



All of God for All of Us:
A Lent Devotional

Intro

This guide is designed in the long tradition of the Church observing the season of Lent to help us experience the Triune God in prayer, in Scripture, and in reflection. Our collective prayer as a church is to participate in this journey of the cross together as a unified body, our hearts engaging the same rhythms and readings, praying the same prayers, reflecting on the same questions, all with the aim of being conformed more and more each day into the image of Jesus and preparing our hearts to celebrate the glory of his resurrection during the season of Easter.

What is the Season of Lent?

The “Church Calendar” was set up by the early church fathers who ordered time according to the story of Jesus Christ, beginning with the incarnation at Advent and culminating with the crucifixion and resurrection on Easter. The season of Lent comprises the forty days leading up to Easter, beginning with the first day, Ash Wednesday. For some etymology, the word Lent is actually from the Old English “to lengthen,” referring to the lengthening of the days in Spring. The number forty comes from Jesus’s forty-day temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4; Luke 4), which not only served as the affirmation of his identity and role as the Son of God but also the preparation for his ministry as the Messiah.

The Church has traditionally observed Lent by fasting, either from food and drink or some form of comfort or entertainment. Traditionally, fasting takes place Monday through Saturday, making Sunday a day to feast, to enjoy and reflect on the thing from which you are fasting the rest of the week.

Why Observe the Season of Lent?

For centuries, the Church has intentionally and collectively engaged the season of Lent. Together they prayed, studied, fasted, and feasted, all with the aim to prepare their hearts to celebrate once again the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter stands each year to remind us that we are part of a story that is greater than any one of us. A story that provides a hope and a future. A story that binds a people together under the banner of the Suffering Servant who became the Victorious Resurrected King of All.

Although Easter is the day on which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is not meant to be a celebration that is to come upon us suddenly, without notice, without preparation, without reflection. It is the culmination of a season, around which we are to alter, orient, and tune our lives. The aim of the season of Lent is to renew our focus and refresh our love for the Savior, by putting off the tangible comforts of the world in order to reflect upon the glorious nature of the cross. By embracing this journey of the cross—aligning the rhythms of our life with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—we may put into practice the alignment of our story with his.

Therefore, Easter is more than a day. It is a season that is set aside and ordered according to the story of redemption, into which we are invited to enter through the cruciform life that bears witness we belong to a Kingdom not of this world. Just as Jesus “sets his face to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51) to suffer and die for the world, we are to follow him in this journey by denying ourselves, taking up our own cross, and following after Him (Luke 9:23). And being so united with in his death, we are so united with him in his resurrection (Romans 6:5). As we thus embrace this season of fasting and repentance in light of the cross, we also prepare our hearts for feasting and celebration in light of His resurrection and the resurrection to come.

How to Use this Guide

Each day of the guide provides a form of worship with daily practices to shape the disposition of our heart, to set rhythms of worship for our soul, and to reflect upon the cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The aim is to approach the throne of the Triune God together as his people—established by Grace, formed by his Word, and sanctified by his Spirit—for our good and for his glory.

The guide will walk us through the weeks of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating with the final days of Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Every Sunday we will turn to a Scripture from our sermon series on the Trinity, then Monday through Saturday we'll read bit by bit through the entire Gospel of John. Consider using the Sunday Liturgy for your community of friends and family to feast together.

Our collective prayer as a church is to participate in this journey of the cross together. Thus, it will be most effective if done with your community group or with a friend. And please, use this guide daily as you are able, in whole or in part. Although the guide is designed as an intentional journey of prayer, a cohesive whole, it may also serve as a template, to be used as closely or as loosely as you find helpful. If you get behind, just pick up with that day's reading.

The Daily Practices

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Each morning will begin by practicing Silence and Stillness. This is an essential practice that helps us to order the scattered attention and affections of our hearts to be fully present with God. It is to help us to be still and know that he is God (Ps. 46:10).

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD

A passage from Scripture will invite us to meet with God. Out of the silence God speaks his Word, warmly inviting us to behold his grace, goodness, and glory.

TIME OF CONFESSION

As we reflect on Christ's work on the cross to pay for our sin, we take time to search our hearts, confess the sin we continue to struggle with day by day, and thank God for his gracious faithful promise to forgive us and cleanse us (1 John 1:6–9). Each day will provide a prayer of confession to guide this time of confession.

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION

Every day we will be invited to read, to pray, and to live God's Word. We will read through the Gospel of John in its entirety over the course of Lent throughout the week, and on Sundays we will read the Scripture from our sermon series. The reflection questions are intended to help us experience the Triune God in the contemplation of his Word to us.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

After reading and reflecting on Scripture, we will take a moment to adore Jesus using language from the Lord's Prayer to form our prayers.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD

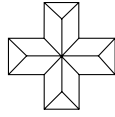
Each day will end with God's blessing and commission from his Word to live out the true story of the gospel for the glory of the Triune God. Just as God's Word speaks first inviting us into fellowship with him, the Word speaks last to bless us to reflect his glory throughout our day.

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.

Book of Common Prayer



Ash Wednesday

Every year the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. In Scripture, ash or dust symbolizes death and frailty (Gen. 18:27), judgment (Deut. 28:24), mourning (Job 2:12), and repentance (Jon. 3:6). In this light, Ash Wednesday is meant for us to meditate on our own sin and death, to come to terms that we are dust and to dust we shall return (Gen. 3:19).

Since the season of Lent is meant to prepare our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter, an important part of our preparation is to remember why Jesus had to die in the first place. In the beginning, the first man and the first woman disobeyed God in the garden, desiring to live on their own terms instead of entrusting themselves to God's good will (Gen. 3). This rejection of God, who is our life and the length of our days, meant for them and for all humanity, death. In God's punishment for humanity's sin, he declares, "for you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19). Like Adam and Eve, we have all "gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way," and for this rebellion, "the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Is. 53:6).

Ash Wednesday is thus meant to be a solemn reflection upon the profound truths of the gospel, in which we are to:

1. Reflect upon our mortality, sinfulness, and need for the Savior
2. Repent of our sin and refocus our heart to follow Christ
3. Remember with confidence and gratitude that God has taken on our human nature to forgive us our sin, conquer death, and heal the world.

Therefore, let us reflect upon our sin and our own mortality in order that it may lead us to repentance, to recognize that we desperately need a Savior, and to rejoice that Christ has forgiven sin, conquered death, and will bring about the healing of our world for his glory. Even as we mourn our sin on Ash Wednesday, we may rejoice with hope that Easter Sunday is coming.

**AND
THE WORD
BECAME FLESH
AND DWELT
AMONG US**

Ash Wednesday • February 22

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 119:25

My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your Word!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love for ever and ever. Amen. (WSB, 544)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: GENESIS 3; JOHN 1:1-5

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, we acknowledge that there is a reason we had to be redeemed. All that touches our hands falls apart eventually. Left to ourselves, we, like the laws of entropy that govern our world, will fall into more disarray, not less. We confess we cannot save ourselves from the mess that we have made. We cannot make it all better. But thank you that we do not have to, for in your mercy you entered the muck and mire of our own making, and you took it on yourself and then gave us your goodness and righteousness and holiness instead. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:48-49

As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Thursday • February 23

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two whole minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 103:13-14

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We dream, make plans, and talk about what we'll do in the near future. We don't always think about what you want. Instead, we make choices that we think are good for us. But we are only here because you take care of us. We confess that we forget we need you all the time. We confess that sometimes we make choices that aren't what you want. We don't know what is best for our lives. Holy God, we are sorry for our sin. Help us to remember we live because of you. Help us to do what you want us to do through Jesus, our Lord. Amen. (WSB, 546)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 1:6-28

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We acknowledge that the great exchange of our sin for your righteousness is the most critical we can ever make, and we make it gladly. Jesus in our place. Thank you that it's enough. That as we confess our sins you are faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). That there is now no condemnation for those who have hidden themselves in your goodness (Romans 8:1). The work that you did on the cross has covered the sin and shame and given us a new life here and now and the hope of heaven in your presence for all eternity. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Friday • February 24

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 109:21-22

But you, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for your name's sake; because your steadfast love is good, deliver me! For I am poor and needy, and my heart is stricken within me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. 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. Amen. (Ps. 51:1-2, 6, 10-12; WSB, 545)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 1:29-51

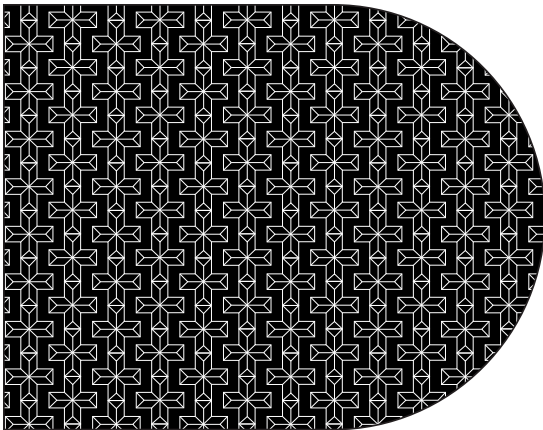
1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We confess we have all sorts of ideas of how to serve you most effectively, Lord. We confess we, like Adam and Eve from the very beginning, think we know best how this whole thing works. Yet you, from the first, have shown us an upside down kingdom. Leading by serving. Laying down your life to save. We don't have the right instincts, Jesus. And we're sorry. Order and reorder our loves and allegiances and methods until they look like yours. May we humble ourselves to serve and to love, just as you showed us. For as you said, no servant is greater than his master and we certainly are no exception. Less of us and more of you, God. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: EPHESIANS 3:16

According to the riches of his glory may God grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.



Saturday • February 25

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 113:5-7

Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. In this season of repentance, restore to us the joy of our salvation and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy, in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
(WSB, 548)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 2:1-25

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Father, forgive us for holding the sacrifice of your Son so lightly, for scorning it to do what we want. Forgive us for doubting that a life surrendered to the one who loves us most and best will not be enough to satisfy. Since you did not spare even your own son for us but gave him up for us all, won't you also surely give us everything else? (Romans 8:32). Thank you, thank you, Lord Jesus—for taking the pain and shame and death that we rightly deserved, and giving us abundant life and meaning in this world and hope for the next in return. Thank you for being our deliverer, once and for all. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: COLOSSIANS 1:10-12

Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

First Sunday of 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.

Book of Common Prayer

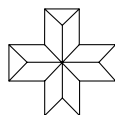
I AM the Bread of Life

John 6:35

In John 6:35, Jesus says, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” This is the response to the people’s request to be given “the true bread from heaven” (6:33). But what they were seeking was not Jesus, but what Jesus had to offer. Jesus had just miraculously fed over 5,000 men (not counting women and children), with only five loaves and two fish (6:1–14). Having been satisfied with eating their fill of the loaves, they failed to read the signpost of this miracle: Jesus Christ is the manna, the true bread coming down from heaven that satisfies the soul and gives life to the world.

We are also faced with this temptation to seek Christ for what he can offer us instead of seeking Christ for himself. Christianity in our context today is too often presented as a means to gain position, power, and prosperity in this world. Yet, throughout the Gospels, Jesus never tries convincing people to follow him with empty promises that by doing so they will prosper financially, politically, or otherwise. In fact, he is unabashedly clear that to follow him would mean self-denial, taking up the cross, and suffering in this world (Luke 9:23; John 16:33). But even so, what the Father offers is himself by sending his Beloved Son to be received in the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the true bread from heaven that gives life for eternity and empowers the abundant life today (John 10:10).

During the season of Lent, the practice of fasting helps us loosen our grip on the tangible comforts of the world that too easily and superficially satisfy our souls. We are made for so much more, to feed on Christ himself, to experience the real presence of the Triune God, to abide in him and he in us (John 6:53–56). May we seek Christ for himself, entrusting our lives to him, being fully satisfied in who he is.



Sunday • February 26

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 5:11

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way, and, though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Amen. (WSB, 577)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 1:29-34; ISAIAH 53:4-12

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus you are the one who knows what is in our hearts today. Only to you can we pour out our hearts, declaring that you are a refuge to us—because you already know exactly what has happened. And you are ready to hear us and you draw near to answer. We have questions, but we know that all questions are answered fully and find their rest in you. So for now, we rest, and we wait and we trust that you are making all things new. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: PSALM 9:11

Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds!

Monday • February 27

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 90:14

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our

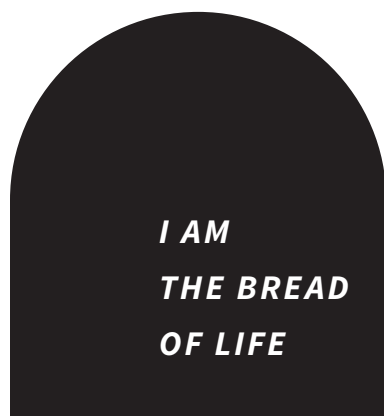
brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (WSB, 561)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 3:1-15

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Who in heaven can be compared to you, God? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to you, Lord? Truly, who in heaven do we have but you? And on earth who is your equal? In every single way that counts, you are not like us. You are complete when we are broken. You are constant while we are tossed about by the emotion and circumstance of this present moment. Thank you that you never change, and that in your case that's a very good thing. We love you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



Commission to Serve the Lord: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Tuesday • February 28

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 107:8-9

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Send out your light, send out your truth, and let them lead us to our home. Take from us the weight of our sin, that room might be made for the spirit of truth. If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us, and the truth will set our spirits free. Then shall we love not only in word or in speech; then shall we love in deed and in truth, and by this know that our service is faithful. O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen. (WSB, 562)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 3:16-36

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord, we fight for our own kingdoms with a fervor that never ceases to surprise. Our kingdom. Our will. But you show us a better way. You trade our sad, failing kingdoms for your own. Our wills traded in for the wise rulings of a King whose ways are above our ways and whose thoughts are better than our thoughts. Your kingdom will stand, ours is already falling. We submit with joy to your leading in our lives today. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Wednesday • March 1

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 145:14-16

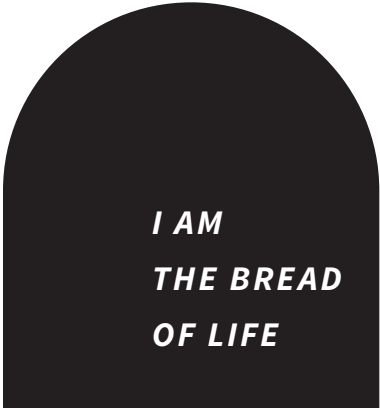
The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, you are slow to anger and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts. Receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you. Seat them at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (WSB, 562)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 4:1-26

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?



**I AM
THE BREAD
OF LIFE**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Thank you, Jesus, that you care about our daily bread. Thank you that over and over again in your Word you tell us to ask you for what we need. You are not a God who is unfamiliar with what it is to be human, or what it is to be in need of the physical things that sustain us. God, you are good and you do good, so we ask for your mercy to provide for us this week, in each and every way. You are the God who sees us and knows just what we need even before we ask. We trust you today. Thank you for giving us what we need. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:14-16

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always.

Thursday • March 2

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 146:5-7

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. (WSB, 563)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 4:27-45

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We have sinned, Lord. We know that and you know that. So in your grace, have mercy on us, for we know that we cannot fix ourselves. Search us, O God, and know our heart. Try us and know our thoughts. And see if there be any grievous way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Jesus, we pray this for ourselves and for all your people. We thank you, God, that you care enough about us to continue the work of changing our hearts, and conforming us into the image of your Son. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Friday • March 3

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 22:25-26

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Amen. (WSB, 562)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 4:46-54

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

The world is wrecked with sin. At each turn, there is a chance to fall into evil. But you already know that. Would you not only deliver us from the evil inside and around us, but also lead us away from temptation? We are failing in this. But you have already won the battle, Jesus. We need only tuck our hand into yours and follow. Show us your ways. Lead us in your truth. We will follow you with joy. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: HEBREWS 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Saturday • March 4

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 63:5-8

My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, whose Son, Jesus Christ, longs to gather us in the wide embrace of his love, we confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen. (WSB, 563-64)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 5:1-18

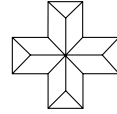
1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

You promise that the sad and bad and hard of this world will one day be made perfectly whole. But that day is not today. While we wait, we ask that you still show us your kingdom, your power, your glory here on earth. Encourage our hearts as we walk roads that do not yet make sense to us. Remind us that we are pilgrims here; our home is another country. Lead us further in and further up, Lord. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: JAMES 4:8-10

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.



Second Sunday of Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

I AM the Light of the World John 8:12

In John 7, Jesus attends the Feast of Tabernacles, a weeklong festival established in the Torah and associated with the ingathering of the autumn harvest (Lev. 22:33–44; Num. 29:35–38; Deut. 16:13–17). Traditionally, towards the end of the festival, four huge lamps in the temple’s court of women were lit, followed by an extraordinary celebration with lights illuminating all of Jerusalem. This celebration was most certainly an allusion to the coming of Yahweh in which the world will be flooded with everlasting light (cf. Zech. 14:7). It is within this context that Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (8:12).

With this statement, Jesus draws to himself all the vast and rich images of light used to describe the gracious activity of God: God’s first act of creation bringing light out of the darkness (Gen. 1:4), God’s cloud leading the people through the wilderness (Exod. 13:21–22), God’s word illuminating the wise and faithful (Ps. 119:105), God’s plan of cosmic redemption including the nations (Is. 49:6). As one scholar puts it: “Light is Yahweh in action.”

Jesus thus identifies with Yahweh, who is our light and our salvation (Ps. 27:1), and in whose light we see light (Ps. 36:9). And as the light who is the light of all people (Jn. 1:4), Jesus has tabernacled among us (Jn. 1:14), inviting us to follow him and walk not in the darkness but in his light. Therefore, during this season of Lent, let us seek to behold his glory, that being so transformed we may reflect his glory to the world (2 Cor. 3:18).

Sunday • March 5

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

CALL TO WORSHIP THE LORD: PSALM 10:16-18

The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land. O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose grace we may triumph over temptation, be more fervent in prayer, and be more generous in love. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name. Amen. (WSB, 576)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: MATTHEW 28:16-20


1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, this world can be very, very hard. We hear you when you tell us not to fear, that you have redeemed us and called us by name. When we pass through the waters you will be with us. So we will not be afraid because you are with us. You are no stranger to our weakness and suffering. You see us and you know. We trust you. Show us what walking in your ways looks like, right here, right now and we'll do it. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: PSALM 9:11

Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds!



**I AM
THE LIGHT
OF THE
WORLD**

Monday • March 6

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 4:6

There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!" You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Yet we confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desire. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home, that we may again find in you our life and joy and peace. Amen. (WSB, 564)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 5:19-29

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We are constrained by our humanness, and from our birth you can take our measure, what we are and what we are not. But not you. You have no measure and no limit to your power, to your holiness. Yet you chose to limit yourself, to take on flesh with all its constraints and walk among us so you could say with confidence that you are not unfamiliar with the burdens we bear. Yet you still did it all without sin. Even as you became like us, you were still all that we could not be. Thank you Jesus for living a life that we could not live and dying the death that was meant for us. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: TITUS 3:1-2

Be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Tuesday • March 7

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 18:28-30

For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you did not disdain the company of sinners but welcomed them with love. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. Our sins are more than we can bear; our pasts enslave us; our misdeeds are beyond correcting. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot change; heal what we can no longer fix. Grace our lives with your love and turn the tears of our past into the joys of new life with you. Amen. (WSB, 564)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 5:30-46

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord Jesus, your kingdom far outshines the weak attempts at empire building our hearts and minds have produced. Yet we continue to fight for our rights to build them. Forgive us. Forgive us for the rebellion in our hearts that continues to spread the lie that we can do this on our own. We acknowledge with joy that we cannot produce anything that matters apart from you. We need you every hour. Thank you for being all that we cannot be today. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: JAMES 3:17-18

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Wednesday • March 8

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 89:14-16

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face, who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (WSB, 564)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 6:1-15

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God, you have always provided for us in the past. Your faithfulness has been tested and found true at each turn. We are a faithless, forgetful people, but you are an utterly faithful, always remembering God who cares for us. Thank you that as you have always provided, you will continue to do so. We trust you for the needs of this day, Jesus. We thank you that you are even now providing what is required. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: GALATIANS 5:22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Thursday • March 9

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 97:10

Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. (WSB, 563)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 6:16-40

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, you have made provision for our sin by your death on the cross. We know that because of your work and by the power of the Holy Spirit, you can and will cleanse us from all our sin and all of our bent ways and bring us closer to you. Thank you Jesus that it's your work and your goodness that can do this, not our own attempts at conjuring up goodness in ourselves. We ask your forgiveness for the things we have done and left undone. For the things we said without consideration of the name we now represent. We thank you for being faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us, Lord. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: ROMANS 14:7-9

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Friday • March 10

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 118:26-27

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in gracious love you promise to care for the creatures of earth; in steadfast love you keep your promise. But we, who so quickly embrace your covenant, just as quickly betray it; we, from whom you desire worship, too often offer only scorn. For making and then keeping your promise in the greatness of your mercy, we sing your praise, Lord; and for accepting and then spurning your covenant in the greatness of our sin, we ask your forgiveness. Amen. (WSB, 565)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 6:41-59

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We are unable to save ourselves. This has been proven without exception, Lord. On our own we will plummet further into the hole of our own actions and the actions of others. But that is not your way. When we were flailing about helplessly, you saved us and put our feet on the rock. In your sovereignty, you provide us a way out and into flourishing. Thank you, Jesus, that you do not leave us to our own foolish devices. Thank you for saving us. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Saturday • March 11

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 139:11-12

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely. Through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, we pray. Amen. (WSB, 565)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 6:60-71

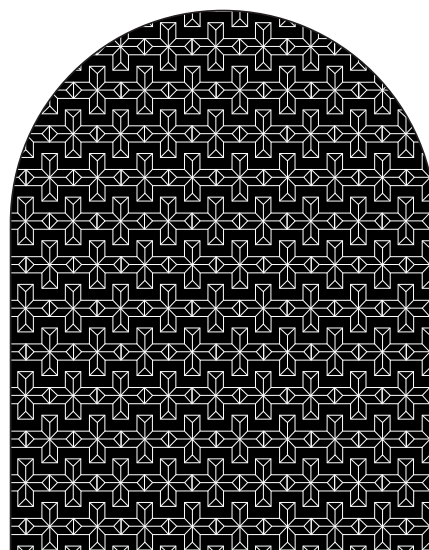
1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, from the day of our birth we've been building our little domains and asserting our power to rule them. You know our hearts. You see our tendencies and the well-beaten pathways towards crowing ourselves the king or queen of whatever it is we're doing and building. We're sorry. We're wrong and we're sorry. Yours is the kingdom. Yours is the power. It is your right to build our lives according to your kingdom. You have bought us with the blood of your son—you've called us your children and your heirs with Christ. We choose your kingdom and your power, Lord. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

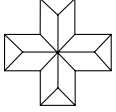
But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



Third Sunday of 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 which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which 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.

Book of Common Prayer



I AM the Door of the Sheep **John 10:7**

In John 10, Jesus provides a matrix of metaphors that include shepherds, sheep, pastures, and bandits, all to convey that he is the sole means of salvation and flourishing. Jesus declares, “I am the door of the sheep” (10:7), which means he is the only way through which to have eternal life and life abundantly. Those who come before Jesus are called thieves and robbers. They are the counterfeit messiahs who promise prosperity, power, and prestige, but only bring about death, despair, and destruction. They are the ones who seek to achieve glory with their own ability according to their own appetites apart from the grace of God. The sheep do not listen to these voices but listen to the voice of the Shepherd who calls them by name and leads them into green pastures.

Jesus tells us that the thief comes to steal and kill and destroy (10:10). This thief may represent the devil or any worldly power that offers salvation and flourishing apart from Jesus Christ. This vision often excludes self-denial, being poured out for others, and suffering for the sake of righteousness. But this way only leads to disenchantment and despair. Jesus promises that he is the means of salvation (eternal life) and flourishing (abundant life). It is only through Jesus that we may receive salvation for our souls and live eternally with the Father. It is only through Jesus that we may live meaningful lives in the face of a broken world and in the midst of suffering.

Every day we are tempted to look for doors or paths or means by which to have abundant life, whether through politics, technology, or even religion. But Jesus always puts himself before us as our only entrance to the life for which we were created and have always desired. Let us listen to the voice of the Shepherd calling us by name and enter the Door by which we enter life itself and find rest for our souls.

Sunday • March 12

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 17:15

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING


O Educator, be gracious to thy children, O Educator, Father, Guide of Israel, Son and Father, both one, Lord. Give to us, who follow thy command, to fulfill the likeness of thy image, and to see, according to our strength, the God who is both a good God and a Judge who is not harsh. Do thou thyself bestow all things on us who dwell in thy peace, who have been placed in thy city, who sail the sea of sin unruffled, that we may be made tranquil and supported by the Holy Spirit, the unutterable Wisdom, by night and day, unto the perfect day, to sing eternal thanksgiving to the one only Father and Son, Son and Father, Educator and Teacher with the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Clement of Alexandria, 150–215 AD)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: 2 COR 3:12–18

1. Behold God: What does today's reading tell us about the Triune God?
2. Live for God: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord, you tell us that you are our portion, but we confess we struggle to believe it. We see scarcity and want around us and inside us. Remind us, Provider, that you sustain us with a word when we are weary, giving strength and joy to bones that are languishing. Convict us of where we are finding our peace and rest and sustenance, and reorient our hearts to look only to you. As Peter said, where else would we go? Only you have the words that bring life. We trust that you are making ways for us. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



**NOW THE LORD
IS THE SPIRIT,
AND WHERE THE
SPIRIT OF THE
LORD IS, THERE
IS FREEDOM.**

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PSALM 47:5–7

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

**I AM
THE DOOR
OF THE
SHEEP**

Monday • March 13

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 26:8

O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Send out your light, send out your truth, and let them lead us to our home. Take from us the weight of our sin, that room might be made for the Spirit of truth. If we prepare a dwelling place, that Spirit will abide within us, and the truth will set our spirits free. Then shall we love not only in word or in speech; then shall we love in deed and in truth, and by this know that our service is faithful. O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen. (WSB, 562)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 7:1-24

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord God, we thank you that you do not become less holy by taking on our lot—you just make everything around you holy as you go. And that includes us. You chose us to be in your family. Through you we may become children of God. You are conforming us into your image, all this to the praise of your glorious grace, not ours. And you deserve every ounce of that glory, God. We give it to you with joy. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: ROMANS 6:12-13

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Tuesday • March 14

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 27:4

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors. By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh—never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory. Amen. (based on Heidelberg Catechism 126–27; WSB, 566)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 7:25–39


1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Our Lord Jesus, our wills have made this world a disaster. Your kingdom come and may it come soon. We need what you have to offer us, God. Because the fixes and solutions we have to bind up this weary and broken world are not working. Our world needs a rest from its toil and labors that only a kingdom with you as its rightful king can offer. So come, King Jesus. Fix what we've broken. We trust you to do this as only you can. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: EPHESIANS 5:15–18

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.



**I AM
THE DOOR
OF THE
SHEEP**

Wednesday • March 15

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 52:8-9

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of exodus and wilderness, God of refuge and help, hear us now as we make our confession to you. In times of temptation we forget what you have done for us. You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied; you trust us to care for creation, yet we often abuse that trust and spoil what we have been given. You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue on the path of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray. We ask for your direction, your patience, your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, who, in spite of his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word. Amen. (WSB, 566)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 7:40-52

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We need your help, Jesus. Today we need your help as the world around us feels so broken. And the path set to our feet is more uncertain than ever. But you are the God who made us in our mothers' wombs. You knew us before we were born. And you see us and know us now. Our health and wellbeing and provision are all in your hands. Thank you that we can place ourselves and those closest to us in your hands with confidence, knowing that you are good and you do good. We trust that you are providing what we need today. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

May your love abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Thursday • March 16

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 65:4

Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Word of God Incarnate, you came to this world to accomplish salvation. By your grace you call us to

repent, to be crucified with you, that we might be raised as new creations. But we confess that often we do not live as renewed people. We confess that often we “go with the flow” instead of stemming sin’s tide. Forgive us when we do not show evidence of renewal. Forgive us when we let the fruit of the Spirit be choked by the weeds of evil. You have made us your children, members of your kingdom. Help us to show evidence of that every day as we work to bring your justice, peace, gentleness, goodness, love, joy, and hope to all we meet. For Jesus’s sake, Amen. (WSB, 566)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 8:1-30

1. Behold Jesus: What does today’s reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We are not good at this, Lord. Any of it, if we’re honest. We do what we should not do, and we don’t do the things we should. Forgive us. Humble us to remember just how much there is in need of forgiveness in our lives. Thank you for being the just and good king who is faithful to forgive the dark and twisted places. Thank you that you are all that we are not. Thank you that you give us your righteousness in exchange for our sin. We cannot do this on our own. Thank you that we don’t have to, that you are with us and for us. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Friday • March 17

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 84:4-5

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah
Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we are your covenant people—one church, drawn from all nations. Our citizenship is in heaven. Yet we confess, O Lord, that we sometimes lose sight of your kingdom and its ways. We confess that we sometimes live more as citizens of our own land than as citizens of your kingdom. By your truth you call all peoples to account. Forgive us for losing our distinctiveness. Focus us on the cross and on the salvation you give through him who is the Lord and King and Judge of us all, Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen. (WSB, 566-67)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 8:31-59

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord, we need your help. You lead us into places of flourishing, but to be honest, it doesn't always look like we think. A lot of times it doesn't look like we think it should. Your deliverance doesn't always look like deliverance. When we find ourselves still in the battle, still in the struggle, we ask for your nearness. And that your nearness would be our good. You will not leave us or forsake us. Remind us why that is enough. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-12

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Saturday • March 18

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 118:25-26

Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, in Christ you became sin for us. You took what we are so that we might become what you are. But we confess that often we ignore our sin. We confess that too often we do not confess. We keep silent about the sin that clings to us. But our sins are too great a burden for us. Forgive us. In Christ take away our iniquity. You are our stronghold, our hiding place. May we confess our sins, that we might then rejoice and be glad in you and in the righteousness that flows over us as a mighty stream of grace. In Christ, Amen. (WSB, 567)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 9:1-41

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

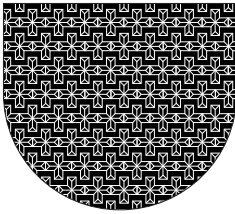
PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord, we are your servants, and it is to be our joy to work as servants in your kingdom. We echo Peter in saying where else would we go? Only you have the words of life. Only in you is there life to be had. Your kingship is the only one that restores our hearts and this world. Retrain our hearts and our wills to bow with joy to what and how and where you lead, to want what you want. We lay down the lesser things—

and they're all lesser things—for this better-in-every-way kingdom you're building. We say together, it's better. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 2 PETER 1:5-8

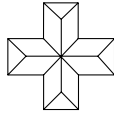
Make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Fourth Sunday of 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.

Book of Common Prayer



I AM the Good Shepherd

John 10:11

Jesus declares “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11). Shepherds were a common feature to the ancient world, especially in Judea, where the care of sheep was essential to the Judean way of life. Such a fundamental part of everyday existence thus provided rich imagery and resonate metaphors to describe the governing responsibilities of the king (Ps. 78:70–71), the ministry of the priests and prophets (Ezekiel 34:1–10), and God’s caring relationship with his people (Is. 40:11). One of the most famous lines of Scripture reads, “Yahweh is my shepherd; I lack nothing” (Ps. 23:1). Therefore, Jesus’s claim of being the “good shepherd” is both an identification with the righteous reign of Yahweh and an indictment on all those in authority who have failed the people.

Jesus explains what a good shepherd looks like. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (10:11). It is remarkable how Jesus flips this metaphor on its head. Usually, it is the sheep who lays down its life, offered as a sacrifice. But with Jesus, he is the shepherd who offers himself as a lamb led to the slaughter on our behalf (Is. 53:7). Yet, the hired hand, the one who works for profit and prestige, flees at the danger of wolves, for he does not know the sheep nor care for them (10:12–13). As our good shepherd, Jesus wants us to understand our relationship with him—knowing and being known—with his loving relationship with the Father (10:14–15). Just as the Father loves the Son, so we are loved.

This week, contemplate all the ways that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who knows you, loves you, and takes care of you each and every day. Listen to his voice who lays down his life for you and let him lead you into his green pasture where you may rest for your souls. And from this rest, joyfully participate in the Shepherd’s work of bringing other sheep that are not of this fold into his one flock, so that he may be worshiped, adored, and loved.

Sunday • March 19

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

**THE SPIRIT HIMSELF
INTERCEDES FOR US
WITH GROANINGS TOO
DEEP FOR WORDS**

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD:

PSALM 95:6-7A

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Glory be to you, almighty Father, you have given to those who fear you the heavenly bread

of life, that we may be mindful of the marvels which you have done on the earth, by sending us your only Son, fully human, born of a pure virgin. We give you thanks, Holy Father, for you created us before we were, and while we were still sinners you made us partakers of your heavenly grace; through your Son, our Lord and God, who with you and the Holy Spirit makes, orders, and rules all things, now and forever. Amen. (Dunstan of Canterbury, 909–988 AD)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: ROMANS 8:26-28

1. Behold God: What does today's reading tell us about the Triune God?
2. Live for God: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord, we declare with joy that you are the Lord, the God of all flesh and all the earth. Is anything too hard for you? We are limited, but you are limitless, and in your mercy you work all things together for your glory and our good. We are a broken people in body and in spirit. Come be our healer and mend what is torn in our world. Only you can make all the bad things come untrue, and we trust that you are doing that, Father. Be merciful to us and bring us rest. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PSALM 66:1-4

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." *Selah*

Monday • March 20

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 80:1, 3

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!



**I AM
THE GOOD
SHEPHERD**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you love us, but we have not loved you. You have opened your heart to us, and in our pride we have spurned your care. You have given us all things, and we have squandered your gifts. We have grieved you and caused hurt to others, and we are not worthy to be called your children. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Cleanse us from our sin and receive us again into your household, that we might nevermore stray from your love but always remain within the sound of your voice. Amen. (WSB, 567)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 10:1-21

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Thank you, Lord, that before any of us were, you are. You have no beginning and you have no end. And with that comes the reality that all that you are has no beginning and no end. No end to your grace. No end to your love. We will never see the end of your goodness, your holiness, your justice, Lord. We love that you are our Father and you graciously share all things with your children. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: ROMANS 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Tuesday • March 21

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 79:13

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, forgive our doubting, questioning hearts. Like the scribes who witnessed Jesus's miracles of healing and heard his proclamation, yet spurned belief, we too have seen wonders, yet have hardened our hearts. We confess the many times that our pessimism has caused others to doubt themselves and your Spirit, the times that our criticism has wounded others, the times that our dejection has dampened the enthusiasm of those inspired by your Word and work. O God, forgive us and in your mercy renew us, that with open hearts we may believe and never pose an obstacle to the faith of others. Amen. (WSB, 567)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 10:22-42

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus you're better than all that we lay aside in your name and for the sake of your kingdom. Our treasures and dominions are a small thing compared to all that we gain from a life fully devoted to following you. So show us where we are holding on to our empires. The areas where we still proclaim mine. Let our kingdoms fade and die their deserving deaths. Let our wills and dreams go also. Your kingdom come. Your will be done. Here. And for eternity. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 PETER 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Wednesday • March 22

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 100:3-4

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (WSB, 561)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 11:1-27

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, we thank you that you tell us to ask you for our daily needs—that you remind us in your Word that you take care of your people according to their need. So we ask you, Jesus, for your sustaining mercy and provision today for us as your Body here at Vintage. You are the Waymaker and you are making ways for us. Here. At Vintage. In our lives. In our bodies. In the air we breathe. In our homes. By the jobs you've provided to us. By the help you give us through each other. Forgive us for not seeing you, not looking for you in our daily provisions. Reorient our minds to see you in the very bread we eat. Remind us that you are a God we can count on—because you're good and you love us. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: JUDE 20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Thursday • March 23

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 28:8-9

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Send out your light, send out your truth, and let them lead us to our home. Take from us the weight of our sin, that room might be made for the spirit of truth. If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us, and the truth will set our spirits free. Then shall we love not only in word or in speech; then shall we love in deed and in truth, and by this know that our service is faithful. O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen. (WSB, 562)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 11:28-57

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, we confess we use our own nature to excuse ourselves. We think if it's who we are, we have no power over it. We glorify our bent ways in the name of self-love, and we're sorry. But you have always shown a better way. Your ways, your goodness, your kindness, your faithfulness, your gentleness over our own. You call us to better. Thank you that you care deeply for our hearts, enough to go to those places and expose our sin. Humble us to welcome your exposure. Help us want what you want. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: EPHESIANS 4:3

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Friday • March 24

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 23:1-3

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, you are slow to anger and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts. Receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you. Seat them at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (WSB, 562)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 12:1-11

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?



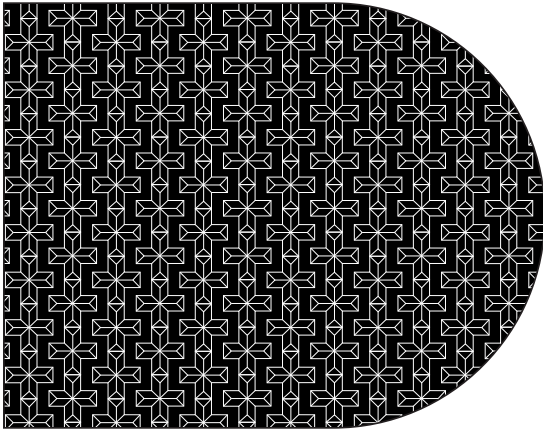
**I AM
THE GOOD
SHEPHERD**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

You say in your word that if we love you we will follow your commands. You say that if we are your people we will hear your voice and obey. Build in us a reflex to be quick in our response of “Yes Jesus!” when you lead us. Help us to know your Word deeply so we can recognize your voice easily and follow it faithfully. To know you is to love you, Lord. And we desire to know you in spirit and in truth. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 2 TIMOTHY 23-25

Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.



Saturday • March 25

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: JEREMIAH 31:10

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. (WSB, 563)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 12:12-26

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord, it's a very good thing that it's your kingdom and your power, because the empires we build and the power we throw around are deeply ineffective to hold back the horror and evil and sadness and brokenness in the world. We only need to look around to see the limits of the power and rule of men. We don't have this. But your power is without a rival. Your kingdom is eternal, no beginning and no end. Nothing can stand against it. We are a vapor. You are eternal. We have a measurement, you are immeasurable. Our strength has definitive limits, but yours is utterly limitless. There is nothing you cannot do. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: ROMANS 12:9-13

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

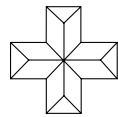


**I AM
THE GOOD
SHEPHERD**

Fifth 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.

Book of Common Prayer



I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:6

As Jesus was preparing for his death he taught his disciples what it looks like to follow him in that death and the promise of his resurrection (Jn. 13–17). Comforting his disciples, Jesus says, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me” (14:1), and then sets before them the destination of this pilgrimage of faith, which is ultimately himself. “I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (14:3). Thomas, along with the other disciples, has not come to grips with the reality of this destination nor even how to get there. To this Jesus replies, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (14:6).

All these images, whether that is a heavenly mansion with many rooms (14:1–3) or a green pasture with a caring shepherd (10:9–10) are used to describe the destination of faith to give us some mental handles to hold on to. But more than that, they are meant to deepen our imagination and stir our affections for the joyful engagement with God for eternity that we are promised. So when Thomas asks bluntly where and how he can get to this place Jesus is talking about, Jesus candidly and uncompromisingly points to himself, that he is the way. He is the destination and pathway, the aim and the means, the only way we get to the Father. Or, to paraphrase Thomas à Kempis:

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. Jesus is the way we must follow. Jesus is the truth we must believe. Jesus is the life in which we must hope.

For us, as we seek to experience the Triune God and live meaningful lives that glorify him, he graciously immerses us in the reality that Jesus is the meaning we are ever longing for and he is the means by which we are eternally satisfied.

Sunday • March 26

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 67:1-3

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself; because you have promised so much, I owe you my whole being. Moreover, I owe you as much more love than myself as you are greater than I, for whom you gave yourself and to whom you promised yourself. I pray you, Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of your love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love. Amen. (Anselm 1033-1109)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: 1 COR 12:4-11

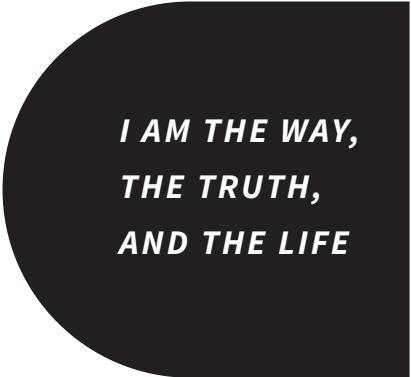
1. Behold God: What does today's reading tell us about the Triune God?
2. Live for God: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Give us the hearts of those who are taught, Jesus. You see what we cannot see, and you are making ways for us, God, that we cannot even begin to fathom. Align our hearts to what you're doing. Give us eyes to see how you're working, to see the things that you're healing and making new all around us already. Create in us clean hearts. Thank you for your Word, for what it reveals about you, for how it leads us to worship you in spirit and in truth. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PSALM 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.



**I AM THE WAY,
THE TRUTH,
AND THE LIFE**

Monday • March 26

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 18:28-30

For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, whose Son, Jesus Christ, longs to gather us in the wide embrace of his love, we confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen. (WSB, 563–64)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 12:27-50

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Sovereign in all your ways, we thank you that we can trust you. All that is before us today, you already know. All that we will encounter, and all the places we will go, you have already gone before us. We trust that you are working out a story today that is consistent with who you are and who you have always been. Forgive us for still trying to write this story to our own liking. And we thank you for gently leading us in the ways that are better. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Tuesday • March 27

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 25:4-5

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Yet we confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desire. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home, that we may again find in you our life and joy and peace. Amen. (WSB, 564)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 13:1-21

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God, thank you that you gently pry our hands open, taking what is not true treasure and replacing it with what is incorruptible and eternal. We confess our pride and self-sufficiency. We confess that we think we have this under control. But in your mercy you show us a better way. That our sin and twisted ways will find their answers in your holiness. The injustice, the sickness, the homelessness, the deeply sad hopelessness will find their rest only in you. We cannot fix this. So come Lord Jesus, we're waiting for you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: HEBREWS 10:21-23

Since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Wednesday • March 29

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 37:3-5

Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you did not disdain the company of sinners but welcomed them with love. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. Our sins are more than we can bear; our pasts enslave us; our misdeeds are beyond correcting. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot

change; heal what we can no longer fix. Grace our lives with your love and turn the tears of our past into the joys of new life with you. Amen. (WSB, 564)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 13:21-38

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God, you are our portion. We thank you that you have said over and over again that you withhold no good thing from us. We ask for contentment, and confidence in the provision you are giving us now. You have said that you are all that we need, so show us what that means today. In the midst of our confusion, in our loneliness, in our fear of the future, show us how the promise you give matters, that you never leave us or forsake us, that you have given us everything that we need for life and godliness, that you are our inheritance. We thank you that you are giving us all that we need. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 PETER 1:22-23

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

Thursday • March 30

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 25:8-10

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in gracious love you promise to care for the creatures of earth; in steadfast love you keep your promise. But we, who so quickly embrace your covenant, just as quickly betray it; we, from whom you desire worship, too often offer only scorn. For making and then keeping your promise in the greatness of your mercy, we sing your praise, Lord; and for accepting and then spurning your covenant in the greatness of our sin, we ask your forgiveness. Amen. (WSB, 565)

**I AM THE WAY,
THE TRUTH,
AND THE LIFE**

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 14:1-14

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God, we have sinned and we are sorry. We rebel against you for the rightful place in our hearts to rule. Thank you for the work on the cross. Thank you for the ultimate once and for all atonement for sin. Thank you for the victory over sin that the resurrection grants us. We don't deserve it. We did not earn it. But you gave it to us while we were yet deeply in sin. Thank you for your gift of salvation. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 JOHN 3:2-3

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Friday • March 31

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 77:12-14

I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely. Through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, we pray. Amen. (WSB, 565)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 14:15-31

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus, tie us to things that breed faithfulness and obedience in our hearts. We are people who do not follow well. You lead us, but we go our own way. Tie us to the word, the Spirit, to each other. Bind us close to your side, knowing we are truly little children who need their Father to show them where to go. Thank you for being our Father. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 2 TIMOTHY 2:21-22

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Saturday • April 1

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 86:10-11

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Send out your light, send out your truth, and let them lead us to our home. Take from us the weight of our sin, that room might be made for the spirit of truth. If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us, and the truth will set our spirits free. Then shall we love not only in word or in speech; then shall we love in deed and in truth, and by this know that our service is faithful. O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen. (WSB, 562)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 15:1-17

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Jesus we're not good at assigning glory to the right things. We give our praise and honor to things that don't deserve it. And we give you only our demands. But you are the only one who deserves every breath we take to be poured back in praise to you, the one who made us in the first place. So we pour out our praise to the glory of your kingdom and your power, Lord. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 JOHN 1:7

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 cleanses us from all sin.

Palm Sunday

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him 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 also 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.

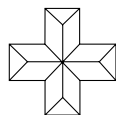
Book of Common Prayer

I AM the Vine John 15:5

Drawing on the rich imagery of the Old Testament and what would have been such a common feature of their daily existence, Jesus uses a metaphor that would have resonated significantly with his audience: vineyards. Jesus begins by saying, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser” (15:1). This rich, powerful metaphor has many implications for the life of the believer, specifically how you may experience the Triune God.

First, Jesus is the true vine. Any hope or expectation to partake in eternal and abundant life must be fully dependent upon Jesus. There is no other vine. There is no other source for which we may flourish in this life and the life to come. Second, there is a mutual indwelling between the vine and the branches. Although the branches are completely dependent upon the vine, the vine produces its fruit through the branches. We are to abide in Jesus and Jesus is to abide in us (15:4), and this mutual abiding is the fullness of life itself. Third, there is an expectation that we are to bear fruit. As we abide in Jesus, as we draw from him as our vine, the source of life itself, there should be a Spirit-filled outflow of abounding good that gives glory to God. Finally, God is the source and the means of all the good we produce. Not only can the branch not bear fruit by itself, but the Divine Vinedresser actively prunes the branches to bring about more fruit. There will be pruning all throughout our life that may be painful; but we can take heart that it is always from the loving hand of the Father to participate more deeply in the Triune God and what he desires to do in us and through us.

Jesus tells us that apart from him we can do nothing. And although this text underscores the good fruit that God does through us, let us remain focused on the truth that we are called to be before we are called to do. We are to abide in Jesus, in his love, which is to say that Jesus is our home and our happiness as we experience the fullness of our gracious Triune God.



Palm Sunday • April 2

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 31:5

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Just as we carry these branches, may we follow Christ in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. (WSB, 583)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 16:4-15

1. Behold God: What does today's reading tell us about the Triune God?
2. Live for God: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy before he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP)

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PSALM 117:1-2

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Monday • April 3

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

**I WILL
SEND THE
HELPER TO
YOU**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O King of Glory, we confess that our praise of your majesty has often been faint, our performance as citizens of your kingdom treasonous. For we have surrendered to the enemy by our secret and our known sins. For our treason you died, Lord Jesus. For our restoration, you rose again. Draw us closer to you in this holy week, that our eyes may catch the vision of your tears, and our hearts, the wonder of your grace. By the Holy Spirit's continuing discipline, let us be loyal and loving servants of the King. Praise be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. (WSB, 586)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 16:1-16

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O Lord our God, whose blessed Son gave his back to be whipped and did not hide his face from shame and spitting: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP)

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: ROMANS 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



Tuesday • April 4

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 62:8

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us..

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. Amen. (WSB, 586)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 16:17-33

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you received the worship of those who hailed you as their King: Accept our praise and adoration, our worship and love; and grant that we, who now confess you with our lips, may never fail to give you the service of our lives, for the honor of your holy name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen. (WSB, 584)

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: ROMANS 12:14-17

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.



**I AM
THE VINE**

Wednesday • April 5

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 91:1-2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted "Hosanna: 'Save us now!'" On Good Friday they shouted "Crucify!" We confess our praise is often empty. We sing "Hosanna," but cry "Crucify." As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen. (WSB, 586)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 17:1-26

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Assist us mercifully with your grace, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the meditation of those mighty acts by which you have promised us life and immortality; through Jesus

Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
(BCP)

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 2 TIMOTHY 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Maundy Thursday • April 6

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 90:1-2

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, like Judas, we have betrayed you. Like Peter, we have denied you. And, like the other disciples, we have forsaken you. Yet you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on a cross. We plead for your forgiveness and mercy, and we ask that you strengthen us so that we do not turn aside but follow you to the very end—for the final victory belongs to you. Amen. (WSB, 597-598)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 18:1-40

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty Father, whose most dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it in thankful remembrance of Jesus Christ our Savior, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP)

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PHILIPPIANS 1:28-29

Do not be frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.

Good Friday • April 7

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 43:3

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace. You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you. Save us, Lord. O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins. On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities. Save us, Lord. O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation: Save us, Lord. O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you, and joy of all the saints: Save us, Lord. Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace. Amen. (WSB, 562–3).

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 19:1–30

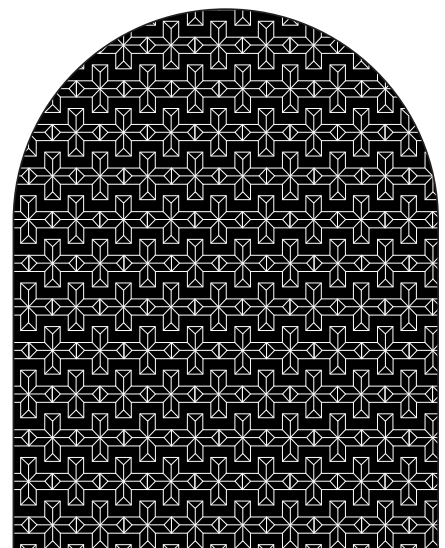
1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to behold us your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the Cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP)

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 PETER 3:14–15

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.



Holy Saturday • April 8

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 61:4

Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ, by remaining faithful till death, you show us the road to greater love. O Christ, by taking the burden of sin upon yourself, you reveal to us the way of generosity. O Christ, by praying for those who crucified you, you lead us to forgive without counting the cost. O Christ, by opening paradise to the repentant thief, you awaken hope in us. O Christ, come and help our weak faith. O Christ, create a pure heart in us; renew and strengthen our spirit. O Christ, your Word is near; may it live within us and protect us always. Amen. (WSB, 570)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 19:31-42

1. Behold Jesus: What does today's reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

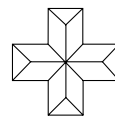
COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: 1 PETER 4:12-13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Resurrection 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 be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer



I AM the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25

Easter Sunday marks the greatest day the world has ever known. It is the most glorious day for the Church, the most significant day for all of humanity, the most beautiful day for all of creation. To regard it as any less is to underestimate its gravity for our life today and underappreciate its glory for our life to come. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the sunrise of our existence. Its light has broken into the prevailing darkness, illuminating the new creation that abounds before us in truth, goodness, and beauty. Easter Sunday is the culmination of the entire year, for it is the culmination for all human history—all previous days lead up to its celebration and all subsequent days flow out of it. Let us thus celebrate this day in proportion to its meaning for our lives.

The resurrection reveals three blessed truths that should orient our heart to celebrate his grace, goodness, and glory.

First, Jesus has defeated death. Paul says that Jesus “abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10). To “abolish” death means that Jesus has defeated it, rendered it useless, taken away its power. Without the defeat of death through Jesus’s resurrection, our faith would be futile and we would still be in our sins (1 Cor. 15:17–18). But because Jesus has conquered death, our faith has meaning and our sins are fully atoned, for Jesus is the victorious king who has successfully ransomed all those who put their trust in him.

Second, Jesus has prepared a full resurrected life for us for eternity. Although there are people throughout Scripture who died and were “brought back to life” (i.e., Lazarus), what happens with Jesus is entirely different. Jesus’s resurrection is an altogether different category. Whereas Lazarus was brought back to life only to die later on, Jesus’s resurrection signifies a new body designed to flourish in the New Heavens and the New Earth. And this new resurrected body is what is in store for all those whose “citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body” (Phil. 3:20–21). For this reason, Jesus’s resurrection is called the “First Fruits” of the new creation (1 Cor. 15:20), for which we await our becoming fully human like Jesus Christ for all eternity. This is the hope to which we have been called.

Third, Jesus has called us to live in light of the resurrection today. The essential hope of followers of Jesus is not merely to “go to heaven” when we die. Undoubtedly, to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord at death is a comfort, but it is not our ultimate goal for life. Our true aim is to participate fully in God’s reconciliation of heaven and earth, where we may faithfully worship God in perfect fellowship in the final resurrection. What this means for us today is that all that we do here and now in this life anticipates what we will do in the life to come. After all of Paul’s reflection on the significance of our resurrection with Christ, he gives the Church a most practical exhortation for how we are to live today: “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58). The resurrection means that all labor that is devoted to the Lord, here and now, is meaningful. As N.T. Wright explains,

What you *do* in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—*will last into God's future*. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether...They are part of what we may call *building for God's kingdom*. (N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 193)

In the face of death, and all our longing for God to make all things new, Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life." The reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope for our future glory with the Lord just as it gives us meaning for our work unto the Lord today.

But today, as long as it is called "today," let us rejoice and celebrate and feast, for the Lord is risen.

He is risen indeed.

**I AM
THE RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE**

Resurrection Sunday • April 9

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

Take two minutes of complete silence and stillness to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to meet with the Lord. Be attentive to his love and care for you.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOD: PSALM 132:7-8

“Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!” Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we praise you that your glory has dawned on us and brought us into this day of resurrection. We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son and that he has conquered death, risen to rule over all powers of this earth. We praise you that he summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness. By your Spirit lift us from doubt and despair and set our feet in Christ’s holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life and that all we have may show forth his love. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen. (WSB, 645-46)

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION: JOHN 20-21; TITUS 3:4-7

1. Behold Jesus: What does today’s reading tell us about Jesus?
2. Live for Jesus: How should we respond to the Word today?

PRAYER OF ADORATION

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. (BCP)

COMMISSION TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM: PSALM 150:1-2

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent great

All of God for All of Us: A Lent Devotional

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Written by Graham Michael

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