

Ash Wednesday

Attend an Ash Wednesday Service on
February 18 at 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, or 6:30 PM.

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration, there was a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

"During these 40 days, let me put away all my pride. Let me change my heart and give up all that is not good within me. Let me love God with all that I am and all that I have."

~ Genesis Grain

Receive this invitation, in the love of our Lord Jesus, to observe holy Lent:

- by self-examination and repentance,
- by prayer, fasting, and self-denial,
- by acts of generosity, compassion, peacemaking, and service,
- and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Daily Reflections

On Ash Wednesday, February 18, read Luke 4:1-13. Where am I tempted to define myself by power or scarcity? How is Christ inviting me to trust God's sustaining presence?

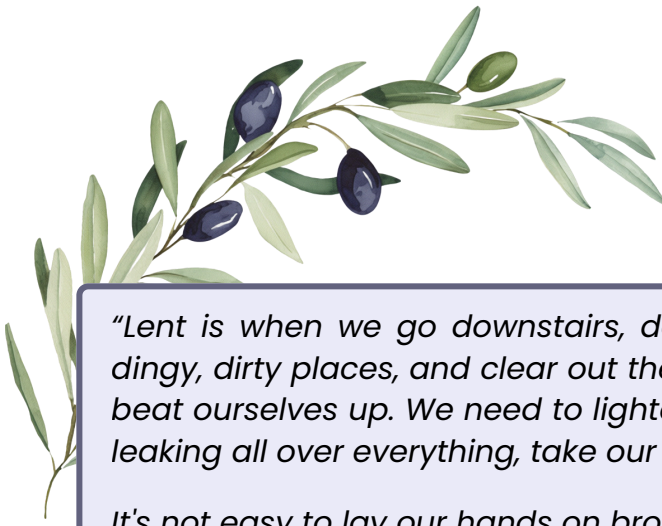
On Thursday, February 19, read Exodus 3:1-15. What would change if I trusted that the great "I AM" sees my suffering, calls me by name, and sends me forth with purpose?

On Friday, February 20, read Revelation 21:1-7. How does God's promise to make all things new reshape the way I face grief, injustice, or uncertainty in this season?

On Saturday, February 21, read Matthew 16:13-17. My words, actions, and choices confess who Jesus is to me. How might my confession open me to deeper transformation?

"As we cross the threshold into Lent, we will hear the words of the prophet Joel as he tells us, 'Rend your hearts.' We can choose to do this, to turn toward God, because God has already opened God's own heart to us.

God keeps letting God's heart break for us. Keeps choosing to become bound to us. To become entangled with us. To covenant with us and with creation and with those who will come after us. Keeps taking our side even when we have wandered into the far country, bent on a path of our own stubborn choosing. In this season God asks us, invites us, dares us to let ourselves be claimed." – Jan Richardson



Light of the World

The light of Christ meets us with grace,
not shame.

"Lent is when we go downstairs, down into the basement of our souls, into the dark, dingy, dirty places, and clear out the junk we need to get rid of. In Lent, we don't need to beat ourselves up. We need to lighten our load, bag up those fears and desires that are leaking all over everything, take our guilt and shame out to the curb.

It's not easy to lay our hands on broken things, to look deep into the gummed-up works. That's why Jesus shines with his light, shines so we can see our way down into the dark, see to lift up the junk and hand it over, so he can haul it out into the light of the dumpster. The light Jesus shines is good with dark places, so we know even from the deepest hole down there we'll come out. The light will lead us. We'll be OK.

Mucking around down there we get dirty, and we come up with grime on our hands and ashes on our foreheads for everybody to see. But we're free of all that blame and disappointment. And the darkest, deepest cellar hole becomes an empty tomb."
~ Lent by Steve Garnaas Holmes

Daily Reflections

On Sunday, February 22, read John 8:12 & John 3:19-21. What have I been keeping in the shadows? How might Christ's light be offering healing rather than judgment?

On Monday, February 23, read Isaiah 9:2-7. What forms of darkness, personal or societal, am I tempted to accept as permanent? How does God's promised light challenge that?

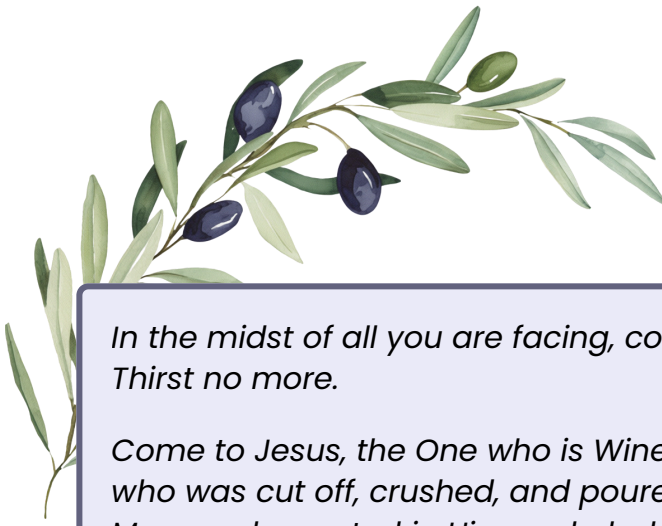
On Tuesday, February 24, read Psalm 27:1-4. How does naming God as my light and salvation reshape the fears that guide my decisions?

On Wednesday, February 25, read John 1:1-9. Where am I resisting the true light of Christ because it exposes more than I want to see?

On Thursday, February 26, read Ephesians 5:8-14. What can I change right now to live more fully as a child of light in my relationships, habits, or witness?

On Friday, February 27, read Matthew 5:14-16. How is Christ inviting me to shine in ways that reflect God's grace more than my own goodness?

On Saturday, February 28, read 1 John 1:5-7. What healing or freedom might come for myself or others if I chose to walk honestly and openly in the light of Christ?



Bread of Life

Christ feeds the hunger we cannot satisfy
on our own.

*In the midst of all you are facing, come to the One who overflows, to Living Water.
Thirst no more.*

*Come to Jesus, the One who is Wine, The Vine Eternal,
who was cut off, crushed, and poured out for your forgiveness and deliverance.
May you be rooted in Him and gladdened in His presence, for His joy is our strength.*

*Come, rest against our Beloved's breast,
nurtured and nourished, on the milk of love and kindness.*

Come, the bill is paid. Eat and be satisfied with the very Bread of Heaven.

*Listen... Listen..... Grace is calling.
Come, the feast awaits.
~ Lisa Degrenia*

Daily Reflections

On Sunday, March 1, read John 6:28-40. What hungers in my life have I been trying to fill? How might Christ be inviting me to receive what truly sustains?

On Monday, March 2, read Exodus 16:1-18. Where am I tempted to hoard, rush, or question God's provision instead of receiving daily bread with gratitude and trust?

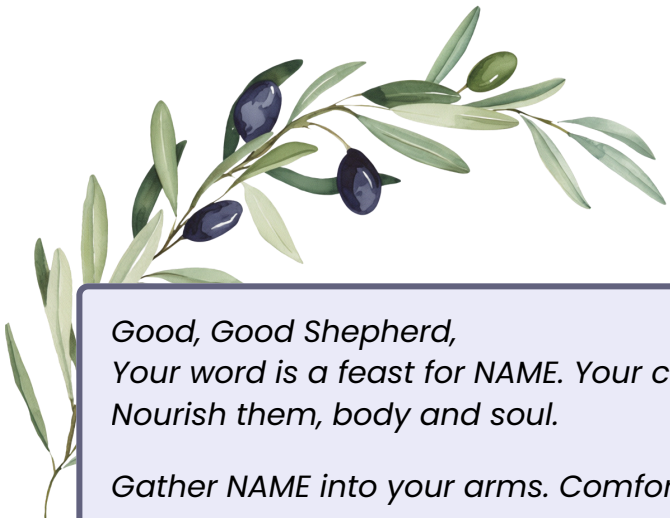
On Tuesday, March 3, read Psalm 63:1-8. Where am I settling for lesser comforts when my soul is longing for God's presence?

On Wednesday, March 4, read Luke 14:15-24. How will I share God's feast of welcome, justice, and generosity with many this week?

On Thursday, March 5, read Isaiah 55:1-3. What would it mean to come to God without money, merit, or pretense, trusting grace to be enough?

On Friday, March 6, read Matthew 14:13-21. Where is Christ multiplying what feels insufficient in my life to meet a greater need in our community?

On Saturday, March 7, read Matthew 5:6. Where do I feel a deep longing for justice or right relationship, and how is God inviting me to be filled?



Gate and Good Shepherd

*Good, Good Shepherd,
Your word is a feast for NAME. Your companionship is the water of life.
Nourish them, body and soul.*

Gather NAME into your arms. Comfort them. Guard them.

*Carry NAME through this grueling season. Lift their spirits. Meet their needs.
Help them overcome NEED, NEED, and NEED.*

*Lead NAME, now and always. Guide each step.
Open the way, O Gate, and make the way smooth.
May they see Your faithfulness and sense Your presence.
May Your mercy raise a witness to Your power and hope. Amen.*

~ Lisa Degrenia

Daily Reflections

On Sunday, March 8, read John 10:1-18. How am I inviting people to Jesus, the Gate, and how am I gatekeeping?

On Monday, March 9, read Psalm 23. Where am I resting in God's provision, and where am I trying to protect and provide on my own?

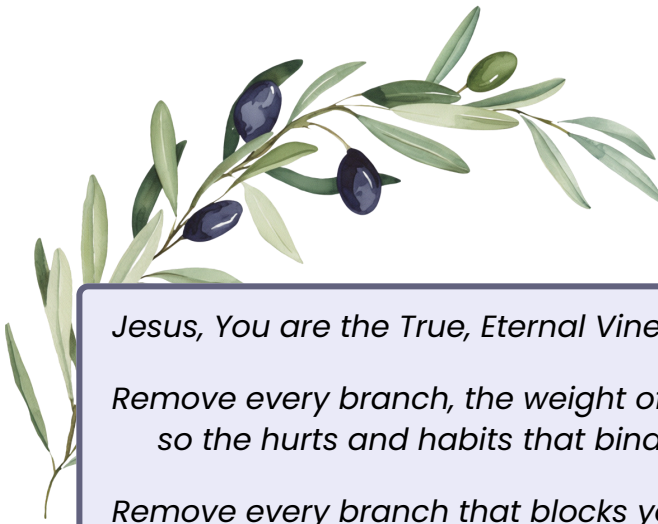
On Tuesday, March 10, read Ezekiel 34:11-16. How am I encouraged by the reminder that God, the Good Shepherd, seeks the lost and tends the vulnerable?

On Wednesday, March 11, read Luke 15:1-7. Who in my life feels lost, overlooked, or forgotten? How will I follow the Shepherd in seeking and welcoming them?

On Thursday, March 12, read John 10:27-30. How do I recognize and respond to the Shepherd's voice in the midst of noise, distraction, or fear?

On Friday, March 13, read Isaiah 40:11. What is it like to imagine God carrying me gently, guiding me tenderly, and protecting me with patient love? Who else needs this?

On Saturday, March 14, read Psalm 100. What will help you enter God's presence with gratitude and trust today? And every day?



The Vine

Abiding in Christ transforms us,
nourishes us, and bears fruit through us.

Jesus, You are the True, Eternal Vine- the Root of all that's true and life-giving.

*Remove every branch, the weight of sin and shame that clings so closely,
so the hurts and habits that bind me, that weigh me down, give way to Your freedom.*

*Remove every branch that blocks your light
so my mind, my soul, my motivations may be radiant with Your goodness.*

*Remove every branch that sucks away time, resources, and passion
so my body, my relationships, my calling may be nourished for Your glory.*

*Remove every branch in me that bears no good and lasting fruit
so I may blossom with Your joy and saving power,
so I may feed others with Your hope and grace.*

~ Lisa Degrenia

Daily Reflections

On Sunday, March 15, read John 15:1-17. Where in my life am I trying to bear fruit apart from Christ? How would abiding more deeply in The Vine change that?

On Monday, March 16, read Hosea 14:4-9. How does the assurance of God forgiveness nurture trust and growth in me?

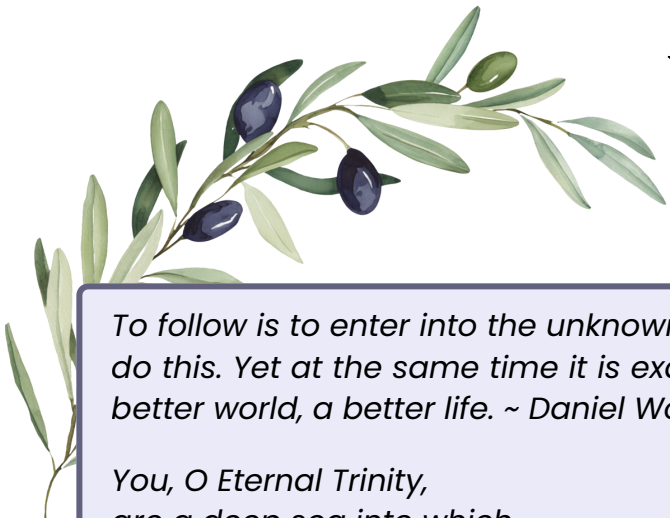
On Tuesday, March 17, read Jeremiah 17:7-8. How can I trust God even more as the source of my life, security, and flourishing?

On Wednesday, March 18, read Colossians 2:6-15. What spiritual practice has helped my roots grow deeper in Christ?

On Thursday, March 19, read Galatians 5:13-26. What fruit of the Spirit do I see in my life right now? What fruit needs to be cultivated by abiding in Christ?

On Friday, March 20, read Matthew 13:31-32. What small, faithful acts are growing into unexpected blessings?

On Saturday, March 21, read Isaiah 11:1-10. Where do I need to trust that God can bring new life from what feels cut off or barren?



Way, Truth, Life

Jesus does not offer a map,
but a relationship.

To follow is to enter into the unknown, to give your life over to another. We rarely want to do this. Yet at the same time it is exactly what we desire: to be led into a better place, a better world, a better life. ~ Daniel Wolpert

*You, O Eternal Trinity,
are a deep sea into which,
the more I enter, the more I find,
and the more I find, the more I seek.*

*O abyss, O eternal Godhead, O sea profound,
what more could you give me than yourself?
God's grace, unsought and unearned,
blows through my life,
and all I need to do is raise my sails to catch the full wind.
~ Catherine of Siena*

Daily Reflections

On Sunday, March 22, read John 14:1-7. Walking with Jesus leads to new life now and eternal life. What worries do you have about being on the right path? What confidence?

On Monday, March 23, read Proverbs 3:1-12. Where am I sensing the grace and love of divine discipline, leading me to a better way?

On Tuesday, March 24, read Micah 6:6-8. How does walking in God's way shape my commitments to justice, kindness, and humility?

On Wednesday, March 25, read Ephesians 4:14-16. How does speaking the truth and seeking the truth shape my growth in Christ?

On Thursday, March 26, read Psalm 1. What motivations and values shape the path I choose day by day?

On Friday, March 27, read Acts 9:1-22. Where might my certainty need to be disrupted so that I can discover a truer way of living and loving?

On Saturday, March 28, read Colossians 1:3-14. How does seeing Christ as the source and center of all life reshape my sense of purpose and direction?



Holy Week

The week that changed the world.

Then Jesus said to them all, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." ~ Luke 9:23-25

*There are ways of being crucified that do not involve rough wood or heavy nails, but a love beyond our capacity to love, which means a love that has been given to us by God.
~ Catherine Doherty*

*Before we get to Easter, we need to linger:
in the vulnerability of the basin and the towel,
at the remembrance and promise of the table,
in the struggle and betrayal of the garden,
in the shadows and shouts of injustice,
at the bloody brutal beautiful cross,
in the silence of linen and spices and death.
For without these, the empty tomb is empty. ~ Lisa Degrenia*

Daily Reflections

On Palm Sunday, March 29, read Luke 19:28–40. How am I welcoming Jesus with joy, generosity, and hope?

On Monday, March 30, read Mark 11:15–19. What tables need overturning so that prayer, justice, and worship can flourish for all people?

On Tuesday, March 31, read Matthew 23:23–28. Where is God inviting my outward faith to better match an inward life?

On Wednesday, April 1, read John 12:1–8. What act of costly love might I offer to Christ this week without calculation or restraint?

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, read John 13:1–15, 34–35. Whose feet am I being called to wash, and where do I need to receive humble love myself?

On Good Friday, April 3, read John 19:16–30. What does it mean for me to trust that even in suffering and apparent defeat, God's redeeming work is unfolding?

On Saturday, April 4, read Matthew 27:57–66. How do I remain faithful in seasons of silence, when God's promises feel hidden and unfinished?



Easter

In the Risen Christ, shame is undone, sin is forgiven, death is defeated, and new life begins.

Glory to You, God of grace and majesty, we join the company of heaven and your faithful in every time and place, in celebrating your victory over sin and death.

Glory to you, and glory to your Son, Jesus Christ. On the third day, you raised him from the dead. Death could not destroy him! The grave could not enslave him!

Blessed Christ, the world despised and rejected you. You responded with grace, humility, and welcome. The proud questioned your power, devised your death. You responded with peace, forgiveness, and new life. Make us like you. Fill us with your resurrection power. Fill us with your breath and spirit.

Make us your Easter people-- Whole, Holy, Alive! One with you and one with each other. Joining you in your saving work of healing and wholeness. Now and forever, Amen.

~ Lisa Degrenia

Daily Reflections

On Easter Sunday, April 5, read John 20:1-18. How is the Risen Christ calling my name and inviting me into new life beyond fear and grief?

On Monday, April 6, read John 20:19-23. What locked doors of fear or shame might Christ be entering with a word of peace? In your life? In our world?

On Tuesday, April 7, read John 20:24-29. How is Christ be meeting my doubts not with rejection or judgment, but with invitation and grace?

On Wednesday, April 8, read Luke 24:13-35. Where has Christ been walking beside me unrecognized, patiently turning confusion into understanding?

On Thursday, April 9, read John 21:1-14. How does Jesus' simple act of preparing breakfast reveal patience and grace meeting me in my running to old ways?

On Friday, April 10, read John 21:15-19. Where is Christ transforming my past failure into renewed calling and purpose?

On Saturday, April 11, read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. What would it mean to start living as a new creation in Christ, saved by grace and entrusted with hope?