

**"THE LORD IS GOOD TO THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM,
TO THE SOUL WHO SEEKS HIM."
LAMENTATIONS 3:25**



CANDLE | JAMIN STILL

COVENANT
ANGELICAN CHURCH
Glorify - Proclaim - Disciple

**2026 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL
THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

INTRODUCTION

— THE SEASON OF LENT —

Lent is a forty-day journey of repentance, self-denial, and return, ordered toward renewal and joy. It is not a season meant to crush us with shame, but one that invites us into honest repentance. Shame, as Scripture shows us in Genesis, drives us into hiding—away from God and one another—entrenching us more deeply in fear, guilt, and self-deception. Repentance, by contrast, brings us into the light. It tells the truth about our sin and our frailty without pretending we can heal ourselves. Repentance runs toward Jesus rather than away from him, trusting that mercy, not condemnation, awaits us there.

From Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, Lent leads us along the way of the cross. We are brought face to face with the weight of our sin as we behold the sins of the world laid upon Christ in his suffering and death. This journey echoes Israel's forty years in the wilderness and Jesus' forty days of testing. The wildernesses not comfortable, but it is purposeful. There God quiets our hearts, strips away false securities, and forms us again in trust.

Lent is an invitation to attend more carefully to God—to listen, to repent, and to receive grace—so that, having died with Christ, we may more fully share in the joy of his resurrection.

— HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE —

This guide is an adaptation of a method of prayer and Scripture reading developed by the Irish Jesuits (www.sacredspace.ie), that enables us to create space in our hurried lives for stillness, engagement with God's Word, and honest prayer.

Begin on the left side of the guide; spending a few moments with the artwork and thought each day as a way to settle in before beginning to pray. The right side will lead you through seven movements of prayer and Scripture reading that help turn our eyes into ears; so that God's word is received as God's voice.

- We begin by offering God the **hospitality of silence**, stilling our restless bodies, hearts, and minds, which allows us to prepare to commune with him.
- Next, we recognize God's loving **presence** with us. We are being invited to deeper love, deeper truth, and deeper intimacy with our loving Lord.
- We then use the **freedom** God has given us by opening ourselves to his guidance. "You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!" (Ps. 119:4-5)
- The next stage, **consciousness**, calls us to awareness of ourselves—our thoughts, feelings, and/or the events of the past day.
- We then read **the Word of God**. Ask the Lord to cause a word, phrase or theme to stand out. Linger over it. Imagine the scene playing out around you, noticing what strikes you about the passage or what thoughts, questions, and emotions emerge as you read. Readings based on N.T. Wright's *Lent For Everyone: Matthew*.

- This leads to **conversation** with Jesus, where we speak honestly about what is on our hearts and minds after engaging with Scripture.
- We end with the **conclusion**, which includes a Collect (set prayer) for that particular week and singing the Doxology. You may wish to simply sit in silence for awhile, enjoying God's peace and presence.
- Each section includes a **psalm-prayer** for you to meditate on and memorize.

— COMMUNITY PRACTICES —

1. Worship — Adjust your schedule to participate in these additional services.

- Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 18th — 12pm (ashes only) & 6:30pm (full service)**
- Evening Prayer in the Park, **Mar. 14th — 4:30pm**
- Maundy Thursday, **Apr. 2nd — 6:30pm**
- Good Friday, **Apr. 3rd — 6:30pm**
- Easter Breakfast, **Apr. 5th — 9:30am**
- Easter Sunday Service, **Apr. 5th — 10:30am**

2. Fasting — In a fast, we deny ourselves the necessities of food and drink in order to experience a physical lack that points us to our fundamental need for Christ. Sundays always celebrate the resurrection, and therefore are never fast days. During Lent, we participate in two types of fasting:

- ***The Lenten Fast*** — we abstain, for the entirety of Lent, from some food or drink item we normally enjoy (such as meat, caffeine, alcohol, etc.). This creates a low-grade sustained hunger that we feel. Instead of going to food or drink to satisfy that hunger, we daily turn to Jesus, the true giver of joy and satisfaction.
- ***A Total Fast*** — traditionally practiced at the beginning and end of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we fast for the entire day. The second total fast begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday until Easter Sunday morning. During the total fast, we experience real hunger pains, allowing us to turn our attention to our longing and hunger for Christ. In addition, I invite you to fast *every Thursday*, praying for our hearts to break for the lost, and boldness in our proclamation of the gospel.

3. Giving — We are partnering with the Hays Country Food Bank. There will be a box in the foyer to collect needed food items and gift bags to share with those in need.

4. Scripture & Prayer — During Lent we embrace disciplines of abstention (fasting) and engagement, increasing our habits of prayer and scripture reading. This devotional may stretch your level of habit. It guides us through points of Matthew's Gospel slowly and meditatively. During Lent set aside a chunk of time to read (or listen) to Matthew's Gospel in one sitting. (It takes about 2 hour.)

5. Engaging Lent with the Senses — You may place a cross in your home as an external reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and our call to live cross shaped lives. When doing your devotions, lighting a candle can provide a tangible reminder that Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12) and that our prayers are a pleasing aroma in God's presences (Revelation 5:12).

ASH WEDNESDAY

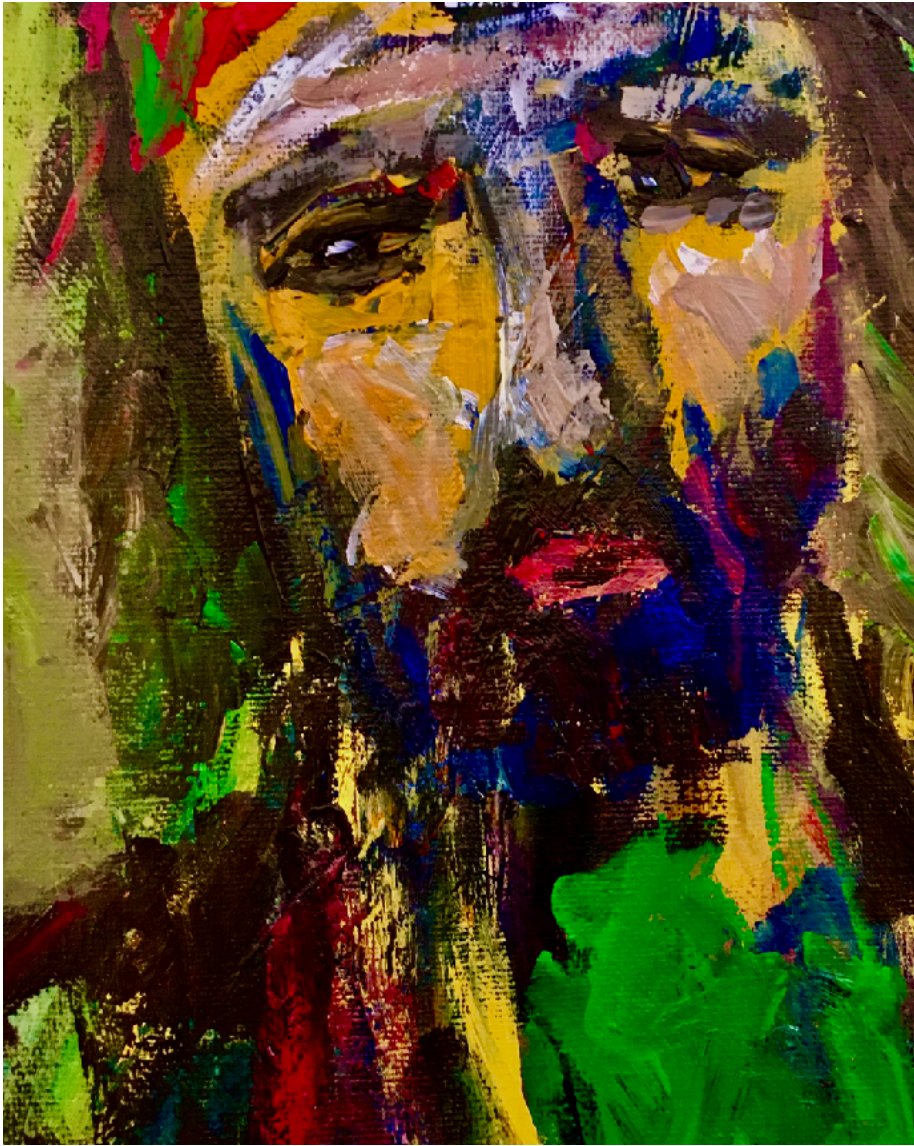
FEB 18 — FEB 21

WED. 02.18 — MATTHEW 1-2 (1:18-25)

THUR. 02.19 — MATTHEW 3 (3:1-12)

FRI. 02.20 — MATTHEW 4 (4:18-25)

SAT. 02.21 — MATTHEW 4:1-11



ASH WEDNESDAY | RONALD RAAB

“The lowliness of Christ has taught us to be lowly, because by dying he yielded to the godless; Christ’s highness makes us exalted, because by rising again he has led the way for the godly. *For if we have died together with him, says the apostle, we shall also live with him; if we endure, we shall also reign with him* (2 Tim. 2:11-12). We celebrate one of these things now, when his passion is, so to say, drawing near; the other after Easter with appropriate devotion, when his resurrection, so to say, has been accomplished.”

— St. Augustine, *Sermon 206* —

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 — SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Come as you are—unadorned and unhidden. Let the noise of self-justification fall away as you rest in the truth: you are dust, and you are loved.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Acknowledge that you stand before him not on your merits, but by his mercy.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from defensiveness and denial. Pray for the courage to face the truth about yourself in the light of God's grace.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Where do you sense sorrow for sin? Where do you resist repentance? Bring both honestly before the Lord, trusting that confession leads to cleansing, not condemnation.

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the Gospel passage slowly. Attend to Jesus' call towards faithfulness. What exposes and/or encourages your heart?

CONVERSATION

Speak plainly to God about your sin and your need. Receive again the promise of forgiveness in Christ.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
— Psalm 19:13-14*

1ST WEEK IN LENT

FEB 22 — FEB 28

SUN. 02.22 — PSALM 32
MON. 02.23 — MATTHEW 5 (5:1-12)
TUES. 02.24 — MATTHEW 6 (6:5-15)
WED. 02.25 — MATTHEW 7 (7:15-34)
THUR. 02.26 — MATTHEW 8 (8:23-34)
FRI. 02.27 — MATTHEW 9 (9:9-17)
SAT. 02.28 — MATTHEW 17 (17:1-9)



TEMPTATION...ADAM'S DILEMMA | HIROKO SAKAI

“Satan gives Adam an apple (fruit), and takes away Paradise. Therefore in all temptations let us consider not what he offers, but what we shall use.”

— Richard Sibbes, *A Puritan Golden Treasury* —

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 — SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Still yourself in the wilderness. Resist the urge to hurry past discomfort, and allow God to meet you in simplicity and quiet.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are, is present with you now. He knows your weakness and does not turn away.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from false solutions—quick fixes, misplaced desires, and the temptation to secure life apart from God.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Notice where temptation has felt strongest recently. What voices compete for your trust? Offer these honestly to the Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the Gospel passage attentively. Listen to how Jesus responds to temptation with the Word of God and faithful obedience.

CONVERSATION

Where are you being tested right now? Speak with Jesus about your struggles and ask for strength to stand firm.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations, and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
— Psalm 51:10*

2ND WEEK IN LENT
MAR 01 — MAR 07

SUN. 03.01 — PSALM 121
MON. 03.02 — MATTHEW 10 (10:1-15)
TUES. 03.03 — MATTHEW 10:16-42 (10:16-25)
WED. 03.04 — MATTHEW 11 (11:1-19)
THUR. 03.05 — MATTHEW 12:1-21 (12:15-21)
FRI. 03.06 — MATTHEW 12:22-50 (12:27-32)
SAT. 03.07 — MATTHEW 13 (13:31-46)



THE ARTIST'S RIGHT HAND | HENDRICK GOLTZIUS

“The gospel offers us not only legal exoneration—inviolably precious truth!—it also sweeps us into Christ’s very heart. You might know that Christ died and rose again on your behalf to rinse you clean of all your sin; but do you know his deepest heart for you? Do you live with an awareness not only of his atoning work for your sinfulness but also of his longing heart amid your sinfulness?”

— Dane Ortlund, *Gentle & Lowly* —

SUNDAY, MARCH 01 — SATURDAY, MARCH 07

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Let go of striving. Allow yourself to rest before the God who gives new life as a gift, not a reward.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Spirit of God moves where he wills. Trust that God is at work in you, even when you do not fully understand.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from control and self-reliance. Pray for openness to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Where do you long for renewal? Where do you feel stuck or uncertain in your faith? Bring these desires and obstacles into the light.

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the Gospel passage prayerfully. Notice how Jesus speaks of belief, rebirth, and God's love for the world. What word, phrase, or theme does the Spirit cause to stand out to you?

CONVERSATION

Speak to God about your desire to believe more deeply. Ask what it means for you to live as one born from above.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.
Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!*
— Psalm 119:4-5

3RD WEEK IN LENT
MAR 08 — MAR 14

SUN. 03.08 — PSALM 95
MON. 03.09 — MATTHEW 14 (14:22-33)
TUES. 03.10 — MATTHEW 15:15-20 (15:1-9)
WED. 03.11 — MATTHEW 15:21-38 (15:21-28)
THUR. 03.12 — MATTHEW 16 (16:21-28)
FRI. 03.13 — MATTHEW 17 (17:14-20)
SAT. 03.14 — MATTHEW 18 (18:21-35)



TRANSFIGURATION | LEWIS BOWMAN

“Everybody knows that the sun’s light can be reflected; we owe much to reflected light. Well, the glory of Christ is such that it can shine upon you, so that you can see it; and then, afterwards, you can reflect it, and retract it, and send it back upon others. You can give to others something of what Christ has given to you, and this is a very blessed thing.”

— Charles H. Spurgeon, *Christ’s Transfigured Face* —

SUNDAY, MARCH 08 — SATURDAY, MARCH 14

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Pause and listen for the deeper thirst within you. Set aside distractions and attend to your longing for living water.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Jesus meets you as he met the Samaritan woman (John 4)—without avoidance, without shame. He knows you fully and offers grace freely.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from false sources of satisfaction. Pray for a heart that seeks fulfillment in God alone.

CONSCIOUSNESS

What are you thirsting for right now? Where have you tried to quench your thirst apart from God?

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the Gospel passage slowly. Attend to Jesus' invitation to worship in spirit and truth.

CONVERSATION

Speak with Jesus about your deepest desires. Listen for his invitation to trust him more fully.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

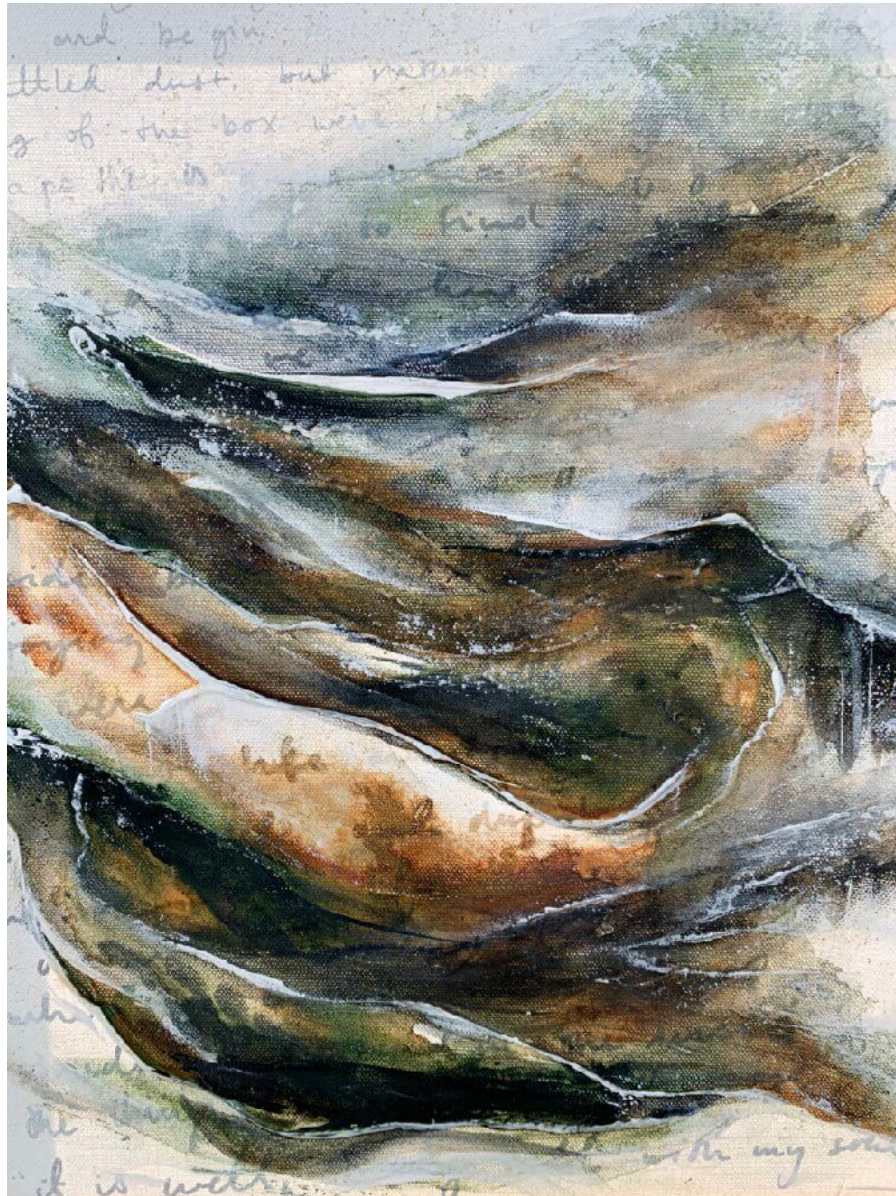
Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."
— Psalm 27:7-8*

4TH WEEK IN LENT
MAR 15 — MAR 21

SUN. 03.15 — PSALM 23
MON. 03.16 — MATTHEW 19 (19:16-26)
TUES. 03.17 — MATTHEW 20 (20:1-16)
WED. 03.18 — MATTHEW 21:1-22 (21:1-17)
THUR. 03.19 — MATTHEW 21 (21:23-46)
FRI. 03.20 — MATTHEW 22 (22:1-14)
SAT. 03.21 — MATTHEW 23 (23:29-39)



DUST TO LIFE | KYRA HINTON

“A person has to be thoroughly disgusted with the way things are to find the motivation to set out on the Christian way...A person has to get fed up with the ways of the world before he, before she, acquires an appetite for the world of grace.”

— Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* —

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 — SATURDAY, MARCH 21

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Come into the light. Allow God to quiet your heart so that you may see clearly.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Christ, the Light of the world, is present with you. He does not blind but heals, not condemns but restores. Rest in his grace; receive his love.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from fear of what others think. Pray for the courage to live in the truth God reveals.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Where do you resist seeing clearly—about yourself, others, or God? Where do you long for healing?

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the Gospel attentively. Notice how sight comes through obedience and trust rather than certainty.

CONVERSATION

Speak with Jesus about what you are beginning to see—or what still feels hidden. Ask for clarity and faith.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!
Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!
— Psalm 31:1-2*

5TH WEEK IN LENT
MAR 22 — MAR 28

SUN. 03.22 — PSALM 130
MON. 03.23 — MATTHEW 24 (24:15-28)
TUES. 03.24 — MATTHEW 24 (24:45-51)
WED. 03.25 — MATTHEW 25 (25:14-30)
THUR. 03.26 — MATTHEW 25 (25:31-46)
FRI. 03.27 — MATTHEW 26:1-13
SAT. 03.28 — MATTHEW 26:14-27:66



PLOTTING | BERTHA KVARAN

“There are only two ways possible of encountering Jesus:
man must die or he must put Jesus to death.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Christ the Center* —

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 — SATURDAY, MARCH 28

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Sit with the weight of grief and waiting. Do not rush toward resolution; allow God to meet you in sorrow.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Jesus stands with those who weep. He is present even where death feels final.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from despair and resignation. Pray for hope rooted in Christ's power over death.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Where do you feel loss, fear, or fatigue? Where do you need resurrection hope?

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the Gospel passage slowly. Listen for Jesus' voice calling life where there is death.

CONVERSATION

Speak honestly to Jesus about what feels beyond repair. Ask where he is inviting you to trust him anew.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.
— Psalm 86:11*

HOLY WEEK

MAR 29 — ARP 04

SUN. 03.29 — PSALM 31:9-16
MON. 03.30 — MATTHEW 26:14-35
TUES. 03.31 — MATTHEW 26:36-56
WED. 04.01 — MATTHEW 26:57-75
THUR. 04.02 — MATTHEW 27:1-32
FRI. 04.03 — MATTHEW 27:33-56
SAT. 04.04 — MATTHEW 27:57-66



CRUCIFIXION | EUGENE DELACROIX

“God does not deliver his people by flicking a switch from a distant throne. He delivers them by entering into their weakness and struggle, by giving over his own Son to pain and suffering and finally to the shameful death of a cross.”

— Peter J. Leithart, *The Kingdom and the Power* —

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 — SATURDAY, APRIL 04

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Enter this week deliberately. Slow your pace and open space to walk attentively with Jesus.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Christ draws near in humility and obedience. He walks the path of suffering out of love for the world—and for you.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from avoidance of the cross. Pray for grace to follow Jesus in costly faithfulness.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Notice where you resist suffering or sacrifice. Where do you need courage to remain with Jesus?

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the Gospel passage with reverence. Attend to the actions, words, and silence of Christ in his passion.

CONVERSATION

Speak with Jesus as one who keeps watch with him. Offer your love, your grief, and your trust.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the Cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and come to share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous—you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!
My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.*

— Psalm 7:9-11

EASTER WEEK

APR 05 — APR 11

SUN. 04.05 — MATTHEW 28:1-10
MON. 04.06 — MATTHEW 28:11-15
TUES. 04.07 — MATTHEW 28:16-20
WED. 04.08 — MATTHEW 2:1-12
THUR. 04.09 — MATTHEW 6:25-34
FRI. 04.10 — MATTHEW 13:1-23
SAT. 04.11 — MATTHEW 22:34-40



NEW CREATION | ALLISON BAILEY STONE

“Exile will be undone, sins will be forgiven, and new life will be offered to the world—through the personal Presence and the powerful rescuing action of Israel’s God himself. This belief stands at the heart of the early Christian understanding of Jesus’s death.”

— N.T. Wright, *The Day the Revolution Began* —

SUNDAY, APRIL 05 — SATURDAY, APRIL 11

THE HOSPITALITY OF SILENCE

Begin not with striving, but with wonder. Let the silence be spacious rather than heavy—a quiet that makes room for joy. Breathe deeply and receive the gift of this new day in Christ.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Christ is risen! He is not absent or distant, but alive and present among his people. Acknowledge with gratitude that the risen Lord stands with you, calling you by name.

FREEDOM

Ask for freedom from fear, despair, and small hopes. Pray for the grace to live as one who has been raised with Christ, no longer bound by sin or death.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Notice what stirs within you today—joy, doubt, surprise, longing, or peace. Resurrection does not erase our humanity but renews it. Bring your whole self before the risen Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the appointed Scriptures slowly. Attend to the signs of new life, recognition, and restored hope. Listen for the voice of Jesus who speaks peace and sends his people into the world.

CONVERSATION

Speak with Jesus as the living Lord. Give thanks for his victory over death. Ask how he is inviting you to live, love, and bear witness in the light of his resurrection.

CONCLUSION — COLLECT EASTER SUNDAY

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PSALM-PRAYER

*Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge.
Teach me to do your will,
For you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
— Psalm 143:9-10*



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