

LENT 2026

A Journey with Jesus to the cross



**GARDEN
CITY CHURCH**

GARDEN CITY CHURCH

LENT GUIDE

Dear church family,

Lent is an invitation.

For forty days, we slow down and walk with Jesus toward the cross and the empty tomb. We remember our need for grace. **We practice repentance and renewal. We make space to be with the Lord in a deeper way.**

This guide was created for our whole church; adults, students, longtime believers, and those still exploring faith. Each day is simple and intentional. You can complete it in about ten minutes. Some days you may linger longer. Other days you may only read and pray. Both are enough.

Our hope is not that you would complete this perfectly, but that you would **walk honestly with Jesus.**

We begin in **humility.**

We continue in **repentance.**

We walk in **hope.**

We arrive at **Easter with joy.**

We are walking this road **together.**

With love,

Carl and Aaron

What Is Lent?

Lent is the forty day season leading up to Easter.

It mirrors Jesus' forty days in the wilderness and prepares us to remember his death and celebrate his resurrection.

Historically, Lent has been marked by three simple practices:

- **Prayer** – turning our attention toward God in dependence
- **Fasting** – ordering our lives to hunger more for God
- **Repentance** - returning to the Lord with humble and whole hearts

Lent is not about spiritual performance.

It is about spiritual attention.

We **slow down** so we can notice where **we need grace**.

We **confess** so we can **receive mercy**.

We **remember** that we belong to **Jesus**.

How to Use This Guide

Each day includes a simple rhythm:

- Opening verse
- Prayer of Adoration
- Prayer of Confession
- Assurance of Grace
- Scripture Reading
- Reflection
- Prayer
- Reflection Questions
- A simple daily practice
- An Invitation to Respond

You can do this alone, with family, or with friends. You can journal or simply sit quietly. **If you miss a day, just begin again the next day. The goal is not completion. The goal is communion with Christ.** Set aside about 10 minutes a day. Choose a consistent time if possible; morning, lunch, or evening. Let this be a small daily return to Jesus.

An Invitation to Fast

Throughout Scripture and the history of the church, **fasting** has been a meaningful way for God's people to seek him with greater attentiveness. When we fast, **we set aside something physical for a time so that we might hunger more deeply for God.**

During this Lenten season, we invite our church family into a shared rhythm of **fasting from food.** Rather than fasting individually alone, we hope to **practice this together as one body.** Our prayer is that throughout Lent, someone from **Garden City** will always be **fasting and praying**, a **continual offering** of prayer rising **to the Lord from our church.**

A fasting calendar will be available with a variety of time slots throughout each week. Some may choose to fast from a single meal, others for a portion of a day, and some for longer stretches as they are able. We invite you to **prayerfully consider** signing up for a time that is both **meaningful and realistic** for your season of life.

This invitation is **not about spiritual performance** or endurance. **Fasting does not earn God's favor; it simply helps us remember our need for him and make space to seek him with greater clarity.** As we fast, we turn our attention toward prayer, for our own hearts, for one another, and for the work of God among us.

If you are unable to fast from food for health or personal reasons, you are warmly encouraged to participate through prayer or by fasting from another distraction. **Our desire is not uniformity, but shared attentiveness to the Lord.**

As we enter this season together, **may our shared fasting become a quiet, continual prayer drawing us nearer to Christ** and to one another as we walk toward Easter.

Prayer for the Beginning of Lent

Almighty and merciful God,

You know our frailty and our need.

As we begin this journey toward the cross,

soften our hearts, quiet our distractions,

and draw us near to Jesus.

Give us grace to see our sin honestly

and your mercy clearly.

Form in us a deeper love for Christ,

a truer repentance,

and a steadier hope in the gospel.

Walk with us through these forty days,

and lead us at last to the joy of Easter.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Week 1 — Returning to God

This week we begin by returning to God with honesty and humility. We come not to perform, but to draw near to the One who is gracious and merciful.

Day 1 — Ash Wednesday - February 18th, 2026

Return

“Return to me with all your heart... for he is gracious and merciful.

— Joel 2:12–13

Prayer of Adoration

Holy and merciful God,

You are gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

You do not turn away from those who seek you,

and you delight to show mercy to the repentant.

From the beginning, you have been faithful to your people.

You formed us, sustained us, and in Christ you have redeemed us.

You are patient with our wandering

and constant in your love.

We come before you today not because of our goodness,

but because of your grace.

Receive our praise and draw our hearts back to you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

[1] Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.

[2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

[3] For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

[4] Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words

and blameless in your judgment.

[5] Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me.

[6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. (Psalm 51:1–6)

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

— 1 John 1:9

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:12–17

Psalms 51:1–12

2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2

Lent begins with a simple invitation to return to God with honesty and humility. When we turn toward him, we discover he is gracious, merciful, and ready to receive us.

Prayer

Gracious God,

As we begin this Lenten journey,

turn our hearts again toward you.

Where we have wandered, call us back.

Where we have grown distracted, refocus us.

Where we have grown weary, renew us.

Give us grace to walk this path with humility and trust,

that we may draw nearer to Christ

and be formed more fully into his likeness.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you sensed distance or distraction in your relationship with God?
2. What might it look like for you to return to him honestly today?
3. As you begin Lent, what are you hoping God will renew in your heart?

Simple Practice

Sit quietly for two minutes and pray:

“Here I am, Lord. I return to you.”

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 2 — Thursday, February 19, 2026

Draw Near

James 4:8

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious Father,

You are never far from those who seek you.

You draw near to the humble

and welcome all who call upon your name.

You are patient with our wandering

and faithful in your love.

From morning to evening,

your mercy surrounds us and sustains us.

We praise you for your constant presence

and for the grace that invites us near.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess that our attention has been divided.

Our minds have been filled with noise and hurry,

and our hearts have drifted from your presence.

We have often lived distracted and preoccupied,

giving our time and energy to many things

while neglecting life with you.

Forgive us for the ways we have wandered.

Quiet our restless hearts

and draw us near again.

Through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

— Matthew 11:28

Scripture Reading

Psalms 27

Luke 10:38–42

God is never far from those who seek him, even in the midst of busy and distracted lives. As we gently turn our attention toward him, we rediscover his nearness.

Prayer

Lord, gather my scattered thoughts

and draw my heart toward you.

Teach me to live with greater attentiveness

to your presence and your grace.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What most often distracts your attention from God?
2. When do you feel most aware of his presence?
3. How might you gently turn your attention back to him today?

Simple Practice

Before each meal today, pause for 20 seconds of silence and remember that God is near.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 3 — Friday, February 20, 2026

Honest Hearts

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

— Psalm 34:18

Prayer of Adoration

Compassionate God,

you see us fully and know us completely.

Nothing in our lives is hidden from you,

and yet you receive us with mercy.

You are gentle with the weak

and near to those who call upon you.

Your steadfast love never fails,

and your compassion never grows weary.

We praise you for your patience

and for the kindness that leads us to return.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Cleanse me from my secret faults, O Lord, and forgive those offenses to your servant which he has caused in others. I contend not in judgement with you, who are truth; I fear to deceive myself, lest my sin should make me think that I am not sinful. Therefore I contend not in judgement with you; for if you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall abide it? Amen. (Augustine)

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

— Psalm 103:8

Scripture Reading

Psalms 51:1–12

Luke 18:9–14

God invites us to come without hiding, bringing our whole hearts into his light. Honest confession leads not to shame but to the mercy that restores us.

Prayer

Merciful God,

Give me grace to come before you honestly.

Remove what is false within me

and renew my heart in your truth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What makes it difficult to be fully honest before God?
2. Where might the Lord be inviting you into deeper honesty?
3. How does his mercy give you courage to confess?

Simple Practice

Pray one honest sentence to God today — no polished words, just truth.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 4 — Saturday, February 21, 2026

Remembering Our Need

“Apart from me you can do nothing.”

— *John 15:5*

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You are the source of all life and strength.

Every good gift comes from your hand,
and every breath is sustained by your grace.

You are our refuge and our help,
our sustainer and our guide.
Without you we have no life,
but in you we find fullness and peace.

We praise you for your constant care
and for the grace that upholds us each day.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Lord,
We confess our tendency
to rely on ourselves rather than on you.
We trust our own strength,
our own plans,
and our own understanding.
Forgive us for our self-sufficiency
and for the ways we live as though we do not need you.

Teach us again to depend on your grace.

Humble our hearts

and draw us into deeper trust.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

Scripture Reading

John 15:1–11

Psalms 62

We were not created to live apart from God but in daily dependence on him. As we acknowledge our need, we rediscover the strength and peace found in his sustaining grace.

Prayer

Sustaining God,

Teach me to rely on your grace.

Where I have trusted in myself,

lead me back to dependence on you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel pressure to rely on your own strength?
2. What would deeper dependence on God look like for you?
3. How have you experienced his sustaining grace before?

Simple Practice

Hold your hands open for one minute, quietly pray:

“Lord, I depend on you.”

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 5 — Sunday, February 22, 2026

The Mercy of God

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end.”

— Lamentations 3:22–23

Prayer of Adoration

God of mercy,

Your steadfast love never fails.

Morning by morning your compassion is renewed,
and your faithfulness never wavers.

You meet us with kindness
and sustain us with grace.

Even in our weakness and wandering,
you remain faithful to your promises.

We praise you for your enduring mercy
and for the hope we have in Christ.

Through Jesus our Lord,
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Father,

We confess that we often forget your goodness.

We dwell on our worries and failures
and lose sight of your faithful care.

Forgive us for the ways we have doubted your mercy
and lived as though your grace were limited.

Renew our trust in your steadfast love.

Lift our eyes to your compassion
and restore our hope in you.

Through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

— Psalm 103:12

Scripture Reading

Psalm 103:1–13

Luke 15:1–7

God's mercy is constant and renewed each morning. We rest today in the assurance that his steadfast love never fails.

Prayer

Faithful God,

Thank you for your mercy that never fails.

Help me to rest in your grace

and to walk in renewed hope today.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you seen God's mercy in your life recently?
2. Why can it be difficult to receive his forgiveness fully?
3. How might remembering his mercy shape your day?

Simple Practice

Begin today by thanking God for three specific mercies in your life.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 6 — Monday, February 23, 2026

Returning Again

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion.”

— Luke 15:20

Prayer of Adoration

Compassionate Father,

Your mercy welcomes us again and again.

You do not grow weary of our returning

or impatient with our need.

Your love is steadfast and sure,

and your grace meets us each time we turn toward you.

You receive us not as strangers

but as beloved children.

We praise you for your faithful compassion

and for the grace that restores us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess that we often wander.

We drift from your presence

and pursue paths that do not lead to life.

Forgive us for the ways we turn away from you.

Forgive our resistance, our forgetfulness, and our pride.

Draw us back with your gentle mercy.

Give us willing hearts to return

and trust in your grace.

Through Christ our Savior, Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

— Psalm 145:8

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:11–24

Isaiah 55:6–9

The life of faith includes returning to God again and again. Each time we turn toward him, we are met with compassion and welcome.

Prayer

Gracious Father,

Thank you that you welcome me each time I return.

Draw my heart back to you today

and keep me near to your grace.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. When do you find it hardest to return to God?
2. How does this parable shape your view of his mercy?
3. What might returning to him look like today?

Simple Practice

When you notice stress or hurry today, slow your pace slightly and remember God is with you.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 7 — Tuesday, February 24, 2026

A Willing Heart

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

— Psalm 51:10

Prayer of Adoration

Renewing God,

You restore what is broken

and renew what has grown weary.

Your grace makes all things new

and your Spirit brings life to our hearts.

You are patient with our weakness

and faithful in your work within us.

We praise you for your power to transform

and for your mercy that sustains us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that our hearts are often divided.

We desire to follow you,

yet we cling to what is familiar and comfortable.

Forgive us for our reluctance to change

and for our resistance to your leading.

Create in us clean hearts

and renew our spirits.

Make us willing to follow you more fully

and to trust your work within us.

Through Christ our Savior,

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

“Behold, I am making all things new.”

— Revelation 21:5

Scripture Reading

Psalms 51:6–12

Ezekiel 36:25–27

God's grace not only forgives us but renews us from within. As we remain open to him, he forms new desires and a willing spirit in us.

Prayer

Renewing Lord,

Create in me a willing heart.

Shape my desires and guide my steps

as I follow you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you long for renewal in your life?
2. What might it mean to have a willing heart before God?
3. How can you remain open to his work today?

Simple Practice

Open your hands in prayer and say: “Lord, renew my heart.”

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Week 2 — Turning Toward Christ

As we continually return to our Good Father, we now turn our attention more fully to Jesus. As we walk with him each day, we learn to live with greater trust and awareness of his presence.

Day 8 — Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus.”

— Hebrews 12:1–2

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ,

You are the author and perfecter of our faith.

You are faithful in all your ways

and steadfast in your love.

You call us to follow you

and sustain us by your grace.

You are our guide and our hope,

our Savior and our King.

We praise you for your mercy

and for the life we have in you.

Turn our hearts toward you today.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

we confess that our attention is often divided.

We fix our eyes on many things

and lose sight of you.

We become preoccupied with our worries,

our responsibilities, and our desires,

forgetting to look to you.

Forgive us for our distraction

and renew our focus.

Teach us to set our hearts on you again.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

— John 8:12

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 12:1–3

John 8:12

Our attention is easily pulled in many directions, yet clarity comes when we look to Christ. As we fix our eyes on him, we are reminded that he leads and sustains us.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Help me to fix my eyes on you.

In the midst of distraction and hurry,

draw my attention back to your presence.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What most often distracts your attention from Christ?
2. When do you feel most aware of his presence?
3. How can you gently turn your focus back to him today?

Simple Practice

Set one reminder on your phone to pause and remember "Jesus is present with me."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 9 — Thursday, February 26, 2026

Listening to His Voice

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

— John 10:27

Prayer of Adoration

Good Shepherd,

You know your people and call us by name.

Your voice leads us in truth

and your presence gives us peace.

You are patient and faithful,

guiding us with wisdom and love.

We praise you for your care

and for the grace that leads us home.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Lord,

We confess that we often fail to listen.

Our lives are filled with noise,

and our hearts grow inattentive to your voice.

We hurry through our days

without pausing to seek your guidance.

Forgive us for our neglect

and quiet our restless minds.

Teach us to listen for your voice

and to follow where you lead. Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

— Psalm 119:105

Scripture Reading

John 10:1–15, 27–30

Psalm 119:105–112

Jesus leads his people with patience and care, speaking through Scripture and the quiet work of the Spirit. When we slow down and listen, we become more attentive to his guidance.

Prayer

Good Shepherd,

Quiet my heart so I may hear you.

Lead me in your truth

and help me follow your voice.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What makes it difficult for you to listen for God's voice?
2. When have you sensed his guidance clearly?
3. How can you create space to listen today?

Simple Practice

Spend two quiet minutes in silence today, simply saying:

"Speak, Lord, I am listening."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 10 — Friday, February 27, 2026

Following with Trust

“Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

— 1 John 2:6

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are the way, the truth, and the life.

You lead us in paths of righteousness

and guide us with faithful love.

You call us not only to believe in you

but to walk with you each day.

We praise you for your wisdom

and for your steadfast care.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Faithful Savior,

We confess that we often resist your leading.

We prefer our own plans

and trust our own understanding.

Forgive us for the ways we hesitate to follow

and for the times we choose comfort over obedience.

Give us courage to walk in your ways

and to trust your guidance.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

— Proverbs 3:5–6

Scripture Reading

John 14:1–7

1 John 2:1–6

Following Jesus means trusting him one step at a time. Even when the path is unclear, his presence goes with us and leads us forward.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Teach me to follow you with trust.

Give me courage to walk in your ways

and to rely on your grace.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is Jesus inviting you to trust him more deeply?
2. What makes following him difficult at times?
3. What is one small step of trust you can take today?

Simple Practice

Ask Jesus for guidance in one small decision today.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 11 — Saturday, February 28, 2026

Abiding in Christ

“Abide in me, and I in you.”

— John 15:4

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are the true vine

and the source of all life.

In you we live and grow

and bear lasting fruit.

Your love sustains us,

your grace strengthens us,

and your presence gives us peace.

We praise you for your faithful care

and for the life we have in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Savior,

We confess that we often try to live apart from you.

We rely on our own strength

and seek life in lesser things.

Forgive us for our self-reliance

and for the ways we drift from your presence.

Draw us back into deeper communion with you.

Teach us to remain in your love

and to depend on your grace. Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit."

— John 15:5

Scripture Reading

John 15:1–11

Psalms 1

Spiritual life grows from remaining connected to Christ. As we stay close to him, his life shapes and sustains our own.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Help me to remain in you.

Keep my heart close to yours

and teach me to live in your love.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean for you to abide in Christ daily?
2. When do you feel most connected to him?
3. How can you remain aware of his presence today?

Simple Practice

Take a short walk and remember you are walking with Christ.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 12 — Sunday, March 1, 2026

Resting in Christ

“Come to me... and I will give you rest.”

— Matthew 11:28

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are gentle and lowly in heart.

You welcome the weary

and give rest to those who come to you.

Your yoke is easy

and your burden is light.

You are our peace and our refuge.

We praise you for your compassion

and for the rest you provide.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess that we often live in striving.

We carry burdens you have not given

and try to sustain ourselves without you.

Forgive us for our anxious effort

and for the ways we resist your rest.

Teach us to come to you with trust

and to receive the peace you offer.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

— John 14:27

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:25–30

Hebrews 4:9–11

Jesus invites the weary to come to him and receive rest. Today we release our striving and trust his gentle care.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Teach me to rest in you.

Help me release what I carry

and receive your peace today.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What burdens feel heavy for you right now?
2. How does Jesus' invitation to rest speak to your heart?
3. What would it look like to trust him more deeply today?

Simple Practice

Take three slow breaths today and pray:

"In you, I find rest."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 13 — Monday, March 2, 2026

Trusting His Lead

“In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

— Proverbs 3:6

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You guide your people with wisdom and love.

You are trustworthy in all your ways

and faithful in every promise.

You lead us with patience

and sustain us with grace.

We praise you for your guidance

and for your constant care.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Lord,

We confess that we often trust our own understanding.

We cling to our plans

and resist your leading.

Forgive us for our reluctance to trust you fully.

Give us hearts that are willing to follow

and eyes that are attentive to your ways.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord will guide you continually."

— Isaiah 58:11

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 3:1–8

Psalms 32:8–9

God faithfully guides those who look to him. As we entrust our plans and decisions to him, we learn to walk in deeper trust.

Prayer

Guiding God,

help me to trust your leading.

Direct my steps

and teach me to walk in your ways.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you most need God's guidance right now?
2. What makes trusting his direction difficult?
3. How can you acknowledge him in your decisions today?

Simple Practice

Before checking your phone in the morning take one breath and offer your day to God.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 14 — Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Walking with Him

“Enoch walked with God.”

— Genesis 5:24

Prayer of Adoration

Lord God,

You invite us into daily fellowship with you.

You walk with your people

and dwell among us with grace.

Your presence sustains us

and your love guides us.

We praise you for the gift of life with you

and for the nearness we have in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord,

We confess that we often live as though we walk alone.

We move through our days without awareness of you

and rely on our own strength.

Forgive us for our forgetfulness

and for the ways we neglect your presence.

Teach us to walk with you more closely

and to live each day in your grace.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

— Joshua 1:9

Scripture Reading

Colossians 2:6–7

Micah 6:8

The Christian life is a daily walk with God in ordinary moments. As we remain aware of his presence, we learn to live more closely with him.

Prayer

Faithful God,

Teach me to walk with you.

Help me to live this day

aware of your presence and guided by your grace.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean for you to walk with God daily?
2. When do you feel most aware of his presence?
3. How can you remain attentive to him today?

Simple Practice

As you walk anywhere today, pray quietly:

"I walk with you, Lord."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Week 3 — A Surrendered Heart

This week we practice the gentle posture of surrender. As we release control and entrust our lives to God, we discover the freedom of trusting his care.

Day 15 — Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Open Hands

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”

— Proverbs 3:5

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You are trustworthy in all your ways.

Your wisdom is perfect

and your love never fails.

You hold all things in your hands

and guide your people with care.

We praise you for your constant presence

and for your faithful provision.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord,

We confess that we often cling tightly

to our plans and expectations.

We rely on our own understanding

and resist releasing control.

Forgive us for our anxious striving

and for the ways we fail to trust you.

Teach us to live with open hands

and surrendered hearts.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

— 1 Peter 5:7

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:25–34

Proverbs 3:5–6

Surrender begins with releasing our tight grip on what we cannot control. As we place our lives in God's hands, we discover the freedom of trusting his care.

Prayer

Faithful God,

Teach me to trust you more deeply.

Help me release what I cannot control

and rest in your care.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What are you holding most tightly right now?
2. What makes surrender difficult for you?
3. How might trusting God bring freedom today?

Simple Practice

Hold your hands open for one minute in prayer and say:

"Lord, I place this in your hands."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 16 — Thursday, March 5, 2026

Letting Go of Control

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

— Psalm 46:10

Prayer of Adoration

Sovereign Lord,

You reign over all things

with wisdom and compassion.

Nothing is beyond your care

and nothing escapes your notice.

You are our refuge and strength,

a present help in every season.

We praise you for your authority

and for your faithful love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess our desire to control what only you can hold.

We grasp for certainty

and resist surrendering our fears to you.

Forgive us for our anxious striving

and for the ways we try to manage our lives apart from you.

Teach us to be still

and to trust your sovereign care.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

— Exodus 14:14

Scripture Reading

Psalms 46

Luke 12:22–32

We often try to manage what only God can hold. In stillness, we remember that he is present and faithful to guide us.

Prayer

Sovereign God,

Teach me to be still before you.

Help me release my need for control

and rest in your faithful care.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel the strongest need for control?
2. How does God's sovereignty bring comfort?
3. What might it look like to trust him more fully today?

Simple Practice

Practice one minute of stillness without distraction or noise.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 17 — Friday, March 6, 2026

Trusting His Will

“Not my will, but yours, be done.”

— Luke 22:42

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You walked the path of obedience
with humility and trust.

You entrusted your life to the Father
and fulfilled his will with love.

You are faithful in all things
and gentle in your leadership.

We praise you for your example
and for your saving grace.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess our resistance to your will.

We prefer our own plans
and struggle to trust your purposes.

Forgive us for our reluctance
and for the ways we hold back from full obedience.

Give us hearts that are willing
to follow wherever you lead.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you."

— 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:39–46

Romans 12:1–2

Jesus entrusted himself fully to the Father, even in difficulty. As we place our own plans before God, we learn to trust that his will is good.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Teach me to trust your will.

Give me grace to surrender my plans

and to follow you with confidence.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is it hardest for you to trust God's will?
2. How does Jesus' example in Gethsemane encourage you?
3. What might surrender look like in your life today?

Simple Practice

Pray slowly today: "Not my will, but yours be done."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 18 — Saturday, March 7, 2026

A Humble Posture

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”

— James 4:10

Prayer of Adoration

Humble and gracious God,

you dwell with the lowly

and give grace to the humble.

You are near to those who depend on you

and faithful to lift up those who trust in you.

We praise you for your mercy

and for your gentle care.

You are patient with our weakness

and steadfast in your love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Father,

We confess our pride and self-reliance.

We seek recognition and control

rather than trusting in your grace.

Forgive us for the ways we exalt ourselves

and resist your shaping hand.

Teach us humility of heart

and a deeper dependence on you.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

— James 4:6

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

James 4:6–10

Humility is the quiet recognition that we depend on God for everything. When we come before him with open hearts, we find grace that sustains and restores.

Prayer

Gracious God,

Form in me a humble heart.

Teach me to depend on your grace

and to walk in your ways.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you struggle with pride or self-reliance?
2. What might humility look like in your daily life?
3. How does God's grace meet you in humility?

Simple Practice

Quietly pray three times today: "Lord, give me a humble heart."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 19 — Sunday, March 8, 2026

Held by Grace

“My grace is sufficient for you.”

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious Lord,

Your mercy sustains us

and your grace is enough.

You meet us in weakness

and strengthen us with your love.

You are faithful in every season

and generous beyond measure.

We praise you for your sustaining grace

and for the hope we have in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we often strive

to prove ourselves worthy.

We carry burdens you have not given

and forget that your grace is sufficient.

Forgive us for our striving

and for the ways we neglect your mercy.

Teach us to rest in your grace

and trust in your strength. Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion."

— Philippians 1:6

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Philippians 1:3–11

God's grace meets us in weakness and carries us forward. Today we rest in the assurance that his strength is enough for us.

Prayer

Faithful God,

Thank you for your sustaining grace.

Help me to rest in your love

and trust the work you are doing in me.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel pressure to prove yourself?
2. How does God's grace free you from striving?
3. What helps you rest in his faithfulness?

Simple Practice

Receive today as a gift, not something to manage or control.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 20 — Monday, March 9, 2026

A Willing Yes

“Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.”

— 1 Samuel 3:9

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You call your people by name

and lead us in your ways.

You are patient and kind,

guiding us with wisdom and love.

We praise you for your faithfulness

and for the grace that leads us forward.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Lord,

We confess our hesitation to follow.

We hear your invitations

yet resist with fear or uncertainty.

Forgive us for our reluctance

and give us hearts that are willing to obey.

Help us trust your goodness

and respond with faith.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me."

— Psalm 138:8

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 3:1–10

Colossians 3:12–17

God often leads through small invitations to trust and obey. A willing heart makes space for his work to unfold in our lives.

Prayer

Lord,

Give me a willing heart.

Help me respond to your leading

with trust and obedience.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where might God be inviting your willingness today?
2. What holds you back from saying yes?
3. How can you respond with trust?

Simple Practice

Say a simple yes to something good, God puts in front of you today.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 21 — Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Entrusting the Way

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.”

— Psalm 37:5

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You are trustworthy in all your ways.

You guide your people with wisdom

and sustain us with grace.

Your purposes are good

and your love endures forever.

We praise you for your faithfulness

and for your constant care.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess our uncertainty and fear.

We hesitate to entrust our future to you

and cling to what feels secure.

Forgive us for our lack of trust.

Teach us to place our lives in your hands

and to walk forward in faith.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

— Psalm 23:1

Scripture Reading

Psalm 37:1–7

Matthew 16:24–26

We do not need to see the whole path to trust God with our future. As we commit our way to him, we walk forward with quiet confidence in his care.

Prayer

Faithful God,

I entrust my life to you.

Guide my steps

and keep my heart close to yours.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What feels uncertain in your life right now?
2. How can you entrust this to God?
3. Where have you seen his faithfulness before?

Simple Practice

Whisper this prayer today: "I trust you, Lord."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Week 4 — Becoming Like Christ

God forms us over time as we remain close to Christ. This week we pay attention to the quiet ways he is shaping our hearts and lives.

Day 22 — Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Formed by Grace

“And we all... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”

— 2 Corinthians 3:18

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God,

You are faithful in all your ways.

You shape and form your people

with wisdom and love.

Your grace is patient and sure,

and your purposes are good.

We praise you for your transforming work

and for the hope we have in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess our impatience with growth.

We desire quick change

and become discouraged by our weakness.

Forgive us for relying on our own effort

and forgetting the power of your grace.

Help us trust the work you are doing within us.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.”

— Philippians 1:6

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 3:17–18

Philippians 1:3–11

God patiently shapes us over time into the likeness of Christ. Even when growth feels slow, his transforming work continues within us.

Prayer

Faithful God,

Thank you for your patient work in my life.

Help me trust your grace

and remain open to your forming hand.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you most desire spiritual growth?
2. What makes growth feel slow or difficult?
3. How can you trust God’s forming work today?

Simple Practice

Pray once today: “Lord, continue your work in me.”

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 23 — Thursday, March 12, 2026

Learning His Ways

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.”

— Matthew 11:29

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are gentle and faithful.

You lead us with wisdom

and teach us your ways.

Your heart is humble and kind,

and your presence gives us rest.

We praise you for your guidance

and for the grace we receive in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess that we often follow our own ways.

We rely on our own wisdom

and neglect your teaching.

Forgive us for our independence

and teach us to walk in your ways.

Give us hearts that are willing to learn

and lives that reflect your love.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go."

— Psalm 32:8

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:25–30

Colossians 3:12–17

Jesus invites us to learn from him and follow his example. As we remain close to him, his character begins to shape our own.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Teach me your ways.

Shape my heart and guide my steps

as I follow you.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What is Jesus teaching you in this season?
2. Where might he be inviting you to grow?
3. How can you remain attentive to his guidance today?

Simple Practice

Ask: "Jesus, what are you teaching me right now?"

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 24 — Friday, March 13, 2026

A Life of Love

“Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.”

— Ephesians 5:2

Prayer of Adoration

God of love,

Your love is steadfast and true.

You have shown us perfect love in Christ

and call us to reflect that love to others.

Your compassion never fails,

and your mercy is new each morning.

We praise you for your great love

and for the grace that transforms us.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess that our love is often limited.

We grow impatient,

withhold kindness,

and seek our own comfort.

Forgive us for the ways we fail to love

as you have loved us.

Fill our hearts with your compassion

and teach us to walk in love.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"We love because he first loved us."

— 1 John 4:19

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1–7

John 13:34–35

Christ calls us to live in love, reflecting the grace we have received. As we remember his love for us, our hearts are softened toward others.

Prayer

God of love,

Fill my heart with your compassion.

Help me reflect your kindness

in all I say and do.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is God inviting you to grow in love?
2. How have you experienced Christ's love personally?
3. Who might need your kindness today?

Simple Practice

Offer one intentional act of kindness today.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 25 — Saturday, March 14, 2026

Growing in Patience

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

— Ephesians 4:2

Prayer of Adoration

Patient and faithful God,

You are slow to anger

and abounding in steadfast love.

Your mercy endures

and your compassion never fails.

You walk with us patiently

and guide us with care.

We praise you for your gentleness

and for your enduring grace.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess our impatience.

We grow frustrated quickly

and struggle to extend grace to others.

Forgive us for harsh words

and hurried responses.

Form in us a patient spirit

and hearts that reflect your kindness.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

— Psalm 145:8

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12–15

James 1:19–20

God is patient with us and teaches us to extend that patience to others. Through ordinary moments, he forms gentleness and steadiness in our lives.

Prayer

Patient God,

Form in me a gentle and steady spirit.

Help me reflect your patience

in all my interactions today.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. When do you find patience most difficult?
2. How has God shown patience toward you?
3. Where might you extend patience today?

Simple Practice

Before responding in conversation today, pause and take one slow breath.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 26 — Sunday, March 15, 2026

Renewed by Grace

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”

— Isaiah 40:31

Prayer of Adoration

Renewing God,

You give strength to the weary
and hope to those who trust in you.

Your grace restores
and your presence sustains.

You are faithful in every season
and generous beyond measure.

We praise you for your renewing love
and for the life we have in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord,

We confess our weariness and discouragement.

We grow tired in the journey
and forget the strength you provide.

Forgive us for relying on ourselves
and neglecting your renewing grace.

Restore our hope
and renew our hearts today.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"He restores my soul."

— Psalm 23:3

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:28–31

Psalm 23

Even in seasons of growth, we can become weary. The journey of formation is not always easy, and at times we feel tired or discouraged. Yet God meets us with renewing grace. He does not expect us to sustain ourselves; he restores us again and again.

Sunday reminds us of this renewal. Just as Christ was raised to new life, we are continually renewed by his grace. Our strength comes not from our own effort but from the presence of God within us.

When we wait on the Lord, trusting, praying, and remaining near to him, we receive the strength we need. This renewal may not always be dramatic, but it is real. God restores our souls and steadies our steps.

Today, receive this renewal. Allow God's grace to refresh your heart and restore your hope. You are sustained by his love and strengthened by his presence.

Prayer

Renewing God,

Restore my soul today.

Strengthen me by your grace

and fill me with renewed hope.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel most weary right now?
2. How has God renewed you in the past?
3. What helps you receive his renewing grace?

Simple Practice

Encourage someone with a brief word or text.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 27 — Monday, March 16, 2026

Faithful in Small Things

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much.”

— Luke 16:10

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You are steadfast in all your ways.

You care for the smallest details

and guide us with wisdom.

Your faithfulness never fails,

and your grace sustains us daily.

We praise you for your constant presence

and for your guiding love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess our desire for visible results

and recognition.

We overlook the importance of small acts

and grow discouraged in ordinary faithfulness.

Forgive us for neglecting daily obedience.

Teach us to be faithful

in the small things you place before us.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord.”

Scripture Reading

Luke 16:10–13

Colossians 3:17–24

Spiritual growth often unfolds through small, faithful steps. As we walk with God each day, he forms a steady and enduring faith within us.

Prayer

Faithful God,

Help me to live with steady obedience.

Teach me to honor you

in the small moments of this day.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel called to quiet faithfulness?
2. How does God view small acts of obedience?
3. What small step of faith can you take today?

Simple Practice

Choose one ordinary task today and do it prayerfully for the Lord.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 28 — Tuesday, March 17, 2026

A Life Reflecting Christ

“Let your light shine before others.”

— Matthew 5:16

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are the light of the world.

Your love shines in darkness

and your grace brings life.

You call us to reflect your light

and to walk in your ways.

We praise you for your presence

and for the life we have in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess that we often hide our faith

or live without reflecting your love.

Forgive us for the ways we fail

to represent you well.

Fill us with your Spirit

and help us live in a way

that reflects your grace and truth.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood... that you may proclaim the excellencies of him."

— 1 Peter 2:9

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13–16

Philippians 2:12–16

Christ forms us so his light becomes visible in our words, actions, and relationships—not as perfection, but as his presence shining through ordinary faithfulness. Today, look for one small way to reflect Jesus' love and trust that even quiet obedience can shine brightly.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Let your light shine through my life.

Help me reflect your love

in all I do and say.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. How is Christ shaping your life in this season?
2. Where can you reflect his love more clearly?
3. What does it mean to shine his light today?

Simple Practice

Thank God for one way he is forming you.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Week 5 — Drawing Near to the Cross

Having received God's mercy, we are invited to extend that same love to others. This week we practice living with compassion, patience, and grace.

Day 29 — Wednesday, March 18, 2026

The Path of Love

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us.”

— 1 John 3:16

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ,

Your love is steadfast and true.

You gave yourself for us

and walked the path of sacrifice with grace.

Your mercy is deeper than we can measure,

and your compassion never fails.

We praise you for your saving love

and for the life we have in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess that we often forget the cost of grace.

We receive your love

yet hesitate to follow in your way.

Forgive us for our self-centeredness

and for the ways we resist sacrificial love.

Renew our hearts with gratitude

and form us in your likeness.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

— Romans 5:8

Scripture Reading

1 John 3:16–18

John 15:9–13

The cross is God's clearest revelation of love—Jesus didn't just speak about love; he proved it by laying down his life. Let that love quiet your fears, renew your hope, and move you toward humility and compassion.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Help me to see your love more clearly.

Let the truth of your sacrifice

shape my heart and my life.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does the cross reveal about God's love for you?
2. How does Christ's sacrifice shape your understanding of grace?
3. Where might his love be forming your life today?

Simple Practice

Pray for someone else and share that prayer with them.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 30 — Thursday, March 19, 2026

Walking with Jesus

“Whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

— Matthew 10:38

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You call us to follow you

with humility and trust.

You lead us in paths of life

and sustain us by your grace.

Your presence goes before us

and your mercy surrounds us.

We praise you for your faithful leadership

and for the hope we have in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess our reluctance to follow fully.

We prefer comfort and certainty

to the path of trust and surrender.

Forgive us for our hesitation

and renew our willingness to walk with you.

Give us courage to follow

wherever you lead. Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:24–26

Luke 9:23–25

Following Jesus is a daily invitation to trust and surrender, discovering that the path of the cross is ultimately the path of life shaped by love. You don't walk alone. Christ has already borne what you carry, and his grace is sufficient for every step.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Give me courage to follow you.

Help me trust your grace

and walk faithfully in your ways.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean for you to take up your cross today?
2. Where is Jesus inviting deeper trust?
3. How does his grace strengthen you to follow?

Simple Practice

Listen to someone today without interrupting.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 31 — Friday, March 20, 2026

The Gift of Grace

“For by grace you have been saved through faith.”

— Ephesians 2:8

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious God,

Your mercy is beyond measure.

You redeem and restore

through the gift of your grace.

You have given us life in Christ

and hope through his sacrifice.

We praise you for your saving love

and for the grace that sustains us.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Father,

We confess that we sometimes take your grace for granted.

We forget the depth of your mercy

and rely on our own efforts.

Forgive us for our forgetfulness

and renew our gratitude.

Help us live each day

aware of the gift we have received.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

— Romans 8:1

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:1–10

Titus 3:3–7

Grace is the foundation of our faith. It is the unearned gift of God that rescues and restores us. As we draw near to the cross, we are reminded that our salvation rests not on our effort but on Christ's finished work.

Prayer

Gracious God,

Thank you for the gift of your grace.

Help me live in gratitude

and walk in the freedom of your love.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. How has God's grace changed your life?
2. Where do you need to receive his grace more fully?
3. How can gratitude shape your day?

Simple Practice

Pray for someone you pass in public.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 32 — Saturday, March 21, 2026

The Humility of Christ

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”

— Philippians 2:5

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You walked in humility and love.

You did not cling to glory

but took the form of a servant.

Your obedience brought life

and your mercy brought redemption.

We praise you for your humility

and for your saving grace.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess our pride and self-focus.

We seek recognition

and resist the path of humility.

Forgive us for our self-centered ways.

Form in us the mind of Christ

and teach us to walk in humble love.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

— 2 Corinthians 8:9

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

Mark 10:42–45

Jesus' humility shows us what true greatness looks like: self-giving love that serves rather than seeks recognition. Lent invites us to lay down pride and choose the quiet way of Christlike humility in daily life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Form in me a humble heart.

Teach me to walk in your ways

and reflect your love.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. How does Jesus model humility for us?
2. Where might you be invited to greater humility?
3. How can humility deepen your love for others?

Simple Practice

Perform one quiet act of service today without drawing attention to it.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 33 — Sunday, March 22, 2026

The Mercy of Christ

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end.”

— Lamentations 3:22

Prayer of Adoration

God of mercy,

Your compassion never fails.

You meet us in weakness

and restore us with grace.

Your love is steadfast

and your forgiveness is sure.

We praise you for your mercy

and for the hope we have in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Father,

We confess our failures and shortcomings.

We fall short in love

and wander from your ways.

Forgive us and restore us.

Renew our hearts

and help us receive your mercy fully.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.

— Isaiah 1:18

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:11–24

Psalms 103:8–13

Christ's mercy welcomes the repentant and restores the weary, reminding us we are not beyond his compassion. Today, receive that mercy personally and let it shape how you extend patience and kindness to others.

Prayer

Merciful God,

Thank you for your forgiveness.

Help me live in the freedom of your mercy

and extend grace to others.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you most need God's mercy today?
2. How does the cross reveal his compassion?
3. How can you extend mercy to others?

Simple Practice

Pray today: "Your mercy is new for me today."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 34 — Monday, March 23, 2026

A Heart of Gratitude

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.”

— Psalm 107:1

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious God,

You are good in all your ways.

Your love endures forever

and your faithfulness never fails.

You have redeemed and restored us

through the gift of Christ.

We praise you with grateful hearts

for your abundant grace.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess that we often overlook your goodness.

We focus on what is lacking

rather than the grace we have received.

Forgive us for our forgetfulness.

Renew in us grateful hearts

that recognize your faithful love.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"

— 2 Corinthians 9:15

Scripture Reading

Psalms 107:1-9

Colossians 3:15-17

Gratitude grows as we draw near to the cross. When we consider what Christ has done for us, our hearts are stirred with thankfulness. Grace transforms not only our standing before God but also our daily perspective.

Prayer

Gracious God,

Fill my heart with gratitude.

Help me recognize your goodness

and live with thankfulness today.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What are you most grateful for today?
2. How does gratitude shape your perspective?
3. How can thankfulness deepen your faith?

Simple Practice

Write down three things you are grateful for today.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 35 — Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Preparing the Heart

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

— Isaiah 40:3

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You prepare our hearts

and draw us near to yourself.

You guide us with wisdom

and lead us with love.

Your purposes are good

and your grace is sufficient.

We praise you for your faithful presence

and for the hope we have in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess that our hearts are often distracted.

We approach this season

without full attentiveness to your work.

Forgive us and renew our focus.

Prepare our hearts

to walk with Christ in the days ahead.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."

— Ephesians 1:7

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1–5

Hebrews 12:1–3

When we release striving and trust God's grace, we remember that he is already at work within us—and he will finish what he began. You are held not by performance but by faithful love, so you can rest with quiet confidence today.

Prayer

Faithful God,

Prepare my heart for the days ahead.

Help me walk attentively with you

and remain close to Christ.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. How can you prepare your heart for Holy Week?
2. What distractions might you release?
3. Where is God inviting deeper attentiveness?

Simple Practice

Ask God to help you see others with compassion today.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Week 6 — Abiding with Christ

As we near the end of Lent, we continue learning to trust God with our lives. Even in uncertainty, we rest in the steady hope of his faithfulness

Remain near to Christ.

Rest in his presence.

Abide in his love.

Day 36 — Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Remain in Me

“Abide in me, and I in you.”

— John 15:4

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

you are the true vine

and we are held in your care.

Your life sustains us

and your love surrounds us.

You invite us to remain in you

and to find rest in your presence.

We praise you for your faithfulness

and for the peace we have in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess how easily we drift.

Our attention wanders

and our hearts grow distracted.

Forgive us for the ways we move ahead without you.

Draw us back into your presence

and teach us to remain near.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit."

— John 15:5

Scripture Reading

John 15:1–11

Psalms 16:7–11

Abiding in Christ is where fruitfulness grows, staying close to Jesus as your source of life, strength, and love. Today, choose one simple act of "remaining" and trust that lasting change comes from communion, not hustle.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Help me remain close to you.

Draw my heart back to your presence

again and again today.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What helps you remain aware of Christ's presence?
2. When do you tend to drift from attentiveness to him?
3. How might you return to him throughout the day?

Simple Practice

Notice three ordinary gifts today and thank God for them.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 37 — Thursday, March 26, 2026

Staying Near

“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.”

— Psalm 105:4

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious God,

you draw us close

and welcome us into your presence.

You are patient and kind,

slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Your love surrounds us

and your grace sustains us.

We praise you for your nearness

and for the hope we have in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Father,

We confess our tendency to distance ourselves.

We grow busy and distracted

and neglect time with you.

Forgive us for our inattentiveness.

Renew our desire for your presence

and draw us close once more.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord is near to all who call on Him."

— Psalm 145:18

Scripture Reading

Psalm 63:1–8

James 4:7–10

Drawing near to God doesn't require perfect focus or long hours; it begins with small moments of turning your attention back to him. Today, choose nearness in steady, simple ways because he is already near and ready to meet you with grace.

Prayer

Gracious God,

Draw me near to you today.

Help me remain attentive

to your presence and your love.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What helps you feel near to God?
2. What distractions pull your attention away?
3. How can you intentionally draw near today?

Simple Practice

Resist one unnecessary distraction and turn your attention to God.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 38 — Friday, March 27, 2026

Watch and Pray

“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

— Matthew 26:41

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful Lord,

You are attentive to your people

and watch over us with care.

Your wisdom guides us

and your Spirit sustains us.

You invite us to remain watchful

and rooted in prayer.

We praise you for your presence

and for your faithful love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess our inattentiveness.

We move quickly through our days

and neglect watchfulness and prayer.

Forgive us for spiritual drowsiness.

Awaken our hearts

and help us remain attentive to you.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand."

— Psalm 121:5

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:36–46

Colossians 4:2

Jesus invites us into watchfulness—a posture of attentiveness that notices God's presence and responds with trust. Even brief pauses for prayer can reawaken your heart as you prepare for Holy Week.

Prayer

Faithful Lord,

Keep my heart attentive to you.

Teach me to watch and pray

and remain close to your presence.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What helps you remain spiritually attentive?
2. When do you tend to grow distracted or weary?
3. How can prayer keep you grounded today?

Simple Practice

Set a quiet reminder once today to pause and pray for one minute.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Day 39 — Saturday, March 28, 2026

Resting in His Presence

“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

— Isaiah 30:15

Prayer of Adoration

God of peace,

You invite us into rest.

Your presence steadies our hearts

and your love sustains us.

You are patient and faithful,

gentle with your people

and constant in your care.

We praise you for the peace we find in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess our restlessness.

We hurry through our days

and struggle to be still before you.

Forgive us for our constant striving.

Teach us to rest in your presence

and trust in your care.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

— Matthew 11:28

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:25–30

Psalms 62:5–8

Much of spiritual life is shaped by what holds our attention, and Lent invites us to recover attentiveness to Jesus without abandoning our responsibilities. Today, practice quiet nearness—small pauses, simple prayers, and steady awareness that the Lord is near.

Prayer

God of peace,

Help me rest in your presence.

Quiet my heart

and renew my trust in you.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you most need rest right now?
2. What helps you experience God's peace?
3. How can you create space for quiet today?

Simple Practice

Pray: "Lord, my hope is in you."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Holy Week

Walking with Jesus

This week we walk slowly with Jesus toward the cross and the empty tomb. We remember his love, remain near to him, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

Day 40 — Sunday, March 29, 2026 — Palm Sunday

Welcoming the King

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

— Matthew 21:9

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are the humble King

who comes in peace and mercy.

You entered Jerusalem with compassion

and set your face toward the cross.

You are worthy of praise and honor.

We welcome you with grateful hearts

and rejoice in your faithful love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful King,

We confess that we welcome you with praise

yet struggle to follow you in surrender.

We desire your blessings

but resist your transforming work.

Forgive us and renew our devotion.

Help us follow you with willing hearts.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation."

— Zechariah 9:9

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1–11

Philippians 2:5–11

Jesus enters not with force but with humility and peace. As we welcome him again, we open our hearts to his gentle rule.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

I welcome you as King.

Lead my heart through this Holy Week

and keep me near to you.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean to welcome Jesus as King?
2. How can you walk attentively through Holy Week?
3. Where is Christ inviting deeper surrender?

Simple Practice

Pray "Jesus, I welcome you as King."

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Holy Monday — March 30, 2026

A House of Prayer

“My house shall be called a house of prayer.”

— Matthew 21:13

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God,

You are worthy of all honor and praise.

You dwell among your people

and welcome us into your presence.

Your love is steadfast

and your mercy endures forever.

We praise you for your faithfulness

and for the grace we receive in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess that our hearts are often crowded.

We fill our lives with noise and distraction

and neglect your presence.

Forgive us for the ways we turn from you.

Cleanse our hearts

and renew our desire for you.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"I acknowledged my sin to you...and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."

— Psalm 32:5

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:12–17

Psalm 84

In his final days, Jesus remained faithful to his purpose. We slow down this week to walk with him more closely.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Prepare my heart for this holy week.

Clear away distraction

and draw me close to you.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What distracts your heart from attentiveness to God?
2. How can you make space for prayer this week?
3. What does it mean to walk prayerfully with Jesus?

Simple Practice

Pay attention to what fills your thoughts today. When you notice distraction gently return your attention to Christ your King.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Holy Tuesday — March 31, 2026

Listening to Jesus

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

— Matthew 11:15

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are the Word of life.

Your voice brings wisdom

and your truth brings freedom.

You speak with grace and authority

and lead us in the way of life.

We praise you for your teaching

and for the hope we have in you.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess that we do not always listen.

We are quick to speak

and slow to attend to your voice.

Forgive our inattentiveness.

Open our hearts

and teach us to listen with humility.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

— John 10:27

Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:34–40

John 10:22–30

Jesus continues to speak words of life to his followers. As we listen to him, we are shaped by his truth and grace.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

open my ears to hear you.

Help me listen with humility

and follow your leading.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What helps you listen attentively to Jesus?
2. Where might he be speaking to your heart?
3. How can you respond with trust today?

Simple Practice

Read today's Scripture slowly twice and sit quietly for one minute afterward.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Holy Wednesday — April 1, 2026

A Heart of Devotion

“She has done a beautiful thing to me.”

— Matthew 26:10

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are worthy of our devotion.

You receive our love

and welcome our worship.

Your mercy is great

and your compassion never fails.

We praise you for your presence

and for your faithful love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess our divided hearts.

We offer you partial devotion

and hold back what is yours.

Forgive us and renew our love.

Draw our hearts fully toward you

and teach us to worship with sincerity.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"We love because he first loved us."

— 1 John 4:19

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:6–13

Psalms 63

Holy Week invites us into a quieter and more attentive posture. We make space to remember Christ and prepare our hearts.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Receive my devotion today.

Help me love you fully

and walk closely with you.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does sincere devotion look like in your life?
2. How has Christ shown his love to you?
3. How can you respond with gratitude today?

Simple Practice

Sit in stillness (no music, no phone, no noise)

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Maundy Thursday — April 2, 2026

The Table of Love

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you.”

— John 13:34

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus,

You are the servant King

who stoops to love and serve.

You gather your people to the table

and welcome us with grace.

Your love is faithful and true.

Your mercy has no end.

We praise you for your humility

and for the gift of your presence.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior,

We confess our reluctance to love as you love.

We seek comfort over service

and hold back from sacrificial care.

Forgive us and renew our hearts.

Teach us to walk in humility

and love others with sincerity.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

— John 13:1

Scripture Reading

John 13:1–17, 31–35

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Jesus loved his disciples to the very end, offering himself in humility and grace. We remember his love and the table where he welcomed us.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for loving us to the end.

Teach me to love others

with humility and grace.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does Christ's love look like in action?
2. How can you reflect that love today?
3. Who might need your care or encouragement?

Simple Practice

At one meal today, pause before eating. Thank Jesus, specifically for his body given and his love poured out.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Good Friday — April 3, 2026

Behold the Cross

“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities.”

— Isaiah 53:5

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God,

We stand in awe of your mercy.

Through the cross of Christ

you have brought redemption and peace.

Your love is deeper than our sin.

Your grace is greater than our need.

We worship you with reverence and gratitude.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Father,

We confess our sin and brokenness.

We turn from your ways

and fall short of your love.

Forgive us through the sacrifice of Christ.

Cleanse our hearts

and renew our hope in your mercy.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"It is finished."

— John 19:30

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

John 19:16–30

At the cross we see the depth of Christ's mercy and love. He gave himself for us so that we might live in forgiveness and new life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for your sacrifice.

Help me receive your mercy

and live in the freedom of your grace.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does the cross reveal about God's love?
2. How does Christ's sacrifice shape your faith?
3. What gratitude rises in your heart today?

Simple Practice

Spend one quiet minute in silence, reflecting on the cross. Carry a quiet awareness of his sacrifice throughout the day.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Holy Saturday — April 4, 2026

Waiting in Hope

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.”

— Psalm 27:14

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,

You are present even in silence.

You hold us in seasons of waiting

and sustain us with hope.

Your purposes are sure

and your love never fails.

We praise you for your faithfulness

and for the promise of new life.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,

We confess our discomfort with waiting.

We seek quick answers

and struggle with uncertainty.

Forgive our impatience.

Teach us to wait with trust

and rest in your faithful care.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Assurance of Grace

Receive this assurance of grace from God's Word:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases."

— Lamentations 3:22

Scripture Reading

Lamentations 3:19–26

Romans 8:22–25

This is a day of waiting and quiet trust. Even in silence, God is at work preparing the way for resurrection.

Prayer

Faithful God,

teach me to wait with hope.

Steady my heart

and keep my trust in you.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Where are you being invited to wait with hope?
2. How does God meet you in quiet seasons?
3. What helps you trust his timing?

Simple Practice

Practice waiting today, without rushing to fill space. When you find yourself reaching for distraction, pause and sit in quiet for a moment. Let this remind you that God is at work even in silence.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Easter Sunday — April 5, 2026

He Is Risen

“He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.”

— Matthew 28:6

Prayer of Adoration

Risen Lord Jesus,

We worship you with joy.

You have conquered death
and brought us into new life.

Your mercy endures forever.

Your promises stand firm.

Your resurrection fills us with hope.

We praise you for your victory,
for your faithfulness,
and for the life we have in you.
Amen.

Prayer of Gratitude

Gracious God,

We thank you for the gift of salvation.

Through Christ's death and resurrection
we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Fill our hearts with gratitude and joy.

Help us live as people of resurrection hope,
reflecting your love in all we do.

Amen.

Assurance of Resurrection Hope

Receive this assurance of hope from God's Word:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

— 1 Peter 1:3

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1–10

1 Corinthians 15:20–22

Colossians 3:1–4

Christ is risen, and death no longer has the final word. We receive this day with joy, hope, and renewed life in him.

Prayer

Risen Jesus,

fill my heart with resurrection joy.

Help me walk in the hope of new life

and reflect your love in the world.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for your life today?
2. Where do you sense new hope or renewal?
3. How is God inviting you to live as a resurrection people?

Simple Easter Practice

Speak this aloud today:

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Let these words shape your joy and your hope.

Invitation to Respond

Take a quiet moment to listen for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know today?

(write what comes to heart)

Holy Spirit, how are you inviting me to respond?

(write any step of faith or obedience)

Closing Blessing

May the risen Christ

fill you with living hope,

steady your heart with peace,

and lead you in love.

Go in the joy of the resurrection.

Amen.