

LENT & HOLY WEEK

Devotional

Westminster Presbyterian Church - 2026

CARE TEAM

“Every member a minister”

The Care Team of Westminster Presbyterian Church is a part of the Deacon's ministry, dedicated to providing continued service to Westminster members, especially those who are ill or home bound and cannot attend regular church services and activities. It is the goal of the deacons to serve the needs of the Westminster Church family as well as support the work of the ministerial staff.

The team encompasses:

Care Ministries

- Bereavement Cards
- Birthday & Care Cards
- Nursing Home Cards

Visitation Ministries

- Hospital Visitation
- Nursing Home Visitations
- Care Facilities Visitations
- Communion for Members in these facilities

Special Services

- Bereavement Care
- Memorial Receptions
- Knit 'n Pearl
- Devotional Booklets

Many Westminster members volunteer to add this compassionate touch from the Body of Christ.

Dorothy Nan Gray & John Tompkins
Co-Moderators

Care Team Members: Rob Abernathy, Nancy Cordell, Don Davis, Mike Ford, Louise Hickey, Brian Litteral, Ben Nichols, Larry Sharp, and Roberta Withers.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to Lent.

This year is a special one at Westminster. We are celebrating our 80th anniversary as a congregation, and as part of that celebration, we wanted this year's Lenten devotional to honor the saints and pillars who have shaped us into the church we are today.

What you hold in your hands is a collection of writings from previous years. We went looking, first, for pieces that matched this year's lectionary readings, and then for pieces written by people whose faithfulness has helped make Westminster what it is. The result is something like a family album — not of photographs, but of prayers and reflections that show who we've been and who we're becoming.

I love that we're entering Lent this way, because Lent is fundamentally about remembering. We remember that we are dust. We remember that God is God and we are not. And we remember that the story we're part of is so much bigger than any one of us.

That's also what we've been discovering in our journey through the book of Acts this year. Acts is the story of ordinary people — flawed, uncertain, sometimes terrified — who discovered that the risen Christ was doing something through them that they never could have planned or predicted. The church didn't grow because those early Christians had it all figured out. It grew because the Spirit was on the move and they were willing to follow.

Eighty years ago, a group of people in Oklahoma City made that same choice. They didn't know what Westminster would become. They just showed up, trusted God, and got to work. And here we are.

So as you read these devotions, listen for the voices of the people who built this place. Let their words sit with you. And may this Lenten season prepare us — as a community with eighty years of faithfulness behind us — to walk toward Easter with gratitude for what God has done and openness to whatever God is doing next.

I'll see you at the empty tomb,

Landon





2 CORINTHIANS 5:20 - 6:2
MATTHEW 6:1 - 6, 16 - 18

O Holy God,

We begin this Lenten season like those before, with hope and concern.

The hope resides in the fact that you are gracious and forgiving; the concern in that we are stubborn and resistant to change. But the time is now to do a spring cleaning of our lives – to sweep out old resentment, to purge old hatred, to dust out cobwebs of indecision and polish anew our resolutions to be committed to following your way and dwelling in your love.

May we receive a fresh breeze from your holy Spirit as we begin this Lenten journey together. Use this Lenten prayer book to help us take the edge off of our self-centeredness and refocus on you.

This we pray in Christ's name. Amen

Randall Spindle

2008

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18, 2026



LUKE 11:29 – 30

O Great and Gracious God,

You walk with me each and every day, help me to be strong and once more turn away from sin. Always to remember, that no sin sincerely confessed will go unforgiven.

Eternal God, grant me the courage to acknowledge my sins and to have mercy and compassion for all mankind as you have mercy and compassion for me.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Jane Kenney

2008

THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 19, 2026



PSALM 91, EXODUS 6

I believe we are given the opportunity to live knowing that we are not alone - there is a Power greater than ourselves who provides solace. We are also given the opportunity to trust in our God such that our burdens will be lessened when we act on that trust.

In Exodus 6, God assures Moses that He has remembered His covenant. He will free His people from slavery - they will be redeemed. Those who chose to trust God and who then acted on that trust by following Moses out of Egypt were freed from slavery.

God has given us the path to spiritual freedom. Of course, we are not slaves as the Israelites were but we can become tethered to our old ways of handling the challenges of life. When we believe that God is our refuge and trust in that God to provide a path, we can use our innate tools of judgment, intelligence, goodwill, and the power to reason to follow that path so that our burdens will be lessened.

Christy Sparks

2019

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 20, 2026



LUKE 5:27 - 32

Dear God,

I hope you are listening...I know you are because you promised you would. There is so much to say. First, thank you for this day. Each and every day is a gift that you have created for us by your mighty power. I do not know what the day will bring, but thank you, Lord.

My prayer is a chance to grow closer to you each day, to change in the way you would plan. If there is ice in my heart, as in the day, your sunshine will come to melt it away. In spite of the abundant sunshine there is often rain to make the heat bearable. How great is your power in the little things, as well as in the huge creation. I am in awe that a tiny little seed that can grow into a beautiful flower was planned by you. I pray the tiny little seed in me will grow to blossom as you planned.

Perhaps I can change as Levi the tax collector did when he held a banquet for Jesus. What a surprise for Levi, his friends, and the onlookers! With your powerful help I'll succeed growing into your plan for me. I'll look for your surprises every day. In the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

Mary Lynne Portman

2008

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 21, 2026



PSALM 32

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

How can something so simple be so hard?

The Psalmist tells us, “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven.” So why, if we can be blessed by turning to the Lord, admitting our sins to him, do we persist in denying our responsibility in our wrongdoings, covering up our past wrongs and stuffing down our frustrations and pain? This brings us more pain and we try to cover it up rather than admitting our wrongdoings and forgiving ourselves as God has, but the more we try to cover it up and deny it, the more shame and pain we feel... then we just feel worse. It’s a useless, dangerous cycle.

When we stuff down our frustrations, hurt and pain, pressure builds inside us...and we explode inappropriately, many times before we can stop ourselves. Open up a newspaper any day and see the aftermath of people not dealing with pain. There are stories of senseless murders, lunatic sprees and totally inappropriate behavior.

How much easier and more preferable it would be... to turn over this shame and pain to God and simply ask Him for help. As we read in verse 5, “Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and You forgave the guilt of my sin”.

Our God has made us a promise – He promises His unfailing love will surround all who trust Him. He wants a relationship with us and always does His part. All we have to do is ours.

Simple...

Susan and Carl Edwards

2019

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 22, 2026



PSALM 17:6 - 8, 15

This Psalm was probably written when somebody (most likely Saul) wanted to kill David. He asks God to look at the secrets of his heart, which implies things only God can see. David says he will not tell lies to God.

Verses 6-8 speak of God's love for us. We are "the apple of God's eye", suggesting that people who hurt us also hurt God, because we are special to God.

"As a bird hides baby birds under its wing, so does God hide us under his wings, like baby birds" presents a beautiful picture!

In verse 15, David believes that he is righteous. To be righteous we must tell God we are sorry we broke His rules, ask Him to forgive us and send the Holy Spirit to us and try to keep all His rules (do what is right) so we can live with Him forever.

Prayer: Lord, keep me in the right spirit so that I may see you and live with you forever. Amen

Nancie Webb

2018

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 23, 2026



HEBREWS 4:14-5:10

Prayer: Eternal God, You have revealed to us our attitude and may we keep living by that standard.

May I follow your example and live with my citizenship in heaven and look forward to being with you, my Savior.

I know how to live with humble means and how to live in prosperity. I have been hungry and have had abundance. I have learned to be content with whatever the circumstances.

Thank you, Lord, for knowing I will be with you some day. Grant me the courage to acknowledge my sins and know your mercy and compassion for me. In Jesus' name. Amen

Nancy Riddell
2015

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 24, 2026



PSALM 32

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we are reminded daily of your love for us. You sent your Son, and through him your work was accomplished. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Ultimately, Jesus died so that we can believe.

Thank you for the promise of eternal life. All we are and have, we owe to you, gracious Father. We rejoice in the opportunity each and every day to glorify you just as Jesus did. He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches, if a man resides in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing."

Continue to help us love one another as Jesus commanded the disciples. Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, we pray that we will encourage others to come to know you, to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, and to work together to discern and carry out your will.

Ann Cameron

2006

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 25, 2026



MATTHEW 18:10-14

The parable of The Lost Sheep is intended to show that it would be in direct opposition to God's desire for our salvation to lead someone "astray" and cause him or her to be lost like a strayed sheep. The practical lesson here is to be kind and honor members of His church. However, if they go "astray", we must seek gently to reclaim him or her, like the Good Shepherd. (Note: this parable is also found in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15.)

Prayer: Lord, thank you for our gift of salvation. May we not be so pious that we forget to pray and show LOVE to those who may have strayed from your "flock" and may we help to bring them back into fellowship with You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Jane and Bruce Blincow

2020

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 26, 2026



LUKE 9:23 - 25

Lord,
There are many contradictions in my life.

There is sadness and joy, there is loneliness and cheerful friendship,
there is anxiety and confidence.

Teach me to understand the paradoxes in your Son's words, and
what they mean in my life today.

How could I function without earthly rewards? And yet, as I turn
older, I think much more about spiritual rewards, although I do not
know what they may be.

Give me the strength to not lose myself, but to find and keep myself
in humility and calmness, and to feel the promise of your presence in
my life.

Christiane Faris

2008



MATTHEW 23:3-39

We humans tend to thrive on glory and being the center of attention. Jesus responded to this behavior amongst the religious leaders of his time. He noted their lack of proper intention by calling them 'whitewashed tombs, blind guides, clean on the outside but filthy on the inside, hypocrites'.

Then, in His typical straightforward manner, He reminded His followers that we are the light of the world. We are always under the world's microscope to live the example of Jesus. This can be a tall order some days. As much as we strive to walk the talk, we can falter.

Jesus makes it simple: greatness comes from service without touting it or expecting applause. Don't let your right hand know what your left hand is doing. And finally, the greatest among you will be your servant.

Our actions must match our beliefs. It's a daily challenge but He knows what we face and is our constant companion to give us the words, strength and courage when we need it.

To God be the glory.

Tina Love Ridley
2018

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 28, 2026



MATTHEW 17:1-9, 17

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Heavenly Father,

I pray that you will lead me today.

Just as Jesus led Peter, James, and John to a place high on a mountain, please lead me to a high place where I can feel your presence. Reveal to me who Jesus is, your beloved Son, my savior.

As Jesus was transfigured in the presence of others, please transform me as I allow myself to be in your presence. Allow me to see holiness that is hidden in our fallen world. Let me see people as you see them, not through the eyes of the world but from the vantage point of the Cross. Give me ears to hear your voice and a desire to respond in obedience to your Word.

It is my prayer today that all I do will be done as an act of worship and that you would find it pleasing. Amen.

Mac McCoy

2008

SUNDAY - MARCH 1, 2026



HEBREWS 3:1-6

The outline for this passage is the following: Fix your thoughts on Jesus – Jesus is greater than Moses in his person – Jesus is greater than Moses in his ministry. As we all know, we live in a world full of distractions. Schedules to keep, health issues, business projects and commitments, deadlines at home and work, financial responsibilities, thinking about our family, career and the future. And the list goes on.

Jesus taught that we are to focus on one thing but that isn't easy in our everyday world. There are many distractions that grab our attention. It is increasingly difficult to keep our minds "fixed on Jesus" because we have a tendency to focus on the things we can see, feel and touch. But, Jesus, whom we can't see and touch, often becomes far from our thoughts.

The writer of Hebrews is warning that we are to focus our thoughts on Jesus; that we are brothers and sisters who share in the heavenly calling and that we are to fix our thought on Jesus whom we acknowledge as our apostle – "One who is sent". This passage compares Jesus to Moses whom the first century Jews thought to be the greatest person to ever live because it was through Moses that God gave them the law. The writer of Hebrews knows that Moses was a great believer and follower of God and he was faithful to God's people.

"House" is a key word in this passage, which, according to scholars, refer to God's people. The Jews idolized Moses so much that some were tempted to put Moses above Jesus. The writer wants us to know that Moses was part of the house, but Jesus is the builder of the house and therefore greater than Moses and we are to focus on not the things of life but rather on the teachings of Christ.

Glenn Dunn

2020

MONDAY – MARCH 2, 2026



ROMANS 4:6-13

Romans 4 is the fourth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. It is authored by Paul the Apostle while he was in Corinth in the mid-50s AD.

There is an important truth Paul is getting at: This covenant relationship happened long before the token of it. Abraham was declared righteousness before God simply because he believed what God told him. This pattern can be true for us. We can obtain a right-standing with God simply by trusting in His provision, which is Jesus, and not in anything we can do to earn it.

This is important for us to remember because like those who came before us, we can relate to God in one of two ways: 1) trying to earn our way, being good, following the rules or 2) trusting in God's kindness toward us, while knowing we can never be good enough or do enough right things.

Today, where are you trying to earn God's approval? Where can you simply stop and thank Him for what He's already done? How does understanding this usher you into peace today?

Rob Abernathy

2020

TUESDAY - MARCH 3, 2026



JOHN 7:53-8:11

This moment in Jesus' life has a lot going on. There are bad guys disguised as good guys. A moral sin has been committed, and a death has been demanded. An adulterous female has been caught in the act. The scribes and Pharisees arrive and "set her in the midst" of what they must feel to be a foolproof trap.

God's perfect son sits on the ground in his Father's Temple filled with people. We watch as Jesus does the seemingly impossible. He survives their test by confronting her accusers, one-by-one, with their own sinfulness. He admonishes the woman to sin no more. He condemns no one.

Jesus offers grace and mercy to all, "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". (Romans 3:23)

Tim and Sue Cheek

2020

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 4, 2026



ISAIAH 42:14-21 + COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

Lent is a time to dance, to move, to step in time to God's holy call for your life. In Isaiah, the call is to "Hear, you deaf; Look, you blind, and see!" Isaiah 42:18. The poem of Isaiah was written in a time much like ours, one that begged for voices to protest wrongs and misery and to imagine a better way, a better place. During Lent we are especially called to embrace that hope and that courageous spirit in preparation for the Cross. The reality of our faith messages us in a vibrant way.

The walk toward the cross is one of action. "Sharing the inheritance", as Paul writes in Colossians, means rising in thankfulness and using our hands and feet as those heirs. We are able to do this because we are already rescued, forgiven, and loved. In this Lenten season we can be thankful to rise each morning to begin again on this exciting path and rest each evening "...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light." Colossians 1:12.

Prayer: Dear God, during this time of Lent we are introspective and that is important for us but motivate us to action as well. Guide us to take inventory of our individual lives and to match our gifts with the needs before us in our families, church, community, our state, nation and world that rest on our hearts. Let us speak out against wrongs and meet you, God, in those places where You dwell with those in pain and need. Build our community of faith from within us so that we may feel your compassion more clearly and show that love to the world. Amen.

Mary Richard
2023

THURSDAY - MARCH 5, 2026



EPHESIANS 2:11-12

In Lenten season these verses spoke to us because of the news we read and hear every day. The divisions in our country and over the world cause all of us to have an unsettling feeling in our lives. We need to listen to how Jesus ministered to the different groups of Ephesians – the Jews and the Gentiles. Two groups that were separated by distance and animosity toward one another. These people were brought together by Jesus reaching out to both groups with his teachings and with the sacrifice of his body on the cross. Paul says Jesus is the cornerstone for bringing all groups together. No matter what religion is your preference, we all need to love one another as God has loved us. We can disagree with policies or with friends' political beliefs but still offer love and acceptance. That is what Jesus was teaching the Ephesians and also all of us today.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us follow your commandments. Let us be good stewards of our faith to all people we come in contact with each day of our lives. Help us remember we are all one under the unity of Jesus' love and sacrifice. Amen

Patti and Dick Marshall

2020

FRIDAY – MARCH 6, 2026



EXODUS 16:27 - 35

The purpose of this Scripture is to announce God's judgment on Israel and other nations and to foretell their eventual salvation. My three personal benefits from studying this Scripture are for it to tell me more about God, to tell me more about people; and to tell me just how it will strengthen my relationship with God and impact my own life.

This Scripture stresses our daily need for God and illustrates by telling of God's sending manna (bread) and quail to feed the hungry Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness. Their grumbings against God were met by His gracious provisions for which they were to collect and eat every day to show their faith that God will provide what they needed for that day. He directed them, they followed his instruction while they wandered in the wilderness knowing that the Lord had given them the Sabbath, and they accepted the manna and quail as a memorial that God loves and will provide for his people IF WE RELY ON THE LORD.

Prayer: Dear Lord, We are reminded that those who feed on Christ by faith shall hunger and die no more, and with them God will be forever well pleased. We ask of you, Lord, to likewise give to us just as you provided the Israelites, their Sabbath, food, and needs so many years ago. We ask your help in honoring your plans that remind us of your work in our lives. We thank you for your guidance in carefully fulfilling your plans in bringing glory to your name. Amen.

Patti Leeman

2023

SATURDAY - MARCH 7, 2026



JOHN 4:13-15
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

O God, you are our God.

We seek you.

We thirst for you.

We praise you.

We give you thanks that through Christ we can know you. By your spirit we sense your presence among us. Speak to us and we will listen. Gather us and we shall worship your holy name. We will strive to do whatever you command. Armed with the mercy you give us, how can we fail if we remain faithful.

We yearn to please you, O God, as a response to the favor you have shown us. We want our faith to amount to more than casual observance of days and ceremonies. We are sorry for our past, which has been less than well pleasing, and look to a future of absorbing commitment. Through Christ receive us anew as your faithful people.

It is in Christ's precious name that we pray. Amen

Linda Zahn

2008

SUNDAY - MARCH 8, 2026



ROMANS 5:1-11

Reflect: Lent is a season for self-examination, contemplation, and prayer as we prepare for Easter. In the Companion in the Book of Worship, it states, "In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the 'old self. In dying, we live." As Christians we affirm, claim, and find strength from Romans 5:8 powerful declaration, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." This verse identifies our problem – we are sinners in personal and common life. The very next verse offers words of mercy which declare God's grace and testify to God's love. Four words speak volumes. Christ died for us. The reality that we sin and fall short of God's glory should, especially during the season of Lent, cause us to recite or sing the ancient Greek prayer Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy). As the call for mercy ring out from our lips, we know the words "Christ died for us" declares assurance of God's grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, who raised us to new life. We accept God's forgiveness, confident in that in dying to sin, Christ raises us to new life. So take time this season of Lent to reflect on how you fall short of God's glory and what changes you can make toward a renewed life of faithful discipleship. However, we fall short, we know that Christ died for us. It is a powerful, amazing proclamation of divine love. It reminds us as Romans 5:8 states, "The old life has gone; a new life has begun."

Ask: How am I called this Lenten season to more fully live by Christ's grace? Am I ready to use this time of Lenten reflection to let the reality of sin in personal and common life press upon my heart? Is the joy of forgiveness and promised new life in Christ appreciated when the forty days of Lent conclude? May this season of Lent reawaken us to the amazing grace revealed in the verse, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Rev. Michelle Junkin

2020

MONDAY - MARCH 9, 2026



PSALM 105: 1-15, 42
NUMBERS 14:10-24
1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-3

All of today's scripture references relate to the same occurrences, i.e., the Israelites straying from the Lord's teaching. In spite of all the wondrous acts by the Lord (leading the Israelites out of slavery, parting the Red Sea, providing water and food (manna) in the desert, and leading them in the 'land of milk and honey').

The scouts (Joshua, Caleb, and others) came back to report that the Promised Land was truly fruitful, but they would have to fight and conquer some powerful tribes to live there.

Moses had faith that the Lord, who had sustained them up to this point, would be with them and allow them to prevail. However, the Israelites didn't want to have to fight for the Promised Land.

Paul uses this example as an admonishment to stay faithful, not test the Lord, and know that God "will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will provide a way out so that you can stand under it."

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to know and be constantly aware that whatever troubles we may encounter. Thou art with us and will help us endure any burden we may bear. Amen

Fred Buxton
2018

TUESDAY - MARCH 10, 2026



JEREMIAH 2:4-13; JOHN 7:14-31, 37-39

Imagine the confusion the Jews felt leading up to Christ's crucifixion. The Pharisees said He deserved to die. Yet, He performed miracles and taught like no other. Who was this Man?

Ask yourself, would you recognize Jesus if He lived among us today? In our 24/7, media-infested culture, where would we find Him? Would Jesus be a Bible-thumping zealot, telling us of God, yet making us uncomfortable for the choices we've made? Would He be on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Tik Tok? What would He state was His occupation on LinkedIn? Or would He be in an obscure location caring for the unwanted, for outcasts and deplorables? Or, would He be one of the least of these Himself? The truth is none of us really know if we would recognize Jesus. Do we want to mold Him to our own idea of who He should be? Instead, we must be transformed by Him.

In Jeremiah 2:13, the LORD told the house of Israel, "My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." Do we dig our own broken cisterns when we feel like God isn't listening? Do we forsake Him?

In John 7:13, Jesus tells the people, "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

God is calling us to believe and follow. Can we hear His whisper in our everyday lives? When tragedies happen, do we realize He's with us?

The LORD will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Isaiah 58:11

Patsy Hosman

2023

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 11, 2026



EPHESIANS 4:25-32

We as Christians do not lose our emotions at conversion, but our emotions should be purified. Some anger is sinful, some is not. No anger is to outlast the day. It is not enough to cease from sin, one must do good. One should now help those in need. The Christian not only stops saying unwholesome things, he also begins to say things that will help build others up. This basic Christian attitude, which is a result of being forgiven in Christ, along with being kind and compassionate, brings to others what we have received from God.

One way of imitating God is to have a forgiving spirit. The way we imitate our Lord is to act "just as" He did. The sacrificial way Jesus expressed his love for us is not only the means of salvation but also an example of the way we are to live for the sake of others.

Prayer: Dear Lord, our basic Christian attitude, which is a result of being forgiven in Christ, along with being kind and compassionate, brings to others what we have received from you. The sacrificial way Jesus expressed his love for us is not only the means of salvation but also an example of the way we are to live for the sake of others. Amen

Ferrellyn Oakes

2020

THURSDAY - MARCH 12, 2026

A close-up photograph of pink flowers, possibly cherry blossoms, with soft, out-of-focus petals and green stems. The lighting is bright and natural, creating a gentle, ethereal atmosphere.

EPHESIANS 5:1 - 9

Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus

Paul says be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love just as Christ loved you. What does it mean to be imitators of God who is a God of love, but also mystery. A dove on the shoulders of night speaks in a silent song of love, and the mystery becomes a walk of faith.

Paul goes on to warn his people of greed, immorality, impurity, filthiness, covertness, idolatry, and so forth. As he points out, our dark passions are real. Psychologist Carl Jung said, One does not become enlightened by imaging figures of light, but making the darkness conscious.

I believe Paul brought up all the horrible dark things he could imagine because he wanted to emphasize the juxtaposition between our dark passions, and the fruit of the Light which consists in all goodness and richness and truth.

My prayer is that we will be blessed with love and Light as pilgrims on the spiritual path, and we will learn to love as Christ loves. Then, by grace, we will all be imitators of God.

Audrey Streetman

2023

FRIDAY - MARCH 13, 2026



JOHN 1:1 – 9

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” John 1:1 It is amazing isn't it? Jesus was God in heaven, yet he came to Earth as a human. He was fully divine, yet he assumed human form. He became like us yet not us. Do you ever think about it? When I was in college, we watched a film called “The Ant”. In the film a human became an ant to interact with other ants and, in the end, he was killed. The film compared the human becoming an ant with Jesus becoming human. While I suppose being an ant would be dreadful for any human, it is not the same.

Jesus could have been born as a prince in a palace but that was not God's plan. He was a regular person, the son of a carpenter. In his infancy he was taken to a foreign country to live in exile until it was safe to return home. He was tempted by the devil. His good friends deserted him when he needed them the most.

He knows us better than we know ourselves and still loves us. He expected Peter, James and John to fall asleep while he was praying. He knew Peter would deny him three times. He saw us with all our faults, our sins and our stumbles and yet he died for us. He was fully human so that he could not carry the weight of the cross without assistance. With every pounding of a nail, he felt it. The taste of the vinegar was sour to him. We may say we would “die” for someone, usually a child, spouse or someone equally close but would we die as He did?

Every Lenten season I am amazed at the cruelty of the cross and astonished at the Resurrection. What Jesus did for us is beyond measure. He lived, suffered and died as a human while maintaining his deity. And he loves us, always and already. We are truly blessed.

Linda Sheffield

2023

SATURDAY – MARCH 14, 2026



EPHESIANS 5:8-14
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“Wake up, sleeper, and rise from death, and Christ will shine on you.” This scripture is saying to me to live my life in the light and truth of Christ. The light of Christ is like the light of phosphorus, seen plainest when all around it is dark.

Hold Out a Light

Hold out a light,
The way is dark,
No ray to guide
Yon struggling bark,
Rought rocks are near,
And wild waves roar:
Hold out a light
To show the shore.
Hold out a light:
Your brother may
Win back to land
With your small ray:
New courage find
Life's storms to face
With strengthened faith
To win the race.
Addison Howard Gibson

Sharon Philbin

Read Ephesians 5:10

“Try to learn what pleases the LORD.” Therefore, one shall continue to learn.

Don Philbin

1982

SUNDAY - MARCH 15, 2026



JOHN 5:1 – 3, 5 – 16

Ezekiel tells of the waters coming through the Sanctuary, flowing to the sea creating a living water where the living thrive, nourish and heal. Perhaps this was like the pool of water the invalid came seeking health for 38 years. Jesus, unknown to him said, “Do you want to be well?” and then said, “Get Up!” At once the man walked.

Thirty-eight years is a long time to wait for change. Please remove fear and the burden of self and give us the courage and strength to make changes in our lives to serve you and our fellow man better. You changed a stranger with no faith in you, so we know you can change us. Whether it be a dramatic change or small steps, we don't have to do this alone. There is nothing ever we have to do alone again because you are one with us. When we hear, “Do you want to be well? Do you want to change? We will walk with you.

Remove our reluctance to ask for help and awaken us to new and old friends and loved ones who can help us. The mighty river of life points us toward health in body and spirit, but it is in God's power that we are changed and restored. Please begin this new journey during Lent when Jesus gave up so much for us. Amen

Kitty Champlin

2008

MONDAY – MARCH 16, 2026



ISAIAH 44:1-8

God chose us, his children, from the beginning of our existence. Nothing about this truth is something we deserve, yet God gives it to us. Being chosen is not something we have to earn. This given fact is what inspires us to grow as God's people, to do his work, spread his word, and feel his love. And yet, when we let this truth slip away, it is so easy to feel burdened with the task of earning the title "Christian". This invisible burden makes us tired, and surrounded by other "gods" of this modern world, it's easy to take off our burden to adopt one of these "easier" idols. Screens, popular culture, even our careers and relationships are constantly fighting for our attention, and while these things are important to our lives, we cannot let them become idols. These "gods" did not choose us, we chose them. These idols, though they appear "easier" are truly infinitely harder, because they cannot provide the love that we search for. When we feel we are losing ourselves to an aspect of our life that cannot love us like God, it is important to abandon the lie of earning God's love, and to return to the truth:

God chose you.

Sabrina Smith

2021

TUESDAY - MARCH 17, 2026



PSALM 34 + 146

Most human praise is conditional.

We are accustomed to giving or receiving praise when something has been done to deserve it.

And if God has served us well or come through with a miracle, we praise Him. Otherwise, often we don't think about Him much.

The psalmist encourages us to praise God simply because He is God.

Try to focus your prayer on the majesty and glory of God rather than on what you want God to do for you.

Ingrid McNutt

2013

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 18, 2026



ROMANS 8:13

"I can only tell you from first-hand experience that she lived to age 93."

The Honorable George Howard Wilson was explaining the life of his mother, Helen Maude Wilson.

In her mid-fifties she became ill and was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Surgery was performed and reported there was nothing further that could be done with less than a year to live. Her three sons were in law schools across the U.S. and returned home to be with family.

While still in the hospital Mrs. Wilson made it clear by saying:

"I'm too young to die and I want all Elders of the church to come to my hospital room and with the Laying Hands pray for my understanding and recovery."

The love and faith of prayer filled their minds and Mrs. Wilson did live to age 93.

Her son George Howard did say this: "I saw her ill, heard the surgeon say nothing further can be done and less than a year to live."

What do you think? The facts were laid out and the rest is up to you.

Sandy Meyers

2019

THURSDAY - MARCH 19, 2026



EZEKIEL 33:10-16

James E. Davison in his book, *The Year of the Bible*, reminds us that this last part of Ezekiel “speaks about a future restoration for God’s people”. He writes that quite a few of the objects and images in this book are significant in the New Testament too. Another interesting fact about Ezekiel is that he and Jeremiah both trusted in God’s mercies.

What caught my attention in this passage was the mention of the evil man being told to turn from his evil ways and to do “what is just and right”. Upon doing this, his life was changed and none of his sins were remembered. God wants an abundant life for us and will go to extreme measures for us to have that. It is so reassuring to see God offering mercy in both the Old and New Testaments.

As we go through this Lenten season may this idea of God's mercy give us renewed hope for ourselves and our world.

Kathleen Johnson

2023

FRIDAY - MARCH 20, 2026



LUKE 24:44-53

Wow! Have you ever stopped to consider what this might have looked like to the people who were there with Jesus? Is the author telling us that after listening to Jesus speak to and bless them, the people saw Jesus visibly float up into the clouds, that perhaps angels carried him into the sky, or that something else entirely happened?

While the exact imagery might be debatable, does it really matter to us? In the end, isn't the message the same? Jesus lives, taught, suffered, died, rose from the dead proclaiming forgiveness of sins, and then ascended into Heaven, entrusting us to worship and witness what the Father promised. Let us celebrate the miracle of the resurrection!

Jeb Joseph

2020

SATURDAY - MARCH 21, 2026



ROMANS 8:1-10

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For many of us life often seems to be too much to handle. The multitude of pressures facing modern man has driven many of us to the brink of, and even some of our most extraordinary friends into, the realm of death.

The Good News is that these matters of the flesh are of little consequence in contrast with the reality of the way of the spirit. A person who allows the spirit of God to live within him will never die, no matter what happen to the flesh of his body.

Life with Christ is a celebration. He opens our eyes to the beauty of the creation, and to the very special beauty that can be found in all of His children.

Prayer: God, help us to become concerned with things of the spirit, rather than things of the flesh. Help us to open our souls to Your Spirit so that our eyes may be opened to the glory of Your creation. Amen

David D. Heimann
1981

SUNDAY - MARCH 22, 2026



PSALM 31 + 143

The Lenten season has become, for me, a time for contemplation and self-examination. These Psalms address “...deliverance from Enemies”. I have my own enemies – impatience, pride, self-indulgence, ignoring the needs of others when helping might “interfere” with my life (to name a few).

I take comfort in Psalm 31, verse 3, as I know the “the Lord has been my rock and my fortress” especially these past few years. And I turn to Psalm 143:8 asking for guidance, “teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift my soul” and to verse 10, “teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path”.

I need to read these, and other scripture passages, over and over as being human I have such “good intentions” but need constant reminding.

My prayer is that of Psalm 143, verses 11 and 12:

For your name’s sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In your righteousness bring me out of trouble. In your steadfast love cut off my enemies and destroy all my adversaries. For I am your servant. Amen

Jody McLane
2014

MONDAY - MARCH 23, 2026



2 KINGS 4:1-7

I love reading of Elisha who followed his good friend and mentor, Elijah as the leading prophet of Israel. They were like Yin and Yang. Elijah was fiery and loud, dramatic and a showoff with wild and crazy hair. But Elisha was quiet, contemplative, and compassionate – the kind of person you could go to when in a jam. Elisha helped the woman in today's story to see what she said was next to nothing. Elisha looked deeper and saw it's potential in God's hands. She did exactly as instructed and received the miracle, giving her self-sufficiency. Oh, that we could see how great it is to have so little.

Lord, thank you for the prophet Elisha, for the comfort he offered to those on earth almost 3000 years ago, and to us who learn of him today. Through the name of Jesus, Amen.

Susan Young

2019

TUESDAY - MARCH 24, 2026



LUKE 6:36 – 38

You have blessed me Lord-
You have blessed me with loving, caring family-
You have blessed me with health and a comfortable life-

Now Lord, I ask you to guide and bless me with skills to be of service to those who are not as fortunate and are struggling with challenges in their life.

Lord, give me the strength and wisdom to touch those burdened with stresses, and life's challenges with the comfort and support of our church's Stephen Ministry program.

You've had your hand in developing this wonderful group of trained, devoted Christian care givers who have aided so many in working through the rough spots on their roads.

Guide me Lord in my efforts to enlighten and assure those in need of our confidential comfort and support. Help me to guide them to their one 'magic hour' a week with their listening, non-judgmental Stephen Minister, one who will be with them while coping with their challenges and hardships.

Thank you, Lord for your divine guidance of our Stephen Ministry program and for the emotional and spiritual support received by our past, current and future care receivers. In your Holy name, Amen.

Bob Bobzien

2008

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 25, 2026



PHILIPPIANS 1:1 - 11

Timothy helped Paul found the Christian Church in Philippi which had been, until this time, the center of Bacchus, mystery religions and Roman Emperor worship.

Timothy and Paul had become servants of Christ, and as such had no will of their own, no business of their own nor time of their own. They were acting for Christ, dependent upon him and obedient to him.

Paul's summation of the Christian life: the most intimate and living union between the believer and his Lord.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us examine the true Christianity in our lives during this Lenten season. Are we servants of Christ and are we leading the lives he would ask us to lead? If we are, ask that we continue and if not, help us to ask his guidance that we may change and seek to become his servants.

Carole Sue Muller

2020

THURSDAY - MARCH 26, 2026



PSALM 31

I am up a blind alley Lord. The props have been knocked out from under me. I feel as if I'm grappling with the wind, for some support or security. I've been pulled up short, Lord. Now I realize how much I need someone or something beyond and above myself to give me stability to my tenuous existence. Maybe it was Your doing, Lord. It is Your way of bringing me back to home base or correcting my focus and reassessing my goals.

Thank you for taking me back Lord for reviewing my relationship with You. I seek to walk in Your course for me. I will proclaim Your praises and live out Your purposes. Enable me to be faithful to You, whatever the consequences, and to celebrate Your love and communicate it to everyone around me.

Psalm 143

It was another one of those days, Lord, when I should have stayed in bed. Everything I attempted to do was destined for failure. I honestly tried to show concern for my fellowman but got cold shoulders in return. I tried to speak words of comfort, and they were thrown right back into my teeth. I wanted to do well at my job, but I just got into everybody's way.

I need you, God, more now than ever before, and if I don't get some special life, some of Your support and encouragement, I will go right down the tube. Come close, O Lord, that I may hear again Your voice of comfort and concern.

Evan Gerfen

2015

FRIDAY - MARCH 27, 2026



PSALM 31:9 - 16

This season, above all times, makes clear to us the potential for misery and misunderstanding present in the human condition.

Similarly, it makes clear the reward and compensation of faith and the relief of prayer.

It is thus not just a time to count our blessings, but more significantly, to recognize our capacity for inflicting misery and generating misunderstanding.

This Psalm is a universal song not just of David's time and circumstance but of all of us. The American slave spiritual song, "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen", reflects forward the same needs and the same circumstances as those that affected David and still do to each of us.

Beth and Jim Tolbert

1984

SATURDAY - MARCH 28, 2026



MATTHEW 26:14
SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT

You know, God, how easily I can be thrown off course in my search for you.

You know how I can so readily go along with the crowd on Palm Sunday, only to mimic the cries of a similar crowd on a Thursday.

Forgive me, Lord, when I see events only from my own perspective, when I seek revenge ... but call it righteousness, or when I begin to think like Caiaphas:

“Better...to have one man die for the people, than to have the whole nation destroyed.”

Help me to accept others as you, in Christ, have accepted me, and correct me when I deceive myself with fallacious alternatives.

Thank you for the offer of a better way ...beyond my self-deceptions.
Amen

Richard Hershberger
2008

SUNDAY - MARCH 29, 2026



JOHN 12:20 – 36

Jesus speaks that his soul is troubled and asks what he should say: “Father, save me from this hour.” Father this is the reason that I have come to this hour, to glorify your name. then an angel spoke to him, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

The crowd heard it and Jesus told them, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” Jesus said this to indicate the kinds of death he was to die.

The crowd answered him, “How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up?” Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you.

“While you have light, believe in the light so that you may become children of light.”

Phil Truss

2021

MONDAY – MARCH 30, 2026



JOHN 12:20 – 36

This is the passage where Jesus explains why he must die and he challenges all those with him – and us today:

- To be firm and faithful in their commitment to follow him, serving God above all else
- To be inclusive, welcoming all believers
- To obey, as He was obeying the Father in his journey to the cross, and
- To “trust the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light”

As Jesus began explaining the necessity of the events ahead, he uses the analogy of a grain of wheat dying to produce a multitude of seeds to his sacrifice and impending death on the cross and that “... when [he] is lifted up from the grave, [he] will draw all men to [himself].

These messages of the Cross are as relevant and important today as they were then, and I so needed this scripture passage” How often do I include God in my everyday actions and decisions, or do I go to Him only when I can’t do it myself? When I list my goals for the day, is following Christ one of them? Do I “call” myself inclusive but not “practice” it? Do I really work at discerning God’s will for my life and obeying Him or does it have to hit me in the face or knock me down before I obey? And when have I shared God’s light with others?

Prayer: Jesus, as we watch your journey to the Cross, help us to reaffirm our faithfulness and put you first in our lives – believing, welcoming, obeying, trusting, and serving. May I truly become a “son of light” and may others see Jesus in me.

Susie Graves

2019

TUESDAY – MARCH 31, 2026



HEBREWS 12:1-3

Our race has been set before us – a race of service on a course of obedience, which must be run with patience and perseverance. We must grow our faith with patience and reject the sin that pulls us down. The best Christian can grow weary and weak under difficult and seemingly unending suffering. Our faith is not perfect, but Christ gives us great encouragement, comfort and strength.

We are not alone. Our same problems have been encountered and overcome by other Christians who form the “huge cloud of witnesses” surrounding us. Their example of perseverance and our obedience to Christ will strengthen our faith. Look to Christ to stay in the race.

Richard Darnell
2018

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 1, 2026



HEBREWS 12:1-3

As we drive to church this Lenten season, we pass people of all ages and abilities training for the Oklahoma City Marathon. Their efforts remind us of the description of Christian life found in Hebrew 12:1-3. Like the runners, we have a definite route. God's plan is "set before us". We do not know what we will encounter, the weather conditions, or even how long it will take to travel, but we are to run with "perseverance".

When we falter and grow tired, we have the "great cloud of witnesses" cheering us on. Lent is the perfect time to think about what is weighing us down, so we can "lay aside every weight" and continue our marathon with Jesus Christ as our trainer and our inspiration. Our journey does not end on Easter or with the finish line of the Run to Remember; rather it is a marathon of faith. We will keep going past the cross until we see "Jesus seated at the right hand of the throne of God". With our eyes on Jesus Christ, all things are possible.

James and Cathy Waldo

2019

THURSDAY - APRIL 2, 2026



WHAT IS "GOOD" ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

Christ had finished the last supper with his intimate circle of followers. They argued, hassled about money, vied for power, misunderstood Christ's intention, his directions and his promises. The Lord went to a quiet place for prayer, asking the followers to watch. They fell asleep.

If only they had been Presbyterians, all of those terrible things would not have happened to Christ.

In prayer we meet the inner Christ not seen elsewhere in Scripture. He tried not to complete the mission. He admitted the cause was too great, the cost too high. "Lord, if it is possible let this cup pass from me." If possible...I don't want rejection, suffering, death, the humiliation of my mother, family and friends. Nevertheless (the word "nevertheless" appears in the King James version of the Bible), Christ said, "Your will, Father, must be done" are all the awesome events of Good Friday. The Denial. The Trial. The Crucifixion. The Death of Christ. Those sentences are all titles of books, masterpieces, plays, sculpture, and epic poems. They are also the cosmic forces that came down on the only true, free, just, good and loving man in history.

The church in the past called that ominous day, "Black Friday". Since the Reformation we call it "Good Friday". Only in retrospect, only after the horrid facts, can we look to the meaning of Friday through eyes lighted with Easter's New Day. The Bible says, "for the joy set before him, he endured the cross". Perhaps when Jesus said, "it is finished", he was moved, even on Friday, to prayer, "Thank you God for not letting this cup of trembling pass. Now in the power of death, Your power, God my Father, even this day is Good".

Michael D. Anderson
1982

FRIDAY - APRIL 3, 2026



LENTEN PRAYER

Lord, let everything I do this day and have during this season of Lent come from you, be inspired by you.

I long to be closer to you. Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies you in some way. It is so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life and keep saying, "Tomorrow, I will spend more time in prayer", but now my longing needs your love, and I want to do it now.

Help me to rely on you for help. The prayer asks you that I reach perfection.

Please, Lord, remind me that "perfection" isn't the crazy, "successful" way I try to live my life, but a perfection of my most authentic, real self.

My "perfection" might be holding my flaws in my open hands, asking you to help me accept them.

Heal me, Lord, and help me to find you in the darkness of my life. Let me reach out in this darkness and feel your hand and love there to guide me.

Creighton University

Lent – One Prayer a Day

SATURDAY - APRIL 4, 2026



JOHN 20:1 - 18

EASTER SUNDAY

Alleluia, we have made it to Easter morning. We survived Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We have made it through the darkness and Jesus has conquered death. The Lenten season is over now, we are celebrating the risen Lord. Eastertide is next – 50 days of joyous response to the incredible gift of eternal love. We will have other Lenten seasons. Times we walk through the darkness that don't line up with the church calendar. When we find ourselves on those journeys, we can find hope in the story of Mary Magdalene at the tomb. Mary had a passion for Jesus' ministry. He healed her, welcomed her, taught her, encouraged her, worked together with her in His ministry.

She approached the tomb on Easter because she needed to be with Him. Mary sees Jesus, but she does not “see” him until he discloses himself to her. She mistakes him for a gardener. A gardener?! What does a gardener do but plant seeds, prune, pull weeds and harvest. With every word spoken and every action taken, Jesus planted the seeds of love. Seeds that sparked our minds, our hearts, our hands and our feet. Jesus pruned as well. From Peter he pruned arrogance, snipping off each denial with a question, “Do you love me” and then, “Feed my sheep”. For each of us there are weeds to be pulled, there are branches to be pruned and there is fruit to be harvested. For Mary, her passion was renewed and she knew what she was to do. Reveal this glorious news. Easter Sunday will not let us forget that the risen Christ has been unveiled to us and that we are being sent to demonstrate that the Cross did not defeat love. We are being sent to love one another as Christ has loved us. Hate tried to prevail over love, but love would not die. So let us embrace this glorious news as Mary did and run to our call.

Kim Mitchell
2026

SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 2026



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