesus, "Why did you give me this word today?" And then, finally, let this word sink deep into your life. Yield yourself to God's direction and leading; rest in his presence.

Free Prayer: as a part of the prayer time, there's opportunity for you to speak your heart to God in a time of free prayer, bringing to God the needs and concerns of your life, family, work, and church. It may seem like an oxymoron, but I've added a few suggested prayer items for the free prayer, in case you are stuck or would like to pray for something in addition to your personal needs.²

² I'm indebted to David Adam's *The Rhythm of Life*. (Harrisburg, Penn.: Morehouse Publishing, 1996) for the idea, and to *The Worship Sourcebook* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2004) for some of the prayer requests.

The suggested free prayer items are focused in a weekly flow of seven daily groupings—Sunday: the resurrection of Jesus and our experience of the risen Jesus; Monday: the created world and our stewardship of it; Tuesday: the incarnation of Jesus and our living out the faith; Wednesday: the world and our local communities; Thursday: the Holy Spirit and spiritual renewal; Friday: the cross of Christ and those who suffer; and Saturday: the Church and our local church family. Each week (usually Sunday) we'll also pray the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer: following the free prayer is a set prayer. Each of these prayers is rooted in a Reformed confession of faith.³ The Reformed confessions are a full and rich theological foundation for the Christian life—thoughtful and soul-nourishing. This is God-reality named clearly. They remain a convincing testimony, deep wisdom to be cherished and absorbed.

But for many people I've met in my pastoral work, both Christians and non-Christians, these confessions seem to have a diminished capacity to connect. The theology remains as relevant as ever, but whether it's the catechetical format, the historical distance, or the language, the confessions seem removed from people's experience and daily lives.

So why not take the living theology that feels remote and bring it close by folding it into the most basic Christian activity of prayer? In these prayers, the content of faith is turned God-ward; it is Christian theology in a kneeling posture. Like honest prayer, sometimes the confessions question or lament, and other times they confess and praise, bringing all of our lives before the face of God.

These historical confessions have provided Christians with a place to stand firm, but they also give us a place to humbly kneel. In fact, those two postures are deeply connected; our personal creed, what we believe, is found and formed in what and how we pray (the Latin motto *lex orandi, lex credendi*). If we can begin to weave these core Christian beliefs into our prayers, most likely we'll find

³ The set prayers flow out of the Belgic Confession, Canons of Dort, Heidelberg Catechism, Westminster Confession, or Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms. Some are word for word renditions, others a prayerful paraphrase, and still others a riff on a phrase or thought from the confessions.

them trickling into our minds, embedded in our hearts, and lived out in our lives.

For some of us, this form of set prayer may be foreign and feel a little stiff. Accept those feelings and yet try to stick with it, allowing the prayers to give a larger voice to your spirit and to grow a fuller prayer life.

Blessing: The time of prayer closes with a final blessing, reminding us of God's good intentions for our lives, sending us out knowing we live in the context of grace.

Enough talk about prayer; now go and seek God's face in prayer. Commune with Father, Son, and Spirit, and give my greetings to God.

Key to Abbreviations

<i>Example</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
BC 2	Belgic Confession, Article 2
CD 1.9	Canons of Dort, First Point, Article 9
HC 5	Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 5
WC 8.2	Westminster Confession, Chapter 8, Point 2
WLC 6	Westminster Larger Catechism, Q&A 6
WSC 7	Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 7

LENT



Introduction

Lent, popularly understood as a season of joyless custom and duty, carries almost too much religious baggage for some people. How then do we keep the gospel front and center in this season of shadows? The cross keeps our gospel focus clear. Lent is a season to journey with Jesus in his passion, to survey the cross, taking the measure of Christ's love in his suffering and death.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is the forty-day season leading up to Easter. (If you count all the days, there are more than forty, but the Sundays are not counted as part of Lent, as they are resurrection celebrations held throughout the season.) It begins with the stark reminder that "from dust you have come and to dust you will return" and leads toward Jesus' final week, marked by Palm Sunday and stopping short of the resurrection celebration of Easter morning. Ashes are a good emblem of Lent, a picture of our own mortality and spiritual condition, a sign of Lent's penitent spirit, and yet a hint of the hope of renewal.

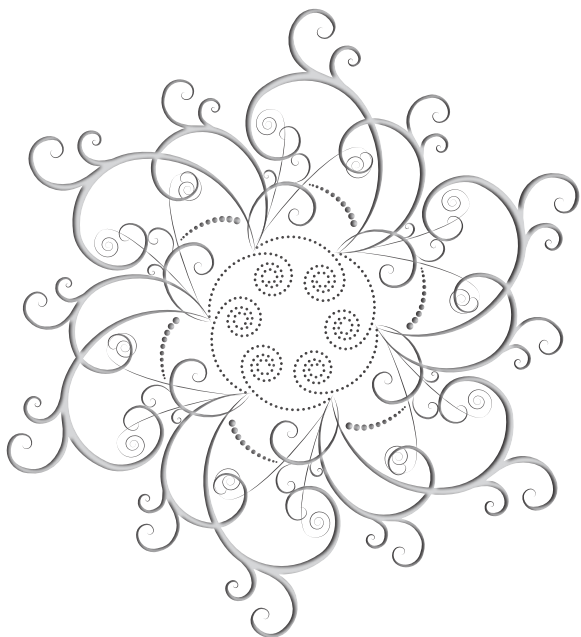
Celebration isn't the word to use for our participation in Lent. It is a somber journey of spiritual preparation and renewal, marked especially by repentance and prayer. In our pain-averse culture, Lent stands apart by not shrinking away from suffering but cultivating in us the wisdom that growth often (some might say only) comes through suffering. In a time and place of religious freedom, where we mostly don't suffer for following Christ, Lent invites us to willingly identify with Christ's suffering through fasting or other forms of self-denial.

The spare and sober nature of Lent is healthy for the heart and true to the gospel, scrubbing away frothy spirituality by calling us to say no to ourselves in order to experience a greater yes in Jesus. It helps to imprint the form of the cross in our lives, recognizing that the news of the risen Lord Jesus is not good without the way of the cross. Lent prepares us to experience the reality of resurrection joy

only by first recognizing the depth of our sin that pinned Christ to the cross.

During Lent, we'll be praying through the psalms of the Passion. This collection of psalms (Ps. 22-30) is widely regarded in the Christian tradition as referring to Jesus' passion. The first of these, Psalm 22, will be kept for Holy Week prayers, while the rest are arranged in a seven-day cycle that we'll repeat each week during Lent.

Lent has a fixed number of days, but since Easter is a moveable feast, Lent begins at variable times on the calendar.



3/9/2011
2/22/2012
2/13/2013
3/5/2014
2/18/2015
2/10/2016
3/1/2017
2/14/2018
3/6/2019
2/26/2020
2/17/2021
3/2/2022
2/22/2023
2/14/2024
3/5/2025
2/18/2026

Ash Wednesday

LENT—DAY 1



INVITATION

*“The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.” (Ps. 145:8)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 51:1-6

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

BIBLE READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-13

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.
It is close at hand—
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness.
Like dawn spreading across the mountains

a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was of old
nor ever will be in ages to come. . . .
“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for our national and local communities
- ❖ for the continent of Africa
- ❖ for lobbyists and advocates for justice and peace

PRAYER

Holy God, corruption is everywhere. For too long sin and disobedience has been our master, ever since the fall of Adam and Eve. And still today, I look around and see this sin that poisons our life. We're all natural born sinners, corrupt from conception on. And I stand as another generation of such born sinners. Lord, have mercy. Amen. (HC 7)

BLESSING

Redeem us from all wickedness, purify us and make us your very own, eager to do what is good. (see Titus 2:14)

3/10/2011

2/23/2012

2/14/2013

3/6/2014

2/19/2015

2/11/2016

3/2/2017

2/15/2018

3/7/2019

2/27/2020

2/18/2021

3/3/2022

2/23/2023

2/15/2024

3/6/2025

2/19/2026

LENT—DAY 2



INVITATION

*“The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.” (Ps. 145:8)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 51:7-13

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.

BIBLE READING: ISAIAH 58:5-7

“Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?”

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for spiritual renewal in this season of Lent
- ❖ for deep heart repentance
- ❖ for a genuine humility born of the gospel

PRAYER

Living God, I confess I have crossed your commandments of life; by my sin I've willingly separated myself from you, my true life. I'm damaged goods. My guilt hangs like dead weight in my heart; I can feel the sentence of death, in my body and soul. There is no health in me. Lord, have mercy. Amen. (BC 14)

BLESSING

Redeem us from all wickedness, purify us and make us your very own, eager to do what is good. (see Titus 2:14)

3/11/2011
2/24/2012
2/15/2013
3/7/2014
2/20/2015
2/12/2016
3/3/2017
2/16/2018
3/8/2019
2/28/2020
2/19/2021
3/4/2022
2/24/2023
2/16/2024
3/7/2025
2/20/2026

LENT—DAY 3



INVITATION

*“The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.” (Ps. 145:8)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 51:14-19

Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

BIBLE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:2

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for deep understanding and gratitude for the cross of Jesus Christ
- ❖ for those living in poverty and suffering injustice
- ❖ for those who are homeless, and those who care for them

PRAYER

Freeing God, help me to face the hard truth about myself, that I am a prisoner to sin. Not only can I do no good without you, I can't even drum up a desire for you unless you first give it to me. Free me from the cramped cell of my sin and reconcile me to yourself through him who had no sin, Jesus my Savior. Amen. (BC 14)

BLESSING

Redeem us from all wickedness, purify us and make us your very own, eager to do what is good. (see Titus 2:14)

3/12/2011
2/25/2012
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LENT—DAY 4



INVITATION

*“The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.” (Ps. 145:8)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;
Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 6:16-21

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to

others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the flourishing of Christ's church everywhere
- ❖ for worship that glorifies God and gathers, unites, and blesses his people
- ❖ for elders and other leaders

PRAYER

Creator God, I praise you for creating humanity good, in your own image. Despite the regularity of evil wickedness I see in the world, despite my own twisted ways, this is not the way it is supposed to be. I'm meant to know you, to love you with all my heart, and to live with you in eternal happiness. Today, equip me to move in the direction of your created purposes for me. In Christ's name, amen. (HC 6)

BLESSING

Redeem us from all wickedness, purify us and make us your very own, eager to do what is good. (see Titus 2:14)

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3/10/2019
3/1/2020
2/21/2021
3/6/2022
2/26/2023
2/18/2024
3/9/2025
2/22/2026

First Sunday in Lent



INVITATION

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 30:1-5

I will exalt you, LORD,

for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

LORD my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.

You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for fellowship with the crucified and risen Jesus
- ❖ for spiritual renewal and refreshment

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

God of grace, I can't go very long without sin showing up somewhere again in my life. It's tiring to think that I carry this sin around with me, in me. It's a family curse that I've inherited, like a genetic deficiency that plagues my life and infects my living. Lord, be my help and my health. Amen. (BC 15)

BLESSING

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8)

3/14/2011

2/27/2012

2/18/2013

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3/6/2017

2/19/2018

3/11/2019

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2/22/2021

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LENT—DAY 5



INVITATION

*“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves
those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 24

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who do not put their trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.

Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.

BIBLE READING: 1 JOHN 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the wonder of creation
- ❖ for the care of a broken creation
- ❖ for our capacity to see God in all things, every creature a word or book from God

PRAYER

Bright God, shine your light into my darkness; although I'm home, the lights are out. I'm scared in the dark, and yet I avoid your demanding light—who knows what it might reveal in me? Who knows what you might ask me to change? And so I choose darkness over your light. Only the light of your love can change me. Jesus, shine in me. Amen. (BC 14)

BLESSING

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

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2/24/2026

LENT—DAY 6



INVITATION

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 25:1-7

In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.
Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.

BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, "It is also 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. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the call to follow Christ in your home, neighborhood, and workplace
- ❖ for our capacity to serve the common good
- ❖ for those who work in medicine; health professionals

PRAYER

Suffering Savior, thank you for the confidence I have to come to you when I stumble in sin. You're not shocked by my sin, and you don't turn away from me because of my weakness. You know the lure of sin because you were tempted in all things, so you can help me in my struggle against sin. I turn to you, compassionate Savior: help me today. Amen. (BC 26)

BLESSING

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8)

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2/25/2026

LENT—DAY 7



INVITATION

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 26:1-3, 9-12

Vindicate me, LORD,

for I have led a blameless life;

I have trusted in the LORD

and have not faltered.

Test me, LORD, and try me,

examine my heart and my mind;

for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love

and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness. . . .

Do not take away my soul along with sinners,

my life with those who are bloodthirsty,

in whose hands are wicked schemes,

whose right hands are full of bribes.

I lead a blameless life;

redeem me and be merciful to me.

My feet stand on level ground;

in the great congregation I will praise the LORD.

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for governments, leaders, and the needs of our world
- ❖ for the continent of Asia
- ❖ for areas of hunger, famine, and disease—that none may go hungry

PRAYER

Forgiving God, the world is bent over with brokenness, weighed down with sin that spreads through the human race and sprouts up misery everywhere. It's a wonder you don't uproot the whole tangled mess and end it all—but you promised not to do that. I praise you for your bow of mercy that is now bent over the world, for the freedom from sin I can know in the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen. (BC 15)

BLESSING

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8)

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2/26/2026

LENT—DAY 8



INVITATION

*“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves
those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 27:1-3, 9-10, 13-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident. . . .

Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will receive me. . . .

I remain confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;

be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.

BIBLE READING: ROMANS 10:9-13

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a yearning to know God and the diligence to seek him
- ❖ for the fullness of the Spirit of Christ
- ❖ for family members and friends who do not yet have faith

PRAYER

God of truth, I don't like to face the sin in me—it's ugly and frightening. But avoiding it only gets me tangled deeper in deception. So give me the courage to take an honest look at myself, and may that honesty make me long more and more for your salvation that sets me free from this body of death. In Christ's name, amen. (BC 15)

BLESSING

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

3/18/2011

3/2/2012

2/22/2013

3/14/2014

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3/10/2017

2/23/2018

3/15/2019

3/6/2020

2/26/2021

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3/3/2023

2/23/2024

3/14/2025

2/27/2026

LENT—DAY 9



INVITATION

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 28:1-2, 6-7

To you, LORD, I call;
you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your Most Holy Place. . . .

Praise be to the LORD,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

BIBLE READING: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6A

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and human beings, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for an abiding wonder at Christ's sacrifice
- ❖ for our capacity to suffer with others
- ❖ for those who are victims of crime, and those who support them

PRAYER

Gracious Lord, thank you for your big heart that wishes no one to be lost, but everyone to be saved. Today, we bring to you our family and friends who remain lost without Christ (take a moment to bring to God the names of those you know far from Jesus). We pray that your Spirit would bring them to Christ in faith so they might find new life. In the Savior's name, amen. (HC 20)

BLESSING

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8)

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2/27/2021

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3/4/2023

2/24/2024

3/15/2025

2/28/2026

LENT—DAY 10



INVITATION

*“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves
those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 29:1-5, 9-11

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. . . .

The voice of the LORD twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare.
And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

BIBLE READING: 1 PETER 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. In that state he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long

ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God’s Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a deep missional identity to mark the local church
- ❖ for servant leadership, kingdom vision, godly stewardship, and effective organization of the local church
- ❖ for deacons and others who serve

PRAYER

Persuasive God, I know it sounds odd, but sometimes my sin seems too big and ugly even for you. Keep me from adding to my sin by thinking that your power can’t forgive me now. Convince my unbelieving heart that through Christ’s sufferings I’m forgiven and forever right with you. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. (HC 21)

BLESSING

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

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3/17/2019

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2/28/2021

3/13/2022

3/5/2023

2/25/2024

3/16/2025

3/1/2026

Second Sunday in Lent



INVITATION

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” (Ps. 145:13)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 30:1, 6-12

I will exalt you, LORD,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me. . . .

When I felt secure, I said,
“I will never be shaken.”

LORD, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain stand firm;
but when you hid your face,
I was dismayed.

To you, LORD, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:
“What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?
Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me;
LORD, be my help.”

You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 12:1-4

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God’s presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God’s presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for resurrection hope and joy
- ❖ for sharing the good news of the living Jesus

THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRAYER

Good God, you didn’t turn your back on a world plunged up to its neck in physical and spiritual death but set out to rescue it. I worship you for your resolute goodness and wisdom that sought and found me; I thank you for the blessing that has come to me in Jesus, and pray that my life may be a blessing to others. Amen. (BC 17)

BLESSING

“I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.” (Ps. 130:5)

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2/26/2024

3/17/2025

3/2/2026

LENT—DAY 11



INVITATION

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” (Ps. 145:13)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 24

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who do not put their trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 15:1-5

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,
your very great reward.”

But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for our role as caretakers of creation
- ❖ for wise stewardship of our physical resources
- ❖ for our commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle

PRAYER

Promise-making God, you come to us sinners with a vision beyond our wildest dreams and seal it with a covenant. Like Abraham, may we wholeheartedly believe in your promises, and, believing, be covered in your righteousness. Amen. (BC 19)

BLESSING

“I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.” (Ps. 130:5)

3/22/2011

3/6/2012

2/26/2013

3/18/2014

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2/23/2016

3/14/2017

2/27/2018

3/19/2019

3/10/2020

3/2/2021

3/15/2022

3/7/2023

2/27/2024

3/18/2025

3/3/2026

LENT—DAY 12



INVITATION

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” (Ps. 145:13)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 25:8-14

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.
All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.
For the sake of your name, LORD,
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Who, then, are those who fear the LORD?
He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.
They will spend their days in prosperity,
and their descendants will inherit the land.
The LORD confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them.

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a love of and commitment to the communities in which God has placed us
- ❖ for God to equip us to serve in uniquely Christian ways in the public arena
- ❖ for those who work in education

PRAYER

Covenant God, thank you for your promises, which are full of blessing and life. Thank you most for your promise to send your Son, the powerful Jesus, to crush the head of the devil and to bring my life blessing. In the strong name of Jesus, amen. (BC 17)

BLESSING

“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.” (Ps. 130:5)

3/23/2011

3/7/2012

2/27/2013

3/19/2014

3/4/2015

2/24/2016

3/15/2017

2/28/2018

3/20/2019

3/11/2020

3/3/2021

3/16/2022

3/8/2023

2/28/2024

3/19/2025

3/4/2026

LENT—DAY 13



INVITATION

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” (Ps. 145:13)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 26

Vindicate me, LORD,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the LORD
and have not faltered.
Test me, LORD, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;
for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

I do not sit with the deceitful,
nor do I associate with hypocrites.
I abhor the assembly of evildoers
and refuse to sit with the wicked.
I wash my hands in innocence,
and go about your altar, LORD,
proclaiming aloud your praise
and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

LORD, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells.
Do not take away my soul along with sinners,
my life with those who are bloodthirsty,
in whose hands are wicked schemes,
whose right hands are full of bribes.

I lead a blameless life;
redeem me and be merciful to me.
My feet stand on level ground;
in the great congregation I will praise the LORD.

BIBLE READING: ROMANS 4:1-5

What then shall we say that Abraham, the forefather of us Jews, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Now to anyone who works, their wages are not credited to them as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to anyone who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for governments, leaders, and the needs of our world
- ❖ for the continent of North America
- ❖ for areas of war and strife, that divisions and conflicts may cease

PRAYER

God of boundless mercy, I come empty-handed, confessing the bankruptcy of my works and drawing on your infinite grace by faith. Thank you for the gift of righteousness in Jesus, who was made to be sin and a curse in my place, on the cross, making me right with you. In the Savior's name, amen. (CD 2.2)

BLESSING

“I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.” (Ps. 130:5)

3/24/2011

3/8/2012

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3/20/2014

3/5/2015

2/25/2016

3/16/2017

3/1/2018

3/21/2019

3/12/2020

3/4/2021

3/17/2022

3/9/2023

2/29/2024

3/20/2025

3/5/2026

LENT—DAY 14



INVITATION

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” (Ps. 145:13)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 27:1-5

The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle
and set me high upon a rock.

BIBLE READING: ROMANS 4:13-17

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a rich understanding of the gospel
- ❖ for the full experience of our adoption as God's children
- ❖ for racial reconciliation

PRAYER

Father, I praise you for the story of salvation you reveal in the Bible. Good news spills out on every page—in the created goodness of Eden, through your promises to Abraham and the pointed proclamations of the prophets, even in the strange sacrifices and ceremonies of the law. And of course, I hear the gospel most clearly in your dear Son, Jesus. In his name I pray, amen. (HC 19)

BLESSING

"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." (Ps. 130:5)

3/25/2011

3/9/2012

3/1/2013

3/21/2014

3/6/2015

2/26/2016

3/17/2017

3/2/2018

3/22/2019

3/13/2020

3/5/2021

3/18/2022

3/10/2023

3/1/2024

3/21/2025

3/6/2026

LENT—DAY 15



INVITATION

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” (Ps. 145:13)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 28:1-6

To you, LORD, I call;
you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your Most Holy Place.

Do not drag me away with the wicked,
with those who do evil,
who speak cordially with their neighbors
but harbor malice in their hearts.

Repay them for their deeds
and for their evil work;
repay them for what their hands have done
and bring back on them what they deserve.

Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD
and what his hands have done,
he will tear them down
and never build them up again.

Praise be to the LORD,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.

BIBLE READING: ROMANS 4:18-25

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a commitment to follow the way of the cross, giving up our rights to serve others
- ❖ for the capacity to do justice and show mercy
- ❖ for those whose needs cannot be spoken and suffer in silence

PRAYER

Lord God, grow in me an unwavering faith that is more than head knowledge, greater than a conviction of the will, but also a deep-rooted assurance in my heart that all your promises are sure and everything you say is true. In Christ's name, amen. (HC 21)

BLESSING

“I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.” (Ps. 130:5)

3/26/2011

3/10/2012

3/2/2013

3/22/2014

3/7/2015

2/27/2016

3/18/2017

3/3/2018

3/23/2019

3/14/2020

3/6/2021

3/19/2022

3/11/2023

3/2/2024

3/22/2025

3/7/2026

LENT—DAY 16



INVITATION

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” (Ps. 145:13)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 29:1-4, 9-11

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic. . . .

The voice of the LORD twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare.

And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

BIBLE READING: JOHN 3:1-8

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again."

"How can anyone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the church to work for the common good and benefit of all people
- ❖ for care, love, and community to be experienced by all in the church
- ❖ for effective preaching of the Word

PRAYER

God of new birth, may the mysterious wind of your Spirit blow in my heart today. May new life, born again in the womb of the Spirit, grow in me, as I live my life in the presence and power of your kingdom. Amen.
(CD 3/4.12)

BLESSING

"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." (Ps. 130:5)

3/27/2011
3/11/2012
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3/19/2017
3/4/2018
3/24/2019
3/15/2020
3/7/2021
3/20/2022
3/12/2023
3/3/2024
3/23/2025
3/8/2026

Third Sunday in Lent



INVITATION

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa. 6:3)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 30:1-5

I will exalt you, LORD,

for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

LORD my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.

You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

BIBLE READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?”

But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for fellowship with the crucified and risen Jesus
- ❖ for spiritual renewal and refreshment

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

Patient God, even on this journey of faith, where I experience your presence and provision, I grumble, gripe, and turn away from you. Today, may I know the embrace of your grace more than the grip of sin, and may my complaints be turned to praise. In Christ's name, amen.
(CD 5.1)

BLESSING

"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are those whose sin the LORD does not count against them." (Ps. 32:1-2)

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3/5/2018
3/25/2019
3/16/2020
3/8/2021
3/21/2022
3/13/2023
3/4/2024
3/24/2025
3/9/2026

LENT—DAY 17



INVITATION

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa. 6:3)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 24:1-5

The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who do not put their trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.

BIBLE READING: EXODUS 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words:

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of
the land of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of
anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters
below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the
LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the
sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who
hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who
love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the
LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God’s presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God’s presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the eyes to see God’s work in the world around us
- ❖ for God’s care and comfort in natural disasters
- ❖ for those at the forefront of caring for creation

PRAYER

High and powerful God, every day I fall short of living up to your law. Why do I so easily fall into temptation and live in reckless disobedience? I’m weak, God, and I need Jesus. Amen. (HC 9)

BLESSING

“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are those whose sin the LORD does not count against them.” (Ps. 32:1-2)

3/29/2011
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3/6/2018
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3/17/2020
3/9/2021
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3/14/2023
3/5/2024
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3/10/2026

LENT—DAY 18



INVITATION

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa. 6:3)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 25:1-3, 16-22

In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause. . . .

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart
and free me from my anguish.
Look on my affliction and my distress
and take away all my sins.
See how numerous are my enemies
and how fiercely they hate me!

Guard my life and rescue me;
do not let me be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, LORD, is in you.

Redeem Israel, O God,
from all their troubles!

BIBLE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-5, 11-13

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. . . .

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to us all. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the call to follow Christ in your home, neighborhood, and workplace
- ❖ for our capacity to be a blessing to all those around us
- ❖ for those who work in agriculture

PRAYER

Living God, I mistakenly presume that your mercy takes the edge of offense from my sin, but a glimpse of your supreme majesty sobers me. My sin is an offense so serious that its penalty is eternal punishment of body and soul. Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy. Amen. (HC 11)

BLESSING

"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are those whose sin the LORD does not count against them." (Ps. 32:1-2)

3/30/2011
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3/7/2018
3/27/2019
3/18/2020
3/10/2021
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3/11/2026

LENT—DAY 19



INVITATION

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa. 6:3)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 26:1-3, 8-9

Vindicate me, LORD,
for I have led a blameless life;

I have trusted in the LORD
and have not faltered.

Test me, LORD, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;
for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness. . . .

LORD, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells.
Do not take away my soul along with sinners,
my life with those who are bloodthirsty,

BIBLE READING: JOHN 2:13-22

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for our national and local communities
- ❖ for the continent of South America
- ❖ for the poor and local poverty issues

PRAYER

Merciful and just God, I rage against the regularity of evil in the world. Thank you that you are a just judge and will punish all such sin, now and in eternity. Yet when the tables get turned, I see how puny my anger is next to yours. And along with justice, I pray for mercy. Forgive me in Jesus' name, amen. (HC 10)

BLESSING

"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are those whose sin the LORD does not count against them." (Ps. 32:1-2)

3/31/2011
3/15/2012
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3/8/2018
3/28/2019
3/19/2020
3/11/2021
3/24/2022
3/16/2023
3/7/2024
3/27/2025
3/12/2026

LENT—DAY 20



INVITATION

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa. 6:3)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 27:1-5

The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle
and set me high upon a rock.

BIBLE READING: LUKE 13:1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus

answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God’s Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for growth in holiness
- ❖ for God to uncover the idols of our hearts
- ❖ for God’s forgiveness, and for the readiness to extend it to others

PRAYER

Sovereign God, the pathways of your purpose are beyond human understanding. As we experience the groaning of creation in human evil and natural disaster, help us discern both your justice and your mercy, always ready to repent of our sins and always eager to walk again in your ways. Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen. (BC 13)

BLESSING

“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are those whose sin the LORD does not count against them.” (Ps. 32:1-2)

4/1/2011
3/16/2012
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3/29/2019
3/20/2020
3/12/2021
3/25/2022
3/17/2023
3/8/2024
3/28/2025
3/13/2026

LENT—DAY 21



INVITATION

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa. 6:3)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 28:1-2, 6-7

To you, LORD, I call;
you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your Most Holy Place. . . .

Praise be to the LORD,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

BIBLE READING: ISAIAH 55:1-3, 6-7

“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.” . . .

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a thorough survey of the cross of Jesus Christ
- ❖ for those living in poverty and suffering injustice
- ❖ for those who are facing temptations

PRAYER

True God, who can save? So many pretenders serve up hollow promises, but it's all foolishness. No one else can release me from my punishment; no program can set me right with you. Turn me again to Jesus, the only true deliverer, and clear me from my sin. Amen. (HC 14)

BLESSING

“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are those whose sin the LORD does not count against them.” (Ps. 32:1-2)

4/2/2011

3/17/2012

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3/21/2020

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3/18/2023

3/9/2024

3/29/2025

3/14/2026

LENT—DAY 22



INVITATION

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa. 6:3)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,
Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD strikes
with flashes of lightning.

The voice of the LORD shakes the desert;
the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare.

And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

BIBLE READING: ROMANS 5:6-11

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for unity and holiness in the church
- ❖ for specific people in your church community
- ❖ for teachers and small group leaders in your church

PRAYER

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, I praise you, worship you, and love you. On the cross you shouldered the weight of God's just anger against my sin and restored for me righteousness and life, setting me completely free and making me right with God. There are not enough words to thank you, my Savior. Amen. (HC 17-18)

BLESSING

"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are those whose sin the LORD does not count against them." (Ps. 32:1-2)

4/3/2011
3/18/2012
3/10/2013
3/30/2014
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3/11/2018
3/31/2019
3/22/2020
3/14/2021
3/27/2022
3/19/2023
3/10/2024
3/30/2025
3/15/2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent



INVITATION

*“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 30:1-2, 8-12

I will exalt you, LORD,

for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

LORD my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me. . . .

To you, LORD, I called;

to the Lord I cried for mercy:

“What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me;

LORD, be my help.”

You turned my wailing into dancing;

you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.

LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

BIBLE READING: NUMBERS 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for resurrection hope and joy
- ❖ for sharing the good news of the living Jesus

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

Thank you, graceful God, for your deliverance of my life, for the goodness of the rescue you have provided through Christ, lifted high on the cross like the snake in the wilderness. I live under your shining favor, your beautiful, crazy grace. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Amen.
(HC 86)

BLESSING

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26)

4/4/2011

3/19/2012

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3/31/2014

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3/7/2016

3/27/2017

3/12/2018

4/1/2019

3/23/2020

3/15/2021

3/28/2022

3/20/2023

3/11/2024

3/31/2025

3/16/2026

LENT—DAY 23



INVITATION

*“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

BIBLE READING: JOHN 3:14-21

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. All those who do evil hate the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But those who live by the truth come into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the perplexing harshness in creation
- ❖ for the care of a groaning creation
- ❖ for environmental concerns and issues

PRAYER

God my Redeemer, it was your prodigal love that sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be lifted up on the cross—a love that seeks and saves the lost. As I trust in Jesus today, may I know your love that withholds the condemnation I deserve, and lavishes the acceptance I do not. Amen.
(WC 7.3)

BLESSING

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

4/5/2011

3/20/2012

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4/1/2014

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3/28/2017

3/13/2018

4/2/2019

3/24/2020

3/16/2021

3/29/2022

3/21/2023

3/12/2024

4/1/2025

3/17/2026

LENT—DAY 24



INVITATION

*“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 25:1-3, 16-22

In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause. . . .

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart
and free me from my anguish.
Look on my affliction and my distress
and take away all my sins.
See how numerous are my enemies
and how fiercely they hate me!

Guard my life and rescue me;
do not let me be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, LORD, is in you.

Redeem Israel, O God,
from all their troubles!

BIBLE READING: LUKE 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God’s presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God’s presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the call to follow Christ in your home, neighborhood, and workplace
- ❖ for an increased capacity to selflessly serve the common good
- ❖ for those who work in government

PRAYER

Loving Father, let me hear your gracious call—not in preening religiosity, comparing myself with others, but in desperate humility, casting myself on your mercy. As I pray, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner,” so may I live this day justified and free in the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen. (WC 10.2)

BLESSING

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

4/6/2011

3/21/2012

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4/2/2014

3/18/2015

3/9/2016

3/29/2017

3/14/2018

4/3/2019

3/25/2020

3/17/2021

3/30/2022

3/22/2023

3/13/2024

4/2/2025

3/18/2026

LENT—DAY 25



INVITATION

*“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 26:1-3, 6-10

Vindicate me, LORD,

for I have led a blameless life;

I have trusted in the LORD

and have not faltered.

Test me, LORD, and try me,

examine my heart and my mind;

for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love

and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness. . . .

I wash my hands in innocence,

and go about your altar, LORD,

proclaiming aloud your praise

and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

LORD, I love the house where you live,

the place where your glory dwells.

Do not take away my soul along with sinners,

my life with those who are bloodthirsty,

in whose hands are wicked schemes,

whose right hands are full of bribes.

BIBLE READING: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and

following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for governments, leaders, and the needs of our world
- ❖ for the continent of Europe
- ❖ for affordable local housing and the homeless

PRAYER

Saving Lord, you save me from sin by Christ’s death, but you also raise me with him to a new life. Because I am grafted into Christ, strengthen me this day to walk in that new life, producing good fruits of gratitude. Amen. (HC 64)

BLESSING

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

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3/26/2020
3/18/2021
3/31/2022
3/23/2023
3/14/2024
4/3/2025
3/19/2026

LENT—DAY 26



INVITATION

*“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 27:1, 9-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid? . . .

Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will receive me.

Teach me your way, LORD;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.

BIBLE READING: ROMANS 6:8-14

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for spiritual renewal in this season of Lent
- ❖ for deep heart repentance and a genuine humility born of the gospel
- ❖ for new relationships with non-Christians

PRAYER

Surprising God, who would have thought that dying was good? My instinct is to avoid it. But, in Jesus, I see that dying is the way to life. Equip me to do what is so difficult—to die to myself and become new. May I be genuinely sorry for my sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it. Amen. (HC 89)

BLESSING

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

4/8/2011
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3/31/2017
3/16/2018
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3/27/2020
3/19/2021
4/1/2022
3/24/2023
3/15/2024
4/4/2025
3/20/2026

LENT—DAY 27



INVITATION

*“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 28:1-6

To you, LORD, I call;
you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your Most Holy Place.

Do not drag me away with the wicked,
with those who do evil,
who speak cordially with their neighbors
but harbor malice in their hearts.

Repay them for their deeds
and for their evil work;
repay them for what their hands have done
and bring back on them what they deserve.

Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD
and what his hands have done,
he will tear them down
and never build them up again.

Praise be to the LORD,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.

BIBLE READING: MARK 8:34-38

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for you to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul? Or what can you give in exchange for your soul? If any of you are ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for rich gratitude and wonder at Christ's sacrifice
- ❖ to follow the way of the cross and increase our capacity to suffer with others
- ❖ for those who struggle with marital difficulties

PRAYER

God of new creations, I search to find real life, but my attempts are ashes because I've failed to understand the gospel mystery, that I need to die to come alive. Teach me to repent, and provide me with the faith and courage to give myself away and so let your new life fill me. In Jesus' name, amen. (HC 88)

BLESSING

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26)

4/9/2011
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3/17/2018
4/6/2019
3/28/2020
3/20/2021
4/2/2022
3/25/2023
3/16/2024
4/5/2025
3/21/2026

LENT—DAY 28



INVITATION

*“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)*

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 29:1-4, 8-11

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic. . . .

The voice of the LORD shakes the desert;
the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare.

And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

BIBLE READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all
goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the
Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but

rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the flourishing of Christ's church everywhere
- ❖ for worship that glorifies God and gathers, unites, and blesses his people
- ❖ for those who live as single persons in our church communities

PRAYER

Giving God and source of every good thing, forgive me for turning away from you to seek out good in what I think is right or in the latest fads all around me. Turn me again in faith to you and your shining presence. Let me live as a child of light, doing everything good that fits with your law. In Christ's name, amen. (HC 91)

BLESSING

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

4/10/2011
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4/3/2022
3/26/2023
3/17/2024
4/6/2025
3/22/2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent



INVITATION

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Ps. 145:17-18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 30:1-5

I will exalt you, LORD,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
LORD my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.
You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

BIBLE READING: JOHN 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.” He did not say this

because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for resurrection hope and joy
- ❖ for sharing the good news of the cross

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

Beautiful Savior, what can I offer to you for the lavish gift of your loving sacrifice? I joyfully offer you my life, my worship, my treasure, my time, and a willing delight to do every kind of good. Amen. (HC 90)

BLESSING

“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:11-12)

4/11/2011

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3/23/2026

LENT—DAY 29



INVITATION

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Ps. 145:17-18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 24:1-6

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who do not put their trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

BIBLE READING: JOHN 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Those who love their life will lose it, while those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for our role as caretakers of creation
- ❖ for wise stewardship of our physical resources
- ❖ for those who work in natural resources

PRAYER

Why, God, would you give up your glory to take on our broken human nature? Why, Jesus, would you come to the scene of our crimes with the purpose of bearing our punishment? Why would you bitterly suffer and die for us, unless this is glory. Where comprehension fails, help me to simply receive this marvelous mystery in faith. Amen. (BC 20)

BLESSING

“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:11-12)

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3/24/2026

LENT—DAY 30



INVITATION

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Ps. 145:17-18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 25:1-3, 20-21

In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust. . . .
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause. . . .

Guard my life and rescue me;
do not let me be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, LORD, is in you.

BIBLE READING: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come

upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live. . . .’”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a love of and commitment to our communities
- ❖ for God to equip us to serve Christ in the public arena
- ❖ for the sacrificial service of police and other emergency workers

PRAYER

Lord God, by an entirely supernatural work, not less than a new creation, you brought me from death to life. For this, and all your mercy, I thank you. In Jesus' name, amen. (CD 2.12)

BLESSING

“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:11-12)

4/13/2011

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3/24/2021

4/6/2022

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3/20/2024

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3/25/2026

LENT—DAY 31



INVITATION

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Ps. 145:17-18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 26:1, 8-12

Vindicate me, LORD,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the LORD
and have not faltered. . . .

LORD, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells.
Do not take away my soul along with sinners,
my life with those who are bloodthirsty,
in whose hands are wicked schemes,
whose right hands are full of bribes.
I lead a blameless life;
redeem me and be merciful to me.
My feet stand on level ground;
in the great congregation I will praise the LORD.

BIBLE READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10

In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,
“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”
And he says in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”

During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could

save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for our national and local communities
- ❖ for the continent of Australia
- ❖ for military personnel and peacekeepers throughout the world

PRAYER

Jesus, friend of sinners—what friend would stand in my place like you? You presented yourself in my name, taking the wrath that was aimed at me; you offered yourself on the cross, pouring out your precious blood for the cleansing of all my sins. Thank you Jesus, my friend, my Savior and High Priest forever. Amen. (BC 21)

BLESSING

“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:11-12)

4/14/2011

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3/25/2021

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3/26/2026

LENT—DAY 32



INVITATION

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Ps. 145:17-18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 27:7-14

Hear my voice when I call, LORD;
be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”

Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will receive me.

Teach me your way, LORD;
lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.

BIBLE READING: ISAIAH 43:16-21

This is what the LORD says—
he who made a way through the sea,

a path through the mighty waters,
who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a yearning to know Christ crucified
- ❖ for the joy of salvation to be experienced
- ❖ for family members and friends who do not yet have faith

PRAYER

Everlasting God, in your boundless love you are doing a new thing. In Jesus, the only mediator, you have redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified me, with all your people. Continue that salvation in me today, through Jesus Christ, my mighty Savior, amen. (WC 8.1)

BLESSING

“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:11-12)

4/15/2011

3/30/2012

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4/11/2014

3/27/2015

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4/7/2017

3/23/2018

4/12/2019

4/3/2020

3/26/2021

4/8/2022

3/31/2023

3/22/2024

4/11/2025

3/27/2026

LENT—DAY 33



INVITATION

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Ps. 145:17-18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 28:1-2, 6-7

To you, LORD, I call;
you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your Most Holy Place. . . .

Praise be to the LORD,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

BIBLE READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

If others think they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose

sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the Christlike ability to deny ourselves and serve others
- ❖ for the commitment to do justice and show mercy
- ❖ for those who are divorced and separated

PRAYER

Father, I seek to know nothing but Jesus and him crucified. When I take the full measure of your love in the cross, any worth I might think I have pales in contrast to the beauty and wonder of knowing Jesus Christ. I find comfort in his wounds and life in his death, which renders me perfect forever. Amen. (BC 21)

BLESSING

“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:11-12)

4/16/2011

3/31/2012

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3/24/2018

4/13/2019

4/4/2020

3/27/2021

4/9/2022

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3/23/2024

4/12/2025

3/28/2026

LENT—DAY 34



INVITATION

“The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Ps. 145:17-18)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 29:1-5, 9-11

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. . . .

The voice of the LORD twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare.

And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 31:33B-34

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah. . . .

“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
No longer will they teach their neighbors,
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you?
Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or
mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn
your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a deep missional identity to mark the local church
- ❖ for servant leadership, kingdom vision, godly stewardship, and effective organization of the local church
- ❖ for willing hearts to serve, and gratitude for faithful service

PRAYER

Promise-keeping God, your covenant of grace, ratified with Abraham and renewed by the prophetic word, stands complete in Jesus Christ. In the new covenant of his death and resurrection I have full forgiveness and eternal salvation. May I live today in covenant faithfulness with you and my neighbor. Amen. (WC 7.5)

BLESSING

“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:11-12)

4/17/2011

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4/5/2020

3/28/2021

4/10/2022

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3/24/2024

4/13/2025

3/29/2026

Palm Sunday (Holy Week)



INVITATION

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 22:1-8

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the praise of Israel.

In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

They cried to you and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm, not a human being;

I am scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.”

BIBLE READING: LUKE 19:28-40

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt

tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God’s presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God’s presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for fellowship with the royal and risen Jesus
- ❖ for spiritual renewal and refreshment for everyone this week

THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRAYER

Mighty God, we look for salvation and security in many different places. We confess we’re tempted to seek out a pumped-up Savior of power who would flex rippling muscles. Prepare our hearts to welcome our humble servant-king, Jesus, finding in him all we need for our salvation. Amen. (HC 30)

BLESSING

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Rev. 5:12)

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3/29/2021

4/11/2022

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3/25/2024

4/14/2025

3/30/2026

LENT—DAY 35



INVITATION

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 22:1, 8-11

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning? . . .

“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,

“let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him,

since he delights in him.”

Yet you brought me out of the womb;

you made me feel secure on my mother’s breast.

From birth I was cast on you;

from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near

and there is no one to help.

BIBLE READING: LUKE 22:7-22

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

“Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.”

They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!"

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the eyes to see God's work in the world around us
- ❖ for God's care and comfort in natural disasters and a creation that groans
- ❖ for creative new conservation technologies

PRAYER

Perfect God, I bow my knee before the wisdom of the cross. The death of your spotless Son is the only and entirely complete sacrifice and satisfaction for my sins. It is of infinite value and worth, more than enough to cover not only mine but the sins of the whole world. Amen. (CD 2.3)

BLESSING

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Rev. 5:12)

4/19/2011

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3/26/2013

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3/30/2021

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3/26/2024

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3/31/2026

LENT—DAY 36



INVITATION

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 22:1, 15-19A

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning? . . .

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.

All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.

They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.

But you, LORD, do not be far from me.

BIBLE READING: LUKE 22:39-53

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you’d like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God’s presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the call to follow Christ in your home, neighborhood, and workplace
- ❖ for our capacity to selflessly serve the common good
- ❖ for those who work in service to others

PRAYER

Crucified Lord, this week help me to remember how you sustained, in body and soul, the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race. Thank you for standing in my place, setting me free from eternal condemnation, and gaining for me God’s grace, righteousness, and eternal life. Amen. (HC 37)

BLESSING

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Rev. 5:12)

4/20/2011
4/4/2012
3/27/2013
4/16/2014
4/1/2015
3/23/2016
4/12/2017
3/28/2018
4/17/2019
4/8/2020
3/31/2021
4/13/2022
4/5/2023
3/27/2024
4/16/2025
4/1/2026

LENT—DAY 37



INVITATION

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 22:1-8

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the praise of Israel.

In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

They cried to you and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm, not a human being;

I am scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.”

BIBLE READING: LUKE 22:54-65

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”

But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" And they said many other insulting things to him.

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again, perhaps out loud...how has God's Word moved you? Ponder and meditate what has connected with your heart or mind...pray to God what it is that has moved you today...turn your thoughts to God and quietly enjoy being with him.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for governments, leaders, and the needs of our world
- ❖ for the continent of Antarctica
- ❖ for courts and judges

PRAYER

God, in Peter's betrayal, I see my own. In blindness of soul and hardness of heart, I turn my back on you, full of pride and fear. One glance from your bloodied face and I see my utter failure. Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen. (WLC 28)

BLESSING

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Rev. 5:12)

4/21/2011
4/5/2012
3/28/2013
4/17/2014
4/2/2015
3/24/2016
4/13/2017
3/29/2018
4/18/2019
4/9/2020
4/1/2021
4/14/2022
4/6/2023
3/28/2024
4/17/2025
4/2/2026

Maundy Thursday

LENT—DAY 38



INVITATION

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 22:1-5, 23B-24, 26

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the praise of Israel.

In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

They cried to you and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not disappointed. . . .

Revere him,
all you descendants of Israel!
For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help. . . .

The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!

BIBLE READING: LUKE 22:7-8, 14-22

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” . . .

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!"

Quiet

DWELLING

Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read again...notice how God might be speaking to you through his Word—dwell on a word or phrase that jumps out at you...let your heart respond to God in prayer...take refreshment in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for a rich understanding of the gospel
- ❖ for the love of Jesus to flow from me to others
- ❖ for vibrant prayer lives

PRAYER

Lamb of God, at the last supper you gave us the spiritual table by which you continue to communicate yourself and all your benefits to us. May this meal nourish, strengthen, and comfort our poor, desperate souls with your life-giving body and blood today and every time we gather around it. Amen. (BC 35)

BLESSING

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Rev. 5:12)

Good Friday

LENT—DAY 39



INVITATION

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 22:1, 7-8, 18-19

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning? . . .

All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.” . . .

They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.

But you, LORD, do not be far from me.

You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

BIBLE READING: MARK 15:25-39

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!”

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come

down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Quiet

DWELLING

Read again slowly...find a word or phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart...slowly repeat it...pray your thoughts, desires, needs, and feelings from your meditation...enjoy the presence of your Lord and Savior.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for deep gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross
- ❖ for our capacity to suffer with others
- ❖ for those who wrestle with doubts

PRAYER

Crucified Savior, on this dark day it seems crass and opportunistic to think of your death as an advantage to me. And yet, we call this Friday good because through your death, my old self is crucified, put to death, buried with you, and no longer rules. Today, I dedicate my life as an offering of gratitude to you. Amen. (HC 43)

BLESSING

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Rev. 5:12)

Holy Saturday

LENT—DAY 40



INVITATION

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)

Quiet

BIBLE SONG: PSALM 22:2, 19-23

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest. . . .

But you, LORD, do not be far from me.

You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

Deliver me from the sword,

my precious life from the power of the dogs.

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;

save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

I will declare your name to my people;

in the assembly I will praise you.

You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

Revere him,

all you descendants of Israel!

BIBLE READING: LUKE 23:50-56

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Quiet

DWELLING

Leisurely read again...is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Linger over it and give it your attention...is there something about the reading you'd like to ask God about? Pray your life to God...take a moment to rest in God's presence.

FREE PRAYER

- ❖ for the church to work for the common good and benefit of all people
- ❖ for care, love, and community to be experienced in the church
- ❖ for missionaries serving far from home

PRAYER

Forsaken God, you really did die. The cross was no theater or mere metaphor; you weren't whisked away badly injured yet alive. You set out to save, and you went all the way to death, fulfilling God's justice and truth, fully paying for my sin. And so today, between the cross and the resurrection, I wait for your salvation to dawn again in my life. Amen.
(HC 40-41)

BLESSING

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Rev. 5:12)

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