

40 Days Walking with Jesus

Daily Devotional Guide for Lent

Lent is an important time in the Christian calendar when we can prepare our hearts for a closer walk with Jesus. The forty days of Lent, not counting Sundays, last from Ash Wednesday through Easter Saturday. The forty days represent the forty days Jesus suffered in the wilderness, enduring the temptations of Satan by remaining close to God through fasting and prayer. This unimaginable time of Jesus' temptations and suffering is what prepared Him to begin and carry out his public ministry.

As followers of Jesus, we continue to dedicate the Lenten season to God and ask for our hearts and minds to be prepared for the ministry God has entrusted to us. So together, during these forty days, we listen for God and for whatever it is God is calling us to do and be. It is our prayer that this booklet will be a guide along the journey. Remember, you are not alone.

Each day you will find a prayer and a scripture. We ask that you take a few moments and reflect on these as part of your Lenten journey. Be blessed in knowing that many others in your church are reflecting on the same verses and the same prayers each day.

With an expectant heart,

Pastor Barry

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness..."

~ Matthew 4:1

Ash Wednesday - March 5th

God of mercy and grace,

As I enter this sacred season of Lent, I come before You with a humble heart. Search me and reveal the ways I have turned from You. In Your kindness, lead me to true repentance, that I may return to You with sincerity and love. As ashes mark my forehead, let them remind me of my need for Your forgiveness and the hope found in Christ. Strengthen me to walk this Lenten journey with a heart open to Your refining work.

Amen.

2 Chronicles 7:14

... if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Thursday, March 6th

Father,

In Micah 6:8, You say, “O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Today I choose to walk humbly with You. I choose to live by Your Holy Spirit and to follow Your lead. Help me to hear You clearly, for I do not want to walk by pride or self-sufficiency, I want to walk with You.

Amen.

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Friday, March 7th

Dear Lord,

In view of Your mercy, in view of all You've done for me, help me to offer my body—my time, my thoughts, my will; my whole self—to You, as a living sacrifice because of all You have done for me. May that be how I, daily, worship You.

Amen.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Saturday, March 8th

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Matthew 5: 3-12

³ *“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you
because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Sunday, March 9th – Worship with Sun creek

Join in community and prayer in worship today at 9 or 11 AM or online anytime.

Monday, March 10th

Heavenly Father,

As I embark on this Lenten journey, guide my steps and illuminate my path with your wisdom. May your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my soul. In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.

I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to your word.

Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.

Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law.

The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts.

Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

Tuesday, March 11th

Father God,

I don't want this Lent to pass by as just another season—I want to be changed. Strip away anything in me that keeps me from fully surrendering to You. Fill me with Your Spirit and renew my mind so that I may grow in faith, love, and obedience.

Open my heart to Your Word and let my prayer life deepen in intimacy with You. Help me to quiet the noise of the world so I can hear Your voice more clearly. Make me more like Jesus, day by day.

Amen.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Wednesday, March 12th

This short prayer comes from the Eastern Church of the fourth century. It is called the “Jesus Prayer,” or the “prayer of the heart,” and it echoes the humble prayer of the tax collector in Luke 18:13, contrasted with the proud boasts of the Pharisee in Jesus’ parable. Mediate and pray the following today:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me. Amen.

Luke 18: 9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

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

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

Thursday, March 13th

Most gracious God,

Thank you for this day and the gift of life. Give me eyes to see your presence as I go about the work of this day. Help me see each person, each encounter, each task as an act of worship and a living prayer as I seek to live as a disciple of Jesus.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Friday, March 14th

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit.

I receive your love,

and release my insecurity

I receive your joy,

and release my unhappiness

I receive your peace,

and release my anxiety

I receive your patience,

and release my impulsiveness

I receive your kindness,

and release my indifference

I receive your goodness,

and release my ungodliness

I receive your faithfulness,

and release my disloyalty

I receive your gentleness,

and release my severity

I receive your self-control,

and release my self-indulgence

Galatians 5: 22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Saturday, March 15th

Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Give us, O Lord,

steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward,

unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out,

upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,

understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you,

and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Isaiah 26: 3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Sunday, March 16th – Worship with Suncreek UMC

Join in community and prayer in worship today at 9 or 11 AM or online anytime.

Monday, March 17th – St. Patrick's Breastplate

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me
From snares of devils,
From temptation of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
afar and near.

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

Ephesians 6: 13-18

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Tuesday, March 18th

O God of all the universe,

Help me this day to live in wonder and awe at your majesty and power. May the beauty of creation and the diversity of all your children counter the ugliness of the world as it rages around me. Grow in me a faith befitting the Lord of all.

Amen

Psalm 8:1

*Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.*

Wednesday, March 19th

Lord God, your love embraces all people and your kindness knows no limit. We rejoice to place our trust in you, our mighty God, as we pray: Lord, hear and give answer.

Change our lives, that we may speak words of hope to all who have lost their way. Lord, hear and give answer.

Give success to those who work for peace and help them to be patient, courageous, and persevering. Lord, hear and give answer.

Fill our law-makers with a deep love for justice and truth. Lord, hear and give answer.

Help all refugees to find a place of rest and a time of peace. Lord, hear and give answer.

Teach us to live our lives gently with others and to trust that you will never be far from us. Lord, hear and give answer.

Grant a share in the risen life of your Son to all who knew joy, suffering, and creative labor, while they lived in our midst. Lord, hear and give answer.

~ From Benedictine Daily Prayer

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

Thursday, March 20th

Lord Jesus,

During Lent, I seek spiritual renewal and a deeper connection with you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, cleanse my heart, and draw me closer to your love and grace.

Amen.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Friday, March 21st

Today let Psalm 103 be your prayer.

Psalm 103

- ¹ *Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*
- ² *Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—*
- ³ *who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,*
- ⁴ *who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,*
- ⁵ *who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*
- ⁶ *The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.*
- ⁷ *He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:*
- ⁸ *The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.*
- ⁹ *He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;*
- ¹⁰ *he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.*
- ¹¹ *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;*
- ¹² *as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*
- ¹³ *As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;*
- ¹⁴ *for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.*
- ¹⁵ *The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;*
- ¹⁶ *the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.*
- ¹⁷ *But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—*

*¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.*

*¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.*

*²⁰ Praise the Lord, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.*

*²¹ Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.*

*²² Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.*

Praise the Lord, my soul.

Saturday, March 22nd

Dear God,

You are the healer of hearts. Help us to examine our hearts to rend them in repentance and come to You for true healing. Give us strength as we fast during Lent this year to deny our cravings and desires and seek You instead. We want to serve you!

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Joel 2:12-13

*“Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”*

*¹³ Rend your heart
and not your garments.*

*Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.*

Sunday, March 23rd – Worship with Suncreek UMC

Join in community and prayer in worship today at 9 or 11 AM or online anytime.

Monday, March 24th

Heavenly Father,

As I rise this day, I offer You my heart, my thoughts, and my steps. Help me walk this Lenten journey with a spirit of humility and devotion. Keep me mindful of Christ's sacrifice and teach me to deny myself so that I may draw closer to You.

Lord, strengthen me to fast from what separates me from You and feast on Your presence. May my words be kind, my actions be pure, and my heart be set on things above. Guide me in love and repentance, shaping me into the image of Your Son.

In Jesus' name, I pray,

Amen.

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

Tuesday, March 25th

Hope of all People,

Speak to me through my prayers and lift my sagging spirit. Strengthen my hope, for life is hard. Give me a sense of compassion, not only for myself and those closest to me, but for others, especially those whose voices are silenced and whose lives go unseen. I pray you make me the person you desire for me to be. May my life always point to the Good News of your love for all.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Wednesday, March 26th

~ From Margaret Cropper

Now, into the keeping of God I put

All doings of today.

All disappointments,

hindrances,

forgotten things,

negligences.

All gladness and beauty,

love,

delight,

achievement.

All that people have done for me,

All that I have done for them,

my work and my prayers.

And I commit all the people whom I love

to his shepherding,

to his healing and restoring,

to his calling and making;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

and lean not on your own understanding;

in all your ways submit to him,

and he will make your paths straight.

Thursday, March 27th

Lord, as you will and as you know, have mercy.

From St. Macarius - "It is not necessary to use many words. Only stretch out your arms and say, 'Lord, as you will and as you know, have mercy.'"

Lamentations 3:22

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end.

Friday, March 28th

Lord, my Shepherd,

There are so many decisions before me, and I don't always know which path to take. In this season of Lent, I surrender my plans and ask for Your wisdom to guide me. Show me where You are leading and give me the courage to follow, even when the way is uncertain. Help me to trust that Your plans are always for my good and Your glory. Let this time of reflection draw me closer to Your will. Thank You for walking with me every step of the way.

Amen.

Psalm 23

¹ *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *he refreshes my soul.*

*He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]*

*I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

Saturday, March 29th

Dear God,

During this Lenten season, open my heart to the needs of others. May I reflect your love and compassion in my actions, serving those who are suffering or in need. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Sunday, March 30th – Worship with Suncreek UMC

Join in community and prayer in worship today at 9 or 11 AM or online anytime.

Monday, March 31st

Covenant Prayer ~ John Wesley

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
You are mind and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven.

Amen.

Joshua 24:14

Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and serve the LORD.

Tuesday, April 1st

Dear God,

I want to understand your love more fully. Help me to commit myself to the study of the scriptures and to the faith in a new and fresh way. Help me to hear your voice above all the other voices that swirl around me. Give me a heart open to change.

Amen

Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

Wednesday, April 2nd

O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done ~ Charles Wesley

O Love divine, what hast thou done!
The immortal God hath died for me!
The Father's co-eternal Son
bore all my sins upon the tree;
the immortal God for me hath died!
My Lord, my Love is crucified:

Is crucified for me and you,
to bring us rebels back to God;
believe, believe the record true,
we all are bought with Jesu' blood,
pardon for all flows from his side:
my Lord, my Love, is crucified.

Behold him, all ye that pass by,
The bleeding Prince of life and peace!
Come, sinners, see your Savior die,
And say, was ever grief like his?
Come, feel with me his blood applied:
My Lord, my Love, is crucified. Amen.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Thursday, April 3rd

Gracious God,

As I practice self-denial during Lent, may I grow in humility and reliance on you. Help me to turn away from worldly distractions and focus on your presence and purpose.

Amen.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Friday, April 4th

From St. Therese of Lisieux

My life is an instant,
An hour which passes by;
My life is a moment
Which I have no power to stay.
You know, O my God,
That to love you here on earth –
I have only today.
Amen.

Matthew 6:34

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Saturday, April 5th

Prayer of Susana Wesley

You, O Lord, have called us to watch and pray.
Therefore, whatever may be the sin against which we pray,
make us careful to watch against it,
and so have reason to expect that our prayers will be answered.
In order to perform this duty aright,
grant us grace to preserve a sober, equal temper,
and sincerity to pray for your assistance.

Amen.

Matthew 26: 41

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Sunday, April 6th – Worship with Sun creek UMC

Join in community and prayer in worship today at 9 or 11 AM or online anytime.

Monday, April 7th

Lord,

Thank you for the community of people who bless my life in so many ways each and every day. Thank you for those who pray for me and those who enhance my worship in community. Make me a blessing to others as I have been blessed. This is my prayer.

Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Tuesday, April 8th

Gracious God,

As this day comes to a close, I turn my heart to You. Forgive me for the moments I fell short, for the times I turned away instead of toward You. In Your mercy, cleanse me and renew my spirit.

Thank You for the grace that carries me through each step of this Lenten journey. As I rest tonight, let my soul be still in Your presence. Prepare me for another day of growing in faith, surrendering my will, and walking in the way of the cross.

I place my trust in You, Lord. In the name of Jesus, I pray,

Amen.

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...

Wednesday, April 9th

Inhale: Teach me the way I should go,

Exhale: for to you I lift up my soul.

Psalms 143: 8-10

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.

Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.

Rescue me from my enemies, Lord, for I hide myself in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;

may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Thursday, April 10th

From St. Teresa of Avila

Lord, you know better than I myself
that I am growing older and will someday be old.
Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking
I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to
straighten out everybody's affairs.
Make me thoughtful but not moody;
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom,
it seems a pity not to use it all;
but You know, Lord,
that I want a few friends at the end.
Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains;
they are increasing, and love of rehearsing them
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for improved memory,
but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness
when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old person
is one of the crowning works of the devil.
Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places
and talents in unexpected people;
and give, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Friday, April 11th

Gracious Lord,

You call us to love one another as You have loved us. Open my eyes to the needs of those around me and give me a heart that is quick to serve. Whether through giving, encouraging, or simply being present for someone who is hurting, help me to reflect Your kindness and compassion. May my acts of charity be done not for recognition but as a response to Your love. Use me, Lord, to be Your hands and feet in this world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Saturday, April 12th

Heavenly Father,

Open our eyes to the needs around us and guide our hearts to act with compassion, just as you instruct in Isaiah 58:6-7. Help us to break the chains of oppression, loosen the cords of the yoke, and set the oppressed free. May we share our food with the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, and never turn away from those in need. Grant us the courage and generosity to truly live out your call to justice and mercy in our daily lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Isaiah 58:6-7

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

Sunday, April 13th – Worship with Sun creek UMC – Palm Sunday

Join in community and prayer in worship today at 9 or 11 AM or online anytime.

Monday, April 14th

Lord God,

I give you thanks, for you are good, and your mercy is endless.

Here I stand, at the start of this holy week,

This week in which your church remembers Jesus' passion and death,

And I am distracted by many things.

Turn my eyes now to the One who comes in your name

The one who opens the gates of righteousness

The one who answers when we call.

I bless you, Lord, for shining your light upon me,

And for sending your son to us, in human frailty.

To walk the road we walk.

Open my eyes that I may see him coming,

And may praise him with a pure heart.

And may walk in the way of his suffering,

And share also 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.

John 12:12-19

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

*"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt."*

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.

So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

Tuesday, April 15th

A Holy Week Prayer ~ Henry Nouwen

Dear Lord,

Your disciple Peter wanted to know who would betray you. You pointed to Judas but a little later also to him. Judas betrayed, Peter denied you. Judas hanged himself, Peter became the apostle whom you made the first among equals. Lord, give me faith, faith in your endless mercy, your boundless forgiveness, your unfathomable goodness. Let me not be tempted to think that my sins are too great to be forgiven, too abominable to be touched by your mercy. Let me never run away from you but return to you again and again, asking you to be my Lord, my Shepherd, my Stronghold, and my Refuge. Take me under your wing, O Lord, and let me know that you do not reject me as long as I keep asking you to forgive me. Perhaps my doubt in your forgiveness is a greater sin than the sins I consider too great to be forgiven. Perhaps I make myself too important, too great when I think that I cannot be embraced by you anymore. Lord, look at me, accept my prayer as you accepted Peter's prayer, and let me not run away from you in the night as Judas did.

Bless me, Lord, in this Holy Week, and give me the grace to know your loving presence more intimately.

Amen.

Matthew 26:20-25

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?" Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said so."

Wednesday, April 16th

Blessed are you, Eternal God. We thank you for calling forth the creation, forming us in your image and calling us to be a blessing. We remember that God fed the people with manna in the wilderness, and Joseph and his brothers reconciled with a feast.

Blessed are you and blessed is Jesus, the incarnation of your love.

We remember that he preached your mercy, raised the dying, restored the ill to lives of wholeness and service. On the shore of the Sea of Galilee he fed the hungry crowds; and in an upper room, he gave us this meal as the sign of his abiding presence.

We remember all the meals of Jesus and recall the last meal he shared in Jerusalem, when he took bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it saying:

Take, this is my body?

In the same way, we remember that Jesus took the cup, saying

'This is poured out for many.'

We remember that Jesus said: "I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

As we break this bread and share this cup, we witness his kingdom in our midst, celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ, and anticipate the feast to come.

Amen.

Luke 22: 14-23

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

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

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

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

Thursday, April 17th - Maundy Thursday - Maria Miriam

Lord God,

You sent your Son into the world,

And before his hour had come,

He washed his disciples' feet.

You had given all things into his hands.

He had come from you, and was going to you,

And what did he do?

He knelt down on the floor,

And washed his friends' feet.

He was their teacher and their Lord,

Yet he washed their feet.

Lord God, help us learn from his example;

Help us to do as he has done for us.

The world will know we are his disciples

If we love one another.

Strengthen our hands and our wills for love and for service.

Keep before our eyes the image of your Son,
Who, being God, became a Servant for our sake.
All glory be to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.

Amen.

John 13: 12-17

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Friday, April 18th – Good Friday

O God,

You have come to us in your son, Jesus. He has revealed your love by his words and actions, and most profoundly in his suffering and death on the cross. I pray that I will know your forgiveness and let your love fill my life and guide my words and actions so that I will be healed and become a healing presence in the world.

Amen.

The seven last statements of Jesus spoken from the cross...

- *Luke 23:34* *"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."*
 - *Luke 23:43* *"Today you will be with me in paradise."*
 - *John 19:26-27* *"Woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother."*
 - *Mark 15:34* *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*
 - *John 19:28* *"I am thirsty."*
 - *John 19:30a* *"It is finished."*
 - *Luke 23:46* *"Into your hands I commend my spirit."*
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Saturday, April 19th

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded ~ Song by Hans Leo Hassler and Johann Sebastian Bach

O sacred head now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns thine only crown
How pale Thou art with anguish
With sore abuse and scorn
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain
Oh mine was the transgression
But thine the deadly pain
Lo, here I fall, my Savior
'Tis I deserve thy place
Look on me with thy favor
Vouchsafe to me thy grace

What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest Friend
For this, thy dying sorrow
Thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever
And should I fainting be
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee

Isaiah 53: 1-12

*Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

*Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

*By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.^[b]
He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

*Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an
offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.*

*After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.
Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Sunday, April 20th - Worship with Sun creek UMC – Easter Sunday

Easter Prayer - Fr. Larry Snyder

Good and gracious God,
Our most glorious Creator,
As we greet the signs in nature around us:
Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,
In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,
We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.
The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality.
For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, Light will overcome darkness,
and love will conquer death.
As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us,
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us,
As we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet,
We ask your special blessings each and every day on our President.
Working with him may we strive to make this great country of ours a beacon of hope and justice in a world
hungry for peace and so in need of your love.
We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy
and hope.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever. Amen.

Matthew 28:6

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.