

Weekly Scripture Readings April 26, 2026

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, instructed us to "stay in love with God" by worshipping, studying scripture, attending Communion, fasting and through public and private prayers. In order to help facilitate daily scripture reading and prayer, this insert contains readings for each day as well as a prayer for the week. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday. We hope that these daily scripture readings and prayer will help you to deepen your relationship with God as we seek to live into our call to be disciples of Christ.

Matthew 22:34-46 (NRSVue)

When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?"

"If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Acts 2:42-47 (NRSVue)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the

proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

1 Peter 2:19-25 (NRSVue)

For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Psalm 23 (NRSVue)

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I 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 goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, April 27

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:17-23
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, April 28

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:23-31
Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday, April 29

Psalm 100
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, April 30

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Genesis 12:1-3
Acts 6:8-15

Friday, May 1

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Exodus 3:1-12
Acts 7:1-16

Saturday, May 2

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 8:48-59

Prayer for the week: Risen Christ,
you prepare a place for us,
in the home of your coming Kingdom.
Draw us more deeply into yourself,
through scripture read,
water splashed,
bread broken,
wine poured,
so that when our hearts are troubled,
we will know you more completely
as the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

Next Sunday: The scripture readings for Sunday, May 3, are Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Philippians 2:1-11 and John 14:1-14. Next Sunday's message, "Lord", will be on the passage from Philippians. Next Sunday is a traditional service and we will also receive communion.

Questions to help you prepare: What does it mean to proclaim that Jesus is Lord? How do we live that reality out in our lives? Does Paul's description of who Jesus is, and what we are to do, match your idea of Lord? Why or why not? Does that change our conception of Jesus as Lord? Why or why not?

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