



Lent Sampler

Teach Us to Pray

Scripture-Centered Family Worship through the Year

Lora A. Copley and Elizabeth Vander Haagen

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Lent

Lent · Introduction

How do we get ready to celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday—two important days in the history of the universe? The church developed a tradition called Lent—a forty-day journey on which we can stop, look, and listen to what God is doing.

On that journey we stop to see what God wants us to do. We stop to see what saying sorry looks like. We stop to see what it means to suffer for Jesus' sake and to see what the prophets say about Jesus' suffering. Finally, we walk, step by painful step, with Jesus on the road to the cross. It's a hard road, but it shines with glory too.

Watch for places on your Lenten journey where God is asking you to stop, look, and listen. Ask yourself, "What things do I need to leave behind so I can travel on this journey? What things should I take with me?"

Preparing: Our preparing action for this Lenten season is to hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus was nailed to a cross of wood and on the cross, died for our sins.

Materials: smaller hammer, piece of wood, nails with large heads

Other Activities: Here are other activities to make your Lenten worship meaningful:

- Make a simple necklace from a large-headed nail and a piece of yarn. Wear this nail as you do your daily readings either as an alternate to the suggested preparing action or in addition to it.
- Attend an Ash Wednesday service together as a family.
- During Lent, practice a new spiritual discipline together. Or remove a

distraction from your life for forty days, such as a video game, screen time, sweet food, fatty food, texting, gossiping, or something else.

- Identify with people who are suffering by doing a weekly family service project. Or, during each devotion time, set aside some food, money, or clothes to give away.
- On Good Friday, attend or hold your own Tenebrae service.
- At the beginning of Holy Week, on Palm Sunday, set up six candles in candleholders. At each devotion time for the next six days, extinguish one. On Easter Sunday, greet the morning with every candle in your house lit.

Singing: In each day's reading you will find a song (find the music in the appendix). Here are other songs to make your Lenten worship meaningful:

- "Create in Me a Clean Heart"
- "Give Us Clean Hands"
- "Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord"
- "Lamb of God"
- "Lord, Have Mercy"
- "Oh, How He Loves You and Me"
- "The Wonderful Cross"

Note: There are forty-six calendar days in the season of Lent, but we talk of Lent having *forty* days. Why? Unlike other seasons, in Lent Sundays are not counted. Sundays are *always* celebrations of the resurrection. The number forty also reminds us of other times of testing, like Noah and forty days of rain, Israel's forty years in the wilderness, and Jesus' forty days in the desert.

Lent · Day 1 · Ash Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Obadiah 3–4; Luke 18:9–14

“But your proud heart has tricked you.

So you say to yourself,

‘No one can bring me down to the ground.’

You have built your home as high as an eagle does.

You have made your nest among the stars.

But I will bring you down from there,”

announces the LORD.

Jesus told a story to some people who were sure they were right with God. They looked down on everyone else. He said to them, “Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee. The other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed. ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people,’ he said. ‘I am not like robbers or those who do other evil things. I am not like

those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. And I give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood farther away than the Pharisee. He would not even look up to heaven. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed. He said, 'God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.'

"I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God. But not the Pharisee. All those who lift themselves up will be made humble. And those who make themselves humble will be lifted up."

Dwelling

Imagine sitting next to Jesus and listening to these words. Is there anything you'd like to ask Jesus?



Praying

- for people who are discouraged
- for grandparents



God, being proud of our goodness can keep us from you. It makes us think we don't need a Savior. Please bring us down to see that we too are sinners. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 2 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Nahum 1:3, 5–7

The LORD is slow to get angry.

But he is very powerful.

The LORD will not let guilty people go

without punishing them.

When he marches out, he stirs up winds and storms.

Clouds are the dust kicked up by his feet. . . .

He causes the mountains to shake.

The hills melt away.

The earth trembles because he is there.

The world and all those who live in it also tremble.

Who can stand firm when his anger burns?

Who can live when he is angry?

His anger blazes out like fire.

He smashes the rocks to pieces.

The LORD is good.

When people are in trouble,
they can go to him for safety.

He takes good care of those
who trust in him.

Dwelling

Is there a picture that comes to mind from what we have heard? What might it show us about God?



Praying

- for our president or prime minister and our government representatives
- for children who can't play outside because it is unsafe



Lord, it's scary to think of your anger at the sin that messes up our lives and hurts your good creation. But then we remember that you asked your Son, Jesus, to bear it all for us. Because Jesus took the heat for us, we can run to you and be safe. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, good God! Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 3 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Matthew 4:1–11

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry. The tempter came to him. He said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. It is written,

“‘The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you.

They will lift you up in their hands.

Then you won’t trip over a stone.’” (Psalm 91:11, 12)

Jesus answered him, "It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

(Deuteronomy 6:16)

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "If you bow down and worship me," he said, "I will give you all this."

Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan! It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

Dwelling

I wonder what the desert looked and felt like? I wonder if it was hard for Jesus to say no to the devil?



Praying

- for forgiveness for preferring other things to God
- for forgiveness for envying other people and their belongings



Jesus, sometimes we think that because you're God, you don't understand the battle we have with sin. But we forget you were fully human too. You struggled too. When the devil tempted you to sidestep the cross, it must have been hard to say no, but we're so glad you did. Help us in our fight against sin. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 4 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Joel 2:12–13, 16, 17

The LORD announces to his people,

“Return to me with all your heart.

There is still time.

Do not eat any food.

Weep and mourn.”

Don't just tear your clothes to show how sad you are.

Let your hearts be broken.

Return to the LORD your God.

He is gracious.

He is tender and kind.

He is slow to get angry.
He is full of love.
He won't bring his judgment.
He won't destroy you.

Bring them together.
Set all of them apart to me.
Bring together the elders.
Gather the children and the babies
who are still nursing. . . .
Let them say, "LORD, spare your people."

Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell God?



Praying

- for pastors and worship leaders
- for people who don't know the story of Jesus



Kind God, saying "I'm sorry" is for everyone—from old people to toddlers. We all are sinners. How amazing that you open your arms, waiting for us to turn around and come back to you. Help us turn to you not just with words, but with our whole hearts. In our Savior's name, amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · First Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Isaiah 58:6–7, 13–14

“Here is the way I want you to fast.

“Set free those who are held by chains without any reason.

Untie the ropes that hold people as slaves.

Set free those who are crushed.

Break every evil chain.

Share your food with hungry people.

Provide homeless people with a place to stay.

Give naked people clothes to wear.

Provide for the needs of your own family.

“Do not work on the Sabbath day.

Do not do just anything you want to on my holy day.

Make the Sabbath a day you can enjoy.

Honor the LORD's holy day.

Do not work on it.

Do not do just anything you want to.

Do not talk about things that are worthless.

Then you will find your joy in me.

I will give you control over the most important places in the land.

And you will enjoy all the good things

in the land I gave your father Jacob."

The LORD has spoken.

Dwelling

Imagine Jesus sitting here and speaking these words right to us. What words stand out? Is there anything you'd like to ask Jesus?



Praying

God of justice, give us a heart like yours so we will care about people you care about—people who are poor, hungry, or homeless. Help us to honor you in our worship, in our rest, and in our generous living. We want to find our joy in you.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 5 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 5:6–9, 11–21

“I am the LORD your God. I brought you out of Egypt. That is the land where you were slaves.

“Do not put any other gods in place of me.

“Do not make statues of gods that look like anything in the sky or on the earth or in the waters. Do not bow down to them or worship them. I am the Lord your God. I want you to worship only me.

“Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

“Keep the Sabbath day holy. . . . Do all your work in six days. But the seventh day is a sabbath to honor the LORD your God. Do not do any work on that day. . . .

Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. The LORD your God reached out his mighty hand and powerful arm and brought you out of there. So the LORD your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day holy.

"Honor your father and mother, just as the LORD your God has commanded you. Then you will live a long time in the land he is giving you. And things will go well with you there.

"Do not murder.

"Do not commit adultery.

"Do not steal.

"Do not be a false witness against your neighbor.

"Do not want to have your neighbor's wife. Do not desire anything your neighbor owns. Do not desire to have your neighbor's house or land, male or female servant, ox or donkey."

Dwelling

What is God's Spirit telling us as we hear these words? What is God promising through these words?



Praying

- praise God for being holy
- offer thanks for the ways God is different from us



Redeeming God, please forgive us for breaking your laws. Please forgive us for putting other things in your place and for hurting other people by what we do. Please set us free to obey you joyfully. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 6 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Leviticus 19:2, 10, 14–16, 18, 34

“Be holy, because I am holy. I am the LORD your God.

“Do not go over your vineyard a second time. Do not pick up the grapes that have fallen to the ground. Leave them for poor people and outsiders. I am the LORD your God.

“Do not put anything in front of blind people that will make them trip. Instead, have respect for me. I am the LORD your God.

“Do not make something wrong appear to be right. Treat poor people and rich people in the same way. Do not favor one person over another. Instead, judge everyone fairly.

“Do not go around spreading lies among your people.

“Do not do anything that puts your neighbor’s life in danger. I am the LORD.

“Do not try to get even. Do not hold anything against any of your people. Instead, love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the LORD.

“Treat [outsiders] as if they were one of your own people. Love them as you love yourself. Remember that all of you were outsiders in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

Dwelling

I wonder why God wants us to follow these commandments and to be holy like God is? I wonder which of these commands sticks in your mind?



Praying

- for business owners and farmers who use the land
- for scientists who learn about creation



God, your commands are so good, and we want to follow them. But we can’t do it on our own. Thank you for Jesus, who followed these commands for us. Thank you for your Spirit, who can make us like Jesus. We need you, Lord. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 7 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Mark 12:28–34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard the Sadducees arguing. He noticed that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer. So he asked him, “Which is the most important of all the commandments?”

Jesus answered, “Here is the most important one. Moses said, ‘Israel, listen to me. The Lord is our God. The Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind and with all your strength.’ (Deuteronomy 6:4–5) And here is the second one. ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ (Leviticus 19:18) There is no commandment more important than these.”

“You have spoken well, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one. There is no other God but him. To love God with all your heart and mind and strength is very important. So is loving your neighbor as you love yourself. These things are more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Jesus saw that the man had answered wisely. He said to him, "You are not far from God's kingdom." From then on, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

Dwelling

I wonder what the man thought when Jesus said, "You are not far from God's kingdom"? How do we love the Lord with our hearts, our strength, our minds, or our souls?



Praying

- for people who are hurting because of divorce
- for people who are struggling at school or work



Jesus, sometimes we are far from God's kingdom. We don't love you or our neighbors. Please forgive us. Please fill our hearts and our minds and our strength with love for you and for other people, especially people who are different from us. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 8 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Psalm 19:7–11

The law of the LORD is perfect.

It gives us new strength.

The laws of the LORD can be trusted.

They make childish people wise.

The rules of the LORD are right.

They give joy to our hearts.

The commands of the LORD shine brightly.

They give light to our minds.

The law that brings respect for the LORD is pure.

It lasts forever.

The commands the LORD gives are true.

All of them are completely right.

They are more priceless than gold.

They have greater value than huge amounts of pure gold.

They are sweeter than honey

that is taken from the honeycomb.

Your servant is warned by them.

When people obey them, they are greatly rewarded.

Dwelling

I wonder why rules sometimes bug us so much when the Bible makes them sound so great? I wonder what is “sweet” about God’s laws?



Praying

- for people who create television, radio, movie, or Internet content
- for people who don’t have a home



Lord, help us believe that what you say in your law is for our good and will make us happy. As we listen and obey, let us taste how sweet your words are. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 9 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Micah 6:3–5, 6–8

The LORD says,

“My people, what have I done to you?

Have I made things too hard for you? Answer me.

I brought your people up out of Egypt.

I set them free from the land

where they were slaves. . . .

I want you to know

that I always do what is right.”

The people of Israel say,

“What should we bring with us
 when we go to worship the LORD?
 What should we offer the God of heaven
 when we bow down to him? . . .
 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams?
 Will he take delight in 10,000 rivers of olive oil?”

The LORD has shown you what is good.
 He has told you what he requires of you.
 You must act with justice.
 You must love to show mercy.
 And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.

Dwelling

I wonder if following God is easy or hard—or both? What in this passage caught your attention?



Praying

- for forgiveness for lying
- for forgiveness in not doing good when we can



Rescuing God, please don't let us forget that you love us and that you sent Jesus to save us. Give us hearts that say “thank you” by doing justice and loving mercy and walking humbly with you. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 10 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Malachi 3:14–15, 17–4:2

“You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God. What do we gain by obeying his laws? And what do we get by pretending to be sad in front of the LORD? But now we call proud people blessed. Things go well with those who do what is evil. And God doesn’t even punish those who test him.’”

“The day is coming when I will judge,” says the LORD who rules over all. “. . . And you will see the difference between those who serve me and those who do not.

“You can be sure the day of the LORD is coming. My anger will burn like a furnace. All those who are proud will be like straw. So will all those who do what is evil.

The day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD who rules over all.

“Not even a root or a branch will be left to them. But here is what will happen for you who have respect for me. The sun that brings life will rise. Its rays will bring

healing to my people. You will go out and leap for joy like calves that have just been fed.”

Dwelling

I wonder if God is telling us to do something? I wonder if God is promising to do something?



Praying

- for seminaries and for people who train the leaders of the church
- for churches in Africa, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



God of truth, forgive us for saying or thinking bad things about you. We want to be people who serve you and trust you. Please forgive us, and send the warm sunshine of your love to heal our sinful hearts. Then we will jump for joy! In Jesus' name, amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Second Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Psalm 51:4–5, 10, 16–17

[O God,] you are right when you sentence me.

You are fair when you judge me.

I know I've been a sinner ever since I was born.

I've been a sinner ever since my mother became pregnant with me.

God, create a pure heart in me.

Give me a new spirit that is faithful to you.

You don't take delight in sacrifice.

If you did, I would bring it.

You don't take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The greatest sacrifice you want is a broken spirit.

God, you will gladly accept a heart

that is broken because of sadness over sin.

Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell God about?



Praying

Kind God, in your mercy let our hearts break when we think of the many ways we sin against you. Help us to feel deeply sorry over sin. Help us to find deep joy when we see how much you love us. We ask this in Jesus' name.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 11 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Luke 7:37–39, 44–48

There was a woman in that town who had lived a sinful life. She learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house. So she came there with a special jar of perfume. She stood behind Jesus and cried at his feet. And she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair. She kissed them and poured perfume on them.

The Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this. He said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him. He would know what kind of woman she is. She is a sinner!"

Then [Jesus] turned toward the woman. He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water to wash my feet. But she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not

give me a kiss. But this woman has not stopped kissing my feet since I came in. You did not put any olive oil on my head. But she has poured this perfume on my feet. So I tell you this. Her many sins have been forgiven. She has shown that she understands this by her great acts of love. But whoever has been forgiven only a little loves only a little.”

Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus felt when the woman wiped and kissed Jesus’ feet? I wonder what the perfume smelled like?



Praying

- praise God for being our provider
- offer thanks for the ways God gives you what you need



Seeing God, Jesus saw that Simon was proud and looked down on others. Jesus saw that the woman who poured out her love was sad and sorry for her sins. Open our eyes to see how much we’ve been forgiven, God, so we will love you much too. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 12 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Luke 15:1–10

The tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were whispering among themselves. They said, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them a story. He said, “Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? When he finds it, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders and go home. Then he will call his friends and neighbors together. He will say, ‘Be joyful with me. I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin. Yes, there will be more joy than for 99 godly people who do not need to turn away from their sins.

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the house? Won’t she search carefully until she finds the coin? And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors together. She will say, ‘Be joyful with me. I have found my lost coin.’ I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is joy in heaven over one sinner who turns away from sin.”

Dwelling

I wonder why the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus? I wonder what makes you joyful?



Praying

- for respect and care for our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit
- for pets and other animals we care for



God, thank you that you light the lamp and sweep the house in your search for us when we are lost. And thank you that you throw such a party when you find us! You love us so much! May we join you in your search for other lost people. Thank you that your love never quits. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 13 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Luke 15:11–14, 20, 28–32

Jesus continued, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger son spoke to his father. He said, ‘Father, give me my share of the family property.’ So the father divided his property between his two sons.

“Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had.

“So he got up and went to his father.

“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The older brother became angry. He refused to [celebrate]. So his father went out and begged him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve worked like a slave for you. I have always obeyed your orders. You never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But this son of yours wasted your money with some prostitutes. Now he comes home. And for him you kill the fattest calf!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.’”

Dwelling

Imagine sitting next to Jesus and listening to these words. Is there anything you’d like to ask Jesus about this story?



Praying

- for brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles
- for people who are hard to get along with



Father, sometimes it makes us jealous that you are so excited about bad people turning around when we try so hard to be good. But our jealousy shows we really don’t understand you. Help us to know we need your grace too. Help us to care about people who are far from you. And help us to go into the party of your love. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 14 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Matthew 18:23–30, 32–33

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. As the king began to do it, a man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought to him. The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed.

“Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. ‘Give me time,’ he begged. ‘I’ll pay everything back.’ His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go.

“But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he said.

"The other servant fell on his knees. 'Give me time,' he begged him. 'I'll pay it back.'

"But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed.

"Then the master called the first servant in. 'You evil servant,' he said. 'I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?'"

Dwelling

I wonder what this story shows us about God? I wonder what might it show us about ourselves?



Praying

- for bankers
- for judges



God, our sins have piled up into a huge debt we can't pay. Thank you for taking that impossible debt on yourself. Forgive us when we don't treat others the same way. It is so easy to hold a grudge; help us let them go by your grace. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 15 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Matthew 25:31–32, 34–37, 40–45

“The Son of Man will come in all his glory. All the angels will come with him. Then he will sit in glory on his throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate the people into two groups.

“Then the King will speak to those on his right. He will say, ‘My Father has blessed you. Come and take what is yours. It is the kingdom prepared for you since the world was created. I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. I needed clothes. And you gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me.’

“Then the people who have done what is right will answer him. ‘Lord,’ they will ask, ‘when did we see you?’

“The King will reply, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, . . . ‘I was hungry. But you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty. But you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger. But you did not invite me in. I needed clothes. But you did not give me any. I was sick and in prison. But you did not take care of me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you?’

“He will reply, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Anything you didn’t do for one of the least important of these, you didn’t do for me.’”

Dwelling

I wonder what Jesus will look like on the throne? I wonder where you’ve seen Jesus in someone today?



Praying

- for forgiveness when we do not treat others the way that God treats us
- for forgiveness for a complaining attitude



King of mercy, you were hurt, and thirsty, and naked for us on the cross. You gave up all to help us. Now we want to give up our comfort to help others. We don’t want to turn away from people in need. We don’t want to turn away from you. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners,** **Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 16 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.** (Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6–9, 17–19

You gain a lot when you live a godly life. But you must be happy with what you have. We didn't bring anything into the world. We can't take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we will be happy with that. People who want to get rich are tempted. They fall into a trap.

Command people who are rich in this world not to be proud. Tell them not to put their hope in riches. Wealth is so uncertain. Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy. Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share. . . . Then they will take hold of the life that really is life.

Dwelling

Is God telling us to do something? Is God promising to do something for us?



Praying

- for church ministries that care for those without food or shelter
- for churches in Europe, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



God, rich in love and happiness, we want to say “no” to our wants. Free us from constantly wanting more stuff so that we can become generous givers and sharers like you. Give us the gift of being happy with what we have. We have you! What more could we want? In Jesus’ name, amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Third Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Psalm 32:1–5, 11

Blessed is the person whose lawless acts are forgiven.

Their sins have been taken away.

Blessed is the person whose sin the LORD never counts against them.

That person doesn't want to cheat anyone.

When I kept silent about my sin,
 my body became weak
 because I groaned all day long.

Day and night
 you punished me.

I became weaker and weaker
 as I do in the heat of summer.

Then I admitted my sin to you.

I didn't cover up the wrong I had done.

I said, "I will admit my lawless acts to the LORD."

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Be glad because of what the LORD has done for you.

Be joyful, you who do what is right!

Sing, all you whose hearts are honest!

Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell God about?



Praying

God of truth, you want us to be real with you. If we pretend we're perfect, we're only fooling ourselves, and we wilt. Help us to be honest and to say sorry. Thank you for your forgiveness. Your grace makes us strong again.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners,**
Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 17 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: 1 Peter 1:18–19, 2:23–25

You know that you were not bought with things that can pass away, like silver or gold. Instead, you were bought with the priceless blood of Christ. He is a perfect lamb. He doesn't have any flaws at all.

People shouted at him and made fun of him. But he didn't do the same thing back to them. When he suffered, he didn't say he would make them suffer. Instead, he trusted in the God who judges fairly. "He himself carried our sins" in his body on the cross. (Isaiah 53:5) He did it so that we would die as far as sins are concerned. Then we would lead godly lives. "His wounds have healed you." (Isaiah 53:5) "You were like sheep wandering away." (Isaiah 53:6) But now you have returned to the Shepherd. He is the one who watches over your souls.

Dwelling

I wonder what it felt like for Jesus to carry our sins? I wonder what you think about this Shepherd, who is also a lamb?



Praying

- praise Jesus for the great price paid for your forgiveness
- offer thanks to God for forgiving us many times



Suffering Savior, thank you for buying us back from sin with your own priceless blood. Thank you for caring for us like a loving shepherd. It's hard to believe that we are really worth that much to you. Amazing love! How can it be, that you our God would die for me? Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 18 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: 1 Peter 3:9, 13–14, 18

Don't pay back evil with evil. Don't pay back unkind words with unkind words.

Instead, pay back evil with kind words. This is what you have been chosen to do.

You will receive a blessing by doing this.

Who is going to hurt you if you really want to do good? But suppose you do suffer for doing what is right. Even then you will be blessed. Scripture says, "Don't fear what others say they will do to hurt you. Don't be afraid." (Isaiah 8:12) Christ also suffered once for sins. The one who did what is right suffered for those who don't do right. He suffered to bring you to God. His body was put to death. But the Holy Spirit brought him back to life.

Dwelling

Is there a word or phrase from the reading that stays in your mind? What might God be saying to you?



Praying

- for forests and loggers
- for oceans, fish, and people who fish for a living



Kind Lord, you didn't hit back. You didn't pay back evil with evil. Help us go through hard times like you did. May we know that you always see what is going on, and that you always do what's right. Please be in charge of our hearts, and don't let our anger or our fear take over. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 19 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: 1 Peter 4:14–16, 19

Suppose people say bad things about you because you believe in Christ. Then you are blessed, because God's Spirit rests on you. He is the Spirit of glory. If you suffer, it shouldn't be because you are a murderer. It shouldn't be because you are a thief or someone who does evil things. It shouldn't be because you interfere with other people's business. But suppose you suffer for being a Christian. Then don't be ashamed. Instead, praise God because you are known by the name of Christ.

Here is what people who suffer because of God's plan should do. They should commit themselves to their faithful Creator. And they should continue to do good.

Dwelling

I wonder what kind of suffering have you gone through or are going through? I wonder how can you ask Jesus to help you with that?



Praying

- for love and peace within our home
- for marriages



Lord, we're always surprised when hard things happen in our lives, especially if it's because we follow you. Sometimes we feel scared. Please give us faith and courage. May we not forget what a blessing it is to be known by your Name. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 20 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: 1 Peter 5:4, 6–10

The Chief Shepherd will come again. Then you will receive the crown of glory. It is a crown that will never fade away.

So make yourselves humble. Put yourselves under God's mighty hand. Then he will honor you at the right time. Turn all your worries over to him. He cares about you.

Be watchful and control yourselves. Your enemy the devil is like a roaring lion. He prowls around looking for someone to swallow up. Stand up to him. Remain strong in what you believe. You know that you are not alone in your suffering. The family of believers throughout the world is going through the same thing.

God always gives you all the grace you need. So you will only have to suffer for a little while. Then God himself will build you up again. He will make you strong and steady.

Dwelling

Is there a picture that comes to mind from what we have heard? I wonder what might it show us about Jesus?



Praying

- for people in the military and their families
- for refugees and immigrants



Chief Shepherd, you ask us, the sheep, to stand up to the roaring lion? How can we? We thank you that it is only because we are protected under your mighty hand. You make us brave and steady. You give us a crown of glory. All praise to you, Jesus! Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 21 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 3:12–17

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be treated badly. Evil people and pretenders will go from bad to worse. They will fool others, and others will fool them. But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned and are sure about. You know the people you learned it from. You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus. God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.

Dwelling

I wonder what the Spirit might be saying to us? I wonder how God's Word has helped us?



Praying

- for forgiveness when we blame other people for what we did wrong
- for forgiveness when we hold grudges (and help to let those grudges go)



God of truth, thank you for your Word, the Bible. Send your Spirit so that we see how the Bible story includes us. Let your teaching guide our steps. Help us to read your Word and wonder about it and pray with it. But most of all, change us by it, Lord. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 22 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Philippians 4:6–7, 11–13

Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood.

I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me. I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.

Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you'd like to tell God?



Praying

- for people suffering from persecution based on their beliefs
- for people who feel alone at church



God of peace, when we forget about you, we worry and whine. We can't relax. We can't play. Please help us tell you about everything. Help us put all our worries into your hands. Then we know we'll be okay. Because of Jesus, amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Fourth Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Habakkuk 3:17–19

The fig trees might not bud.

The vines might not produce any grapes.

The olive crop might fail.

The fields might not produce any food.

There might not be any sheep in the pens.

There might not be any cattle in the barns.

But I will still be glad

because of what the LORD has done.

God my Savior fills me with joy.

The LORD and King gives me strength.

He makes my feet like the feet of a deer.

He helps me walk on the highest places.

Dwelling

I wonder what pictures come to mind when we listen to this reading? I wonder when God fills us with joy?



Praying

God, bad things might happen, but you are always with us. We can be joyful in hard times because you are strong and because you love us. Thank you for taking care of us, no matter what.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 23 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Isaiah 53:2–5

He didn't have any beauty or majesty that made us notice him.

There wasn't anything special about the way he looked that drew us to him.

People looked down on him. They didn't accept him.

He knew all about pain and suffering.

He was like someone people turn their faces away from.

We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him.

He suffered the things we should have suffered.

He took on himself the pain that should have been ours.

But we thought God was punishing him.

We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer.

But the servant was pierced because we had sinned.

He was crushed because we had done what was evil.

He was punished to make us whole again.

His wounds have healed us.

Dwelling

I wonder why people looked down on the servant? Who does this servant remind us of? Why?



Praying

- praise Jesus for dying for us
- offer thanks for the ways you've felt God's love for you lately



Jesus, you were sad and hurt because of us. You were punished for us. And you died for us because you love us. Your love heals our hurts. Thank you for loving us. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 24 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Isaiah 53:6–8

All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God.

All of us have turned to our own way.

And the LORD has placed on his servant
the sins of all of us.

He was treated badly and made to suffer.

But he didn't open his mouth.

He was led away like a lamb to be killed.

Sheep are silent while their wool is being cut off.

In the same way, he didn't open his mouth.

He was arrested and sentenced to death.

Then he was taken away.

He was cut off from this life.

He was punished for the sins of my people.

Who among those who were living at that time
tried to stop what was happening?

Dwelling

I wonder why God's servant didn't open his mouth? How do you feel when you hear this passage?



Praying

- for people and creation hurt by hurricanes, tornadoes, or floods
- for wisdom in caring for the earth



Jesus, it's hard to understand God's plan. It's hard to understand a love so deep and so powerful that you suffered and died for us. We can't understand it, but we worship in the mystery of your love. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 25 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Isaiah 53:10–12

The LORD says, "It was my plan to crush him
and cause him to suffer.

I made his life an offering to pay for sin.

But he will see all his children after him.

In fact, he will continue to live.

My plan will be brought about through him.

After he has suffered, he will see the light of life.

And he will be satisfied.

My godly servant will make many people godly
because of what he will accomplish.

He will be punished for their sins.

So I will give him a place of honor among those who are great.

He will be rewarded just like others who win the battle.

That's because he was willing to give his life as a sacrifice."

Dwelling

I wonder what the servant's reward was? I wonder how the servant makes many people godly?



Praying

- for people who don't know Jesus
- for cousins



Jesus, thank you for suffering and dying in our place. And thank you that your death is not the end of the story! Thank you for winning the battle over death and making it so we can have new life that pleases God. We honor you, Jesus, for you are great! Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 26 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Zechariah 12:10, 13:1

“I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on David’s family line. I will also send it on those who live in Jerusalem. They will look to me. I am the one they have pierced. They will mourn over me as someone mourns over an only child who has died. They will be full of sorrow over me. Their sorrow will be just like someone’s sorrow over an oldest son.

“At that time a fountain will be opened for the benefit of David’s family line. It will also bless the others who live in Jerusalem. It will wash away their sins. It will make them pure and ‘clean.’”



Dwelling

I wonder what it’s like to be full of sorrow? I wonder how it feels, after you’ve cried and cried, to be washed clean?

Praying

- for people who are surrounded by war
- for people who are looking for work



Jesus, because you were pierced for us, we are washed clean and forgiven. Thank you for washing us and making us your children. Pour out on us a spirit of grace and prayer this day. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 27 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Psalm 22:1, 7–10

My God, my God, why have you deserted me?

Why do you seem so far away when I need you to save me?

Why do you seem so far away that you can't hear my groans?

All those who see me laugh at me.

They shout at me and make fun of me.

They shake their heads at me.

They say, "He trusts in the LORD.

Let the LORD help him.

If the LORD is pleased with him,

let him save him."

But you brought me out of my mother's body.

You made me trust in you
even when I was at my mother's breast.

From the time I was born, you took good care of me.

Ever since I came out of my mother's body, you have been my God.

Dwelling

I wonder when Jesus felt like this? I wonder if you have ever felt like this?



Praying

- for forgiveness for not listening to God
- for forgiveness for times when we leave others out



God, sometimes you seem far away, but we need you. We belong to you. You have always taken care of us. Please take care of us now. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 28 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (p. 827)



Bible Reading: Psalm 22:16–19

A group of sinful people has closed in on me.

They are all around me like a pack of dogs.

They have pierced my hands and my feet.

Everyone can see all my bones right through my skin.

People stare at me. They laugh when I suffer.

They divide up my clothes among them.

They cast lots for what I am wearing.

LORD, don't be so far away from me.

You give me strength. Come quickly to help me.



Dwelling

How do you feel when people laugh at you? I wonder how Jesus felt when people laughed at him while on the cross?

Praying

- for more prayer in our churches
- for churches in the Middle East, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



Jesus, you died surrounded by people who wanted to hurt you and who laughed at you when you were hurting. We are sad that you died and that people hurt you. Forgive us for the times when we make you sad and when we hurt you. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Fifth Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Isaiah 64:3–6, 8–9

Long ago you [God] did some wonderful things we didn't expect.

You came down, and the mountains trembled
when you showed your power.

No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.

No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.

No God but you acts for the good
of those who trust in him.

You come to help those who enjoy doing what is right.

You help those who thank you for teaching them how to live.

But when we continued to disobey you,

you became angry with us.

So how can we be saved?

All of us have become like someone who is “unclean.”

All the good things we do are like dirty rags to you.

All of us are like leaves that have dried up.

Our sins sweep us away like the wind.

LORD, you are our Father.

We are the clay. You are the potter.

Your hands made all of us. . . .

Please have mercy on us.

All of us belong to you.

Dwelling

What pictures come to mind when we hear these Bible verses? What might the Spirit be showing us?



Praying

Potter God, we are your clay. But we’ve become stiff and dry in our sin and tough to work with. But even rocky mountains tremble and soften when you are near. Come and shape our hard hearts into something soft and beautiful. In the power of Jesus’ grace we pray.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord’s Prayer together.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] “I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**” (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 29 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Luke 9:22, 28–31, 34–36

[Jesus] said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things. The elders will not accept him. The chief priests and the teachers of the law will not accept him either. He must be killed and on the third day rise from the dead.”

About eight days after Jesus said this, he went up on a mountain to pray. He took Peter, John and James with him. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed. His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in shining glory. Jesus and the two of them talked together. They talked about how he would be leaving them soon. This was going to happen in Jerusalem.

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them. The disciples were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud. It said, “This is

my Son, and I have chosen him. Listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone.

Dwelling

I wonder what Jesus was praying about on the mountain? I wonder what the voice from the cloud sounded like?



Praying

- praise God for God's power and glory
- offer thanks for the ways you've seen God's power and glory lately



Bright Jesus, there on the mountain you showed your glory. You talked with old friends. You entered your Father's cloud and heard God's love. And in the midst of it all, you were thinking of that ugly, terrible cross. How do we respond to someone like you? Help us to listen—really listen. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 30 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: John 2:14–21

In the temple courtyard [Jesus] found people selling cattle, sheep and doves. Others were sitting at tables exchanging money. So Jesus made a whip out of ropes. He chased all the sheep and cattle from the temple courtyard. He scattered the coins of the people exchanging money. And he turned over their tables. He told those who were selling doves, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered what had been written. It says, "My great love for your house will destroy me." (Psalm 69:9)

Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do this?"

Jesus answered them, "When you destroy this temple, I will raise it up again in three days."

They replied, "It has taken 46 years to build this temple. Are you going to raise it up in three days?" But the temple Jesus had spoken about was his body.

Dwelling

I wonder why Jesus made a whip? I wonder what it would be like to be in the temple when Jesus was chasing away the animals and the sellers?



Praying

- for people who teach us how to care for our world
- for God's creation, especially for the parts that are hurting



Jesus, it's no wonder you wanted to clear those salespeople out—they were messing up your Father's house. They made something that should point to you into a shopping mall. You are the true temple where we really meet God. Chase out our sin so we see who you really are. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 31 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: John 10:11, 14–18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. They know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I give my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this sheep pen. I must bring them in too. They also will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I give up my life. But I will take it back again. No one takes it from me. I give it up myself. I have the authority to give it up. And I have the authority to take it back again. I received this command from my Father.”



Dwelling

I wonder what Jesus’ voice sounds like? I wonder who else is part of Jesus’ flock?

Praying

- for babies growing in the womb
- for people who live in nursing homes and the people who care for them



Good Shepherd, you are so good. Thank you for taking care of us, your sheep. Thank you that we don't have to be afraid. Thank you for giving up your life to keep us safe. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 32 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Matthew 26:3–4, 7–10, 12, 14–15

Then the chief priests met with the elders of the people. They met in the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest. They made plans to arrest Jesus secretly. They wanted to kill him.

A woman came to Jesus with a special sealed jar of very expensive perfume. She poured the perfume on his head while he was at the table.

When the disciples saw this, they became angry. “Why this waste?” they asked. “The perfume could have been sold at a high price. The money could have been given to poor people.”

Jesus was aware of this. So he said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. She poured the perfume on my body to prepare me to be buried.”

One of the 12 disciples went to the chief priests. His name was Judas Iscariot. He asked, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" So they counted out 30 silver coins for him.

Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus felt when the woman poured perfume on his head? I wonder how Judas felt when the priests put the money in his hand?



Praying

- for people who are servers, cooks, and cleaners
- for people who want to go to school but are not able to



Savior, as we near the cross where you give up all for us, a woman shows you her love with pricey perfume. We too want to "waste" our treasure on you, as we pray: "Take my love; my Lord, I pour at your feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee." Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 33 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: John 12:23–24, 27–33

Jesus replied, “The time has come for the Son of Man to receive glory. What I’m about to tell you is true. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only one seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

“My soul is troubled. What should I say? ‘Father, keep me from having to go through with this’? No. This is the very reason I have come to this point in my life. Father, bring glory to your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven. It said, “I have brought glory to my name. I will bring glory to it again.” The crowd there heard the voice. Some said it was thunder. Others said an angel had spoken to Jesus.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now it is time for the world to be judged. Now the prince of this world will be thrown out. And I am going to be lifted up from the earth. When I am, I will bring all people to myself." He said this to show them how he was going to die.

Dwelling

Imagine sitting next to Jesus and listening to these words. Is there anything you'd like to tell or ask Jesus about?



Praying

- for forgiveness when we worry and forget to trust in God
- for forgiveness when we say mean things about people behind their backs



Lord Jesus, even though your soul was troubled before the cross and even though you knew you would die, you still said "Father, let's do this. It's for your glory!" What courage and love! You bring us to yourself, dear Jesus, and we are so glad. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 34 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: John 13:3–5, 12–14

Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet."

Dwelling

I wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus was washing their feet? I wonder how Jesus felt when he was washing the disciples' feet?



Praying

- for churches to work together to show the love of Jesus
- for churches in Asia, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



Teacher and Lord, we've never heard of a president waiting tables or a queen scrubbing floors. But you, the Son of God, kneel before your disciples and take their filthy feet in your hands, washing them clean. You wash us clean too. Help us to use our gifts like you did, to serve other people. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Sixth Sunday · Palm Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Psalm 24:7–10; John 12:12–15

Open wide, you gates.

Open up, you ancient doors.

Then the King of glory will come in.

Who is the King of glory?

The LORD, who is strong and mighty.

The LORD, who is mighty in battle.

Open wide, you gates.

Open wide, you ancient doors.

Then the King of glory will come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The next day the large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Psalm 118:25, 26)

"Blessed is the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture.
It says,

"City of Zion, do not be afraid.

See, your king is coming.

He is sitting on a donkey's colt." (Zechariah 9:9)

Dwelling

I wonder why people waved palm branches? I wonder what Jesus thought about all this?



Praying

Jesus, you are the King of glory. You are strong and mighty, humble and gentle. As we shout our hosannas today, make us ready to walk with you this week to the cross and to the empty tomb.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 35 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Mark 14:12, 22–26

It was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That was the time to sacrifice the Passover lamb.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, “Take it. This is my body.”

Then he took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. All of them drank from it.

“This is my blood of the covenant,” he said to them. “It is poured out for many. What I’m about to tell you is true. I won’t drink wine with you again until the day I drink it in God’s kingdom.”

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Dwelling

I wonder how the disciples felt about eating and drinking this meal? I wonder what hymn or song they sang? I wonder what hymn or song we would sing?



Praying

- praise God for always being with us
- offer thanks for the ways you've felt God's nearness lately



Jesus, you shared a Passover meal with your friends, but you became the Lamb that was sacrificed. You gave your body and shed your blood for us. Help us taste and see your sacrifice of love. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 36 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Mark 14:32–42

Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him. He began to be very upset and troubled. “My soul is very sad. I feel close to death,” he said to them. “Stay here. Keep watch.”

He went a little farther. Then he fell to the ground. He prayed that, if possible, the hour might pass by him. “*Abba, Father,*” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want.”

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray. Then you won’t fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Once more Jesus went away and prayed the same thing. Then he came back. Again he found them sleeping. They couldn't keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him.

Jesus returned the third time. He said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look! The Son of Man is about to be handed over to sinners. Get up! Let us go! Here comes the one who is handing me over to them!"

Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus felt when the disciples fell asleep? I wonder how Jesus felt when Jesus said "Let us go"?



Praying

- for crops, gardens, and food supplies
- for healthy air



Jesus, you were so brave. When you were scared and sad you prayed for what your Father wanted to be done. Help us to pray like you. And when you were done praying, you let the crowd take you away to kill you. You could have stopped them, but you didn't. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 37 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Mark 14:55, 61–65

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for something to use against Jesus. They wanted to put him to death. But they did not find any proof.

But Jesus remained silent. He gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah? Are you the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One. You will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven.”

The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard him say a very evil thing against God. What do you think?”

They all found him guilty and said he must die. Then some began to spit at him. They blindfolded him. They hit him with their fists. They said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus felt when the high priest said he must die? I wonder why the guards beat Jesus?



Praying

- for children who are waiting to be adopted
- for people who are afraid or facing hard times



Jesus, you didn't do anything wrong, but you were punished anyway. People said things about you that weren't true, and you stayed silent. People hit you and you did not hit back. Thank you for being so brave—for us. You are the Messiah. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] “I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**” (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 38 · Maundy Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Psalm 41:9; Mark 14:66–72

Even my close friend, someone I trusted, has failed me.

I even shared my bread with him.

Peter was below in the courtyard. One of the high priest's female servants came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with Jesus, that Nazarene," she said.

But Peter said he had not been with him. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said. He went out to the entrance to the courtyard.

The servant saw him there. She said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." Again he said he was not.

After a little while, those standing nearby said to Peter, "You must be one of them. You are from Galilee."

Then Peter began to curse. He said to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about!"

Right away the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had spoken to him. "The rooster will crow twice," he had said. "Before it does, you will say three times that you don't know me." Peter broke down and cried.

Dwelling

I wonder why Peter said he did not know Jesus? I wonder what the people around the fire thought of Jesus?



Praying

- for musicians and for the gift of music
- for people who are in jail and for the people who care for them



Jesus, we are sometimes afraid, just like Peter was. Please make us brave, and help us always to be ready to tell others that we love and serve you. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 39 · Good Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (p. 828)



Bible Reading: Romans 5:8; Luke 23:33–35; Mark 15:33–34, 37–39

But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The soldiers brought [Jesus and two criminals] to the place called the Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.” The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood there watching. The rulers even made fun of Jesus. They said, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

At noon, darkness covered the whole land. It lasted three hours. At three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" This means "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" (Psalm 22:1)

With a loud cry, Jesus took his last breath.

The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. A Roman commander was standing there in front of Jesus. He saw how Jesus died. Then he said, "This man was surely the Son of God!"

Dwelling

I wonder how the Roman commander knew Jesus was the Son of God? I wonder how we know that Jesus is the Son of God?



Praying

- offer thanks for God forgiving us because of what Jesus did
- offer thanks for Jesus experiencing God's turned back so we never would



Lord Jesus, what can we say but thank you? Thank you for suffering and dying for us. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Lent · Day 40 · Holy Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? . . .

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Bible Reading: Psalm 30:5; Job 17:16; Mark 15:40–47

Weeping can stay for the night.

But joy comes in the morning.

Will hope go down to the gates of death with me?

Will we go down together into the dust of the grave?

Not very far away, some women were watching. Mary Magdalene was among them. Mary, the mother of the younger James and of Joseph, was also there. So was Salome. In Galilee these women had followed Jesus. They had taken care of his needs. Many other women were also there. They had come up with him to Jerusalem.

It was the day before the Sabbath. That day was called Preparation Day. As evening approached, Joseph went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a leading member of the Jewish Council. He was waiting for God's kingdom. Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead. So he called for the Roman commander. He asked him if Jesus had already died. The commander said it was true. So Pilate gave the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought some linen cloth. He took down the body and wrapped it in the linen. He put it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus' body had been placed.

Dwelling

I wonder what Jesus' followers were feeling on that Saturday? What are you feeling today?



Praying

- for many people to meet Jesus through the church
- for churches in the Americas, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



Precious Jesus, you really died and you really were buried in that tomb. Because you went there first, we do not need to be afraid of death. Thank you for the coming joy that we will celebrate tomorrow! Amen.

Blessing

[The LORD said,] "I have loved you with an everlasting love; **I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**" (Jeremiah 31:3)



Songs · Lent · Days 1–16

Amazing Grace/Sublime gracia

G E C G

A - maz - ing grace — how sweet the sound — that
 ¡Su - bli - me gra - cia del Se - ñor — que_a_un

D7 G/B D/A G

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 pe - ca - dor sal - vó! Fui cie - go mas hoy

C G Em G/D D7 G

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 ve - o yo, per - di - do y_él me_ha - lló.

Song Title: "Amazing Grace" or "Sublime gracia"

Words: John Newton (b. 1725; d. 1807), 1779, P.D.; Spanish tr. Cristóbal E. Morales (b. 1898; d. 1981), alt.

Music (NEW BRITAIN): *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell (b. 1851; d. 1921), 1900, P.D.

Third Sunday–Day 28 · Lent · Songs

827

Jesus, Remember Me/Jesús, recuérdame

E \flat Fm7 B \flat E \flat

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.
Je - sús, re - cuér - da - me cuan - do en - tres en tu Rei - no.

Cm Fm7 B \flat E \flat

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.
Je - sús, re - cuér - da - me cuan - do en - tres en tu Rei - no.

Song Title: "Jesus, Remember Me" or "Jesús, recuérdame"

Words and Music: Luke 23:42; Jacques Berthier (b. 1923; d. 1994) © 1981, 2005, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

Songs · Lent · Fifth Sunday—Day 40

Were You There/Viste tú

E \flat Fm7 B \flat 7 E \flat A \flat E \flat

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? *Were you there?*
 ¿Vis - te tú cuan - do en la cruz mu - rió? *¿Vis - te tú?*

B \flat A \flat B \flat

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? *Were you there?*
 ¿Vis - te tú cuan - do en la cruz mu - rió? *¿Vis - te tú?*

E \flat A \flat E \flat G7 C \flat

Oh, some-times it caus - es me to
 ¡Oh! Hay ve - ces que al pen-sar - lo

Fifth Sunday–Day 40 · Lent · Songs

829

A \flat
E \flat
A \flat
B \flat

trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.
 tiem - blo, tiem - blo, tiem - blo.

C m
F m
E \flat /B \flat
F m 7
B \flat 7
E \flat
A \flat
E \flat

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? *Were you there?*
 ¿Vis - te tú cuan - do en la cruz mu - rió? *¿Vis - te tú?*

Song Title: "Were You There" or "Viste tú"

Words: African American spiritual; Spanish tr. Arnaldo Canclini

Music: African American spiritual; harm. C. Winfred Douglas (b. 1867; d. 1944), 1940, P.D.

