

2025 Lenten Devotional Guide

Dear South Highland Family,

The primary goal of the Christian is to look more and more like Jesus each day. As we participate in worship, both privately and corporately, this change happens in us bit by bit. In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster calls this experience “the path of disciplined grace.” He says, “We must always remember that the path does not produce the change; it only places us where the change can occur.” In other words, we believe that God alone, by the power of the Holy Spirit, meets us on the road of grace.

God uses ordinary means of grace—**Scripture, prayer, and the sacraments**—to transform our hearts and minds extraordinarily. As we enter the season of Lent, South Highland continues to be “wholly devoted” to these ordinary gifts.

This devotional guide will help carve well-worn paths in your heart and your habits over the next 40 days during Lent. Through the daily reading of **Scripture**, God reveals his character, nature, and purpose for our lives and the Holy Spirit exposes our need for God. Through daily **prayer**, God reorients our hearts and reminds us of our dependence on the Lord for all things. We invite you each Wednesday night to participate in “Supper and Sacrament.” We will feast together in the Davis Family Hall, then go together to the chapel to feast at the table that Christ himself sets for us through the **sacrament** of the Lord’s Supper.

Lent is a season in the church calendar that helps us walk the path of grace, offering structure to our daily lives. The Holy Spirit will work through these ordinary means of grace to draw us closer to God as we acknowledge the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Rev. Abby Gatliff

How to Use This Devotional Guide

Each week, you will open with prayer and a psalm before reading the daily scripture reading. After you read, you have a time to answer reflection questions provided. This is a great tool for you to take forward any time you read Scripture. Here are some of the questions and what they mean:

What grabs my attention in this passage? What's hard to understand? What resonates with me? What do I resist?

What does this passage teach me about God? Who is he and what are his priorities? What are his purposes in the world? How does this passage show God's plan for redemption?

What does this passage teach me about me? How does it show my need for God? How does it affirm my value and dignity and worth to the Lord?

How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus? How can I praise God? What's the hard news that my heart needs to hear?

After reading the Scriptures, spend some time in prayer for yourself, your community, the church, the world. If you need guidance, follow the ACTS model:

A—Adoration: Praise God for who God is, especially based on what you read in Scripture today.

C—Confession: Confess your need for God, especially based on what you read in Scripture today.

T—Thanksgiving: Thank the Lord for the work he is doing in these areas of your life: your heart, your community, South Highland, the world.

S—Supplication: Ask the Lord with humility for his help in these different areas of your life: your heart, your community, South Highland, the world.

Week 1 • March 3-9

Theme: Humility

Opening Prayer

Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas

This Week's Psalter: Psalm 1

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday: 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

Tuesday: James 3:13-18

Wednesday: Daniel 9:1-19

Thursday: Micah 6:1-16

Friday: Philippians 2:3-11

Saturday: Mark 10:46-52

Sunday: Mark 11:1-11

Questions for Reflection

What grabs my attention in this passage?

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about me?

How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus?

Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

[illegible]

Week 2 • March 10-16

Theme: Temptation

Opening Prayer

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.
Amen.

St. Augustine of Hippo

This Week's Psalter: Psalm 130

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday: Proverbs 1:10-19
Tuesday: James 1:12-15
Wednesday: Matthew 4:1-11
Thursday: James 4:1-11
Friday: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Saturday: Ephesians 6:10-20
Sunday: Mark 11:12-25

Questions for Reflection

What grabs my attention in this passage?
What does this passage teach me about God?
What does this passage teach me about me?
How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus?

Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Benediction

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

Week 3 • March 17-23

Theme: Suffering

Opening Prayer

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.

In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and Saviour.

In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.

Julian of Norwich

This Week's Psalter: Psalm 32

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday: Mark 11:27-33

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Wednesday: 1 Peter 5:6-11

Thursday: Romans 5:1-11

Friday: James 1:2-17

Saturday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Sunday: Mark 12:1-12

Questions for Reflection

What grabs my attention in this passage?

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about me?

How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus?

Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Benediction

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, as he works among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

[illegible]

Week 4 • March 24-30

Theme: Repentance

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for Purity, Book of Common Prayer

This Week's Psalter: Psalm 141

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday: Joel 2:12-27
Tuesday: Jeremiah 31:1-14
Wednesday: Jeremiah 31:15-25
Thursday: Jeremiah 31:26-40
Friday: Deuteronomy 30:11-20
Saturday: Romans 2:1-11
Sunday: Mark 12:28-34

Questions for Reflection

What grabs my attention in this passage?

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about me?

How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus?

Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Benediction

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

[illegible]

Week 5 • March 31-April 6

Theme: End Times

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You have taken the fear of death away from us. The end of our life here you have made the beginning of true life. For a little while you will let our bodies rest in sleep, and then with the last trumpet you will wake them from their sleep. You give to the Earth to keep for you this earth of ours, which you shaped with your own hands; and you will take it back again, and from a mortal, formless lump transform it into a thing of immortal beauty. To free us from sin and from the curse laid upon us, you took both sin and the curse upon yourself. If out of the weakness of human nature I have fallen and sinned in word or deed or thought, forgive me; for you have power to forgive sins on Earth. When I am divested of my body, may I stand before you with my soul unspotted; receive it, blameless and faultless, with your own hands.

Prayer of St. Macrina on her deathbed

This Week's Psalter: Psalm 6

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday: Mark 12:35-37
Tuesday: Mark 12:38-44
Wednesday: 2 Timothy 3:1-17
Thursday: 2 Peter 3:1-13
Friday: Mark 13:1-13
Saturday: Mark 13:14-23
Sunday: Mark 13:24-37

Questions for Reflection

What grabs my attention in this passage?

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about me?

How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus?

Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Benediction

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Week 6 • April 7-13

Theme: Lament

Opening Prayer

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust in you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

Thomas Merton

This Week's Psalter: Psalm 63

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday: Lamentations 3:1-24
Tuesday: Lamentations 3:25-33
Wednesday: Psalm 13
Thursday: Hebrews 10:32-39
Friday: Isaiah 65:1-12
Saturday: Psalm 10
Sunday: Mark 14:1-11

Questions for Reflection

What grabs my attention in this passage?

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about me?

How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus?

Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Benediction

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

[illegible]

Week 7 • April 14-20

Theme: Arrest and Crucifixion

Opening Prayer

O loving, tender Word of God, You tell me: 'I have marked the path and opened the gate with My Blood; do not be negligent in following it, but take the same road which I, eternal Truth, have traced out with My Blood.' Arise, my soul, and follow your Redeemer, for no one can go to the Father but by Him. O sweet Christ, Christ-Love, You are the way, and the door through which we must enter in order to reach the Father.

St. Catherine of Siena

This Week's Psalter: Psalm 22

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday: Mark 14:12-31

Tuesday: Mark 14:32-52

Wednesday: Mark 14:53-72

Thursday: Mark 15:1-20

Friday: Mark 15:21-41

Saturday: Mark 15:42-46

Sunday: Mark 16:1-8

Questions for Reflection

What grabs my attention in this passage?

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about me?

How does this passage awaken and nourish my love for Jesus?

Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

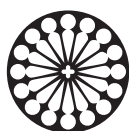
Supplication

Benediction

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Revelation 7:12

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



**South Highland
Presbyterian Church**