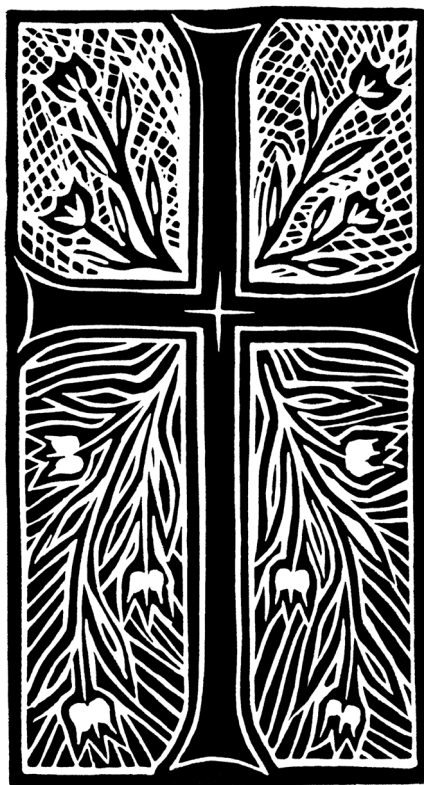


Lenten Readings

for conversation and communion with God



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Introduction

Soaking in the gospel story of the crucifixion and resurrection is a wonderful way to open ourselves more and more fully to the love, forgiveness, restoration, and renewal of Easter.

You may be familiar with the term *lectio divina* — traditionally, a Christian way of reading a short passage slowly, repetitively, and prayerfully. The point of *lectio divina* is not just to read the scripture, but to enter into conversation with Holy God about what we are reading and to enjoy his company.

To read in conversation with the Lord means finding ways to savor the text so that you recognize the Word present in the words.

It means going slowly enough to become aware of your inner questions, longings, fears, and hopes and offering these to God.

And it means paying attention to the Lord's still, small voice responding to you, perhaps with encouragement, or holy disturbance, with a call to action or to relinquishment, or with some other personal invitation or insight.

In this guide you will find six “Overview” passages from John's gospel that give a big-picture account of Jesus' passion, crucifixion, and resurrection.

The “Innerview” readings are shorter passages for you to engage using the *lectio divina* method. As you soak in these passages, let the actions and words of Jesus saturate your perspective. Invite God into the innermost sanctuary of your heart to commune with you. Give him your full attention and listen for his word to you.

How to Use This Guide

Toward the beginning of the week, read the **Overview** passage one time. In the following days, the **Innerview** verses can be your meeting place with God for heart-to-heart conversation. As many times as you are able during the week, step away from your work or play for 20-30 minutes. Read the **Innerview** passage four times using the following steps to guide you into meditation and prayer.

ONE

Begin by reminding yourself that God is
with you at this very moment.

Ask God to highlight anything he
wants you to notice as you read.

Read the passage slowly.

Is there a word or phrase that catches your attention?

TWO

Read the passage again.

Let your attention linger on the phrase or idea
that feels like an invitation from God.

Turn the words over in your mind, listening
for what God might be saying to you.

THREE

Read the passage a third time.

Bring what you are noticing into conversation with God.

What are your questions, reactions, longings?

Take as much time as you need to express your inner responses to God. It might help to journal or speak these thoughts aloud to stay actively engaged in the prayer conversation.

FOUR

Know that the Lord has heard your prayer. You are seen and loved by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Read the passage a fourth time.

Let the words wash over you. Open your heart to whatever God might communicate to you—maybe a word of reassurance or guidance, or simply a deep sense of his nearness and care.

Let the peace of God surround you and rest in his abiding and faithful presence with you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. James 4:8

May this promise be real for you, friends. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Week 1

Overview John 11 (full chapter)



Innerview John 11:33-37

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Week 2

Overview John 12:1-37



Innerview John 12:23-26

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor."

Week 3

Overview John 13 (full chapter)



Innerview John 13:12-15

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

Week 4

Overview John 14:1 - 15:17

If you have time this week, extend your reading through John 17.



Innerview John 14:6-9

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

Week 5 Holy Week

Overview John 18-19 (full chapters)



Innerview John 18:33-38a

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

Week 6 Easter Week

Overview John 20 (full chapter)



Innerview John 20:19-22

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”



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