



# Lent & Easter Week

2019



RESURRECTION

BROOKLYN



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**Cover Art: The Lamentation**  
Domenico Zampieri  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

## **INTRODUCING LENT**

We all have different reactions to the season of Lent and its practices. Some of us come from traditions and congregations that observe Lent and explain it well. Some of us observe Lent by practicing some measure of austerity but without really understanding why. Some of us know Lent only by what immediately precedes it: Mardi Gras or Carnival or Pancake Tuesday. Still, there are those of us who never have observed it and do not know why we should. Regardless of our experiences and reactions, it is important to consider the meaning of Lent, as well as how and why we should observe it.

Over the centuries, the Church developed the liturgical calendar as a tool to help the people of God remember and celebrate the full mystery of the Gospel as revealed and fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Redeemer of the world. The liturgical seasons are: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. (Many traditions refer to the season after Pentecost Sunday as Ordinary Time). Each season helps us enter the mystery of the Gospel by drawing our attention to a different aspects of the life, death, resurrection, ascension and promised return of Jesus.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending with the Easter Vigil (or Holy Saturday), Lent draws our attention to Jesus' suffering and self-sacrifice. Purple is used through most of the season because it symbolizes royalty, suffering and repentance. As Lent draws our attention to Jesus' suffering, the season invites us into spiritual practices that help us see our own role in Jesus' suffering and to grow in his selfless character.

The origins of Lent lie in the early church, which reserved Easter for baptism, the sacrament of initiation into the household of God. Catechumens (or people seeking baptism) would spend a season preparing themselves for Easter and the sacrament. By the early 4th Century, this season had become a 40 day period, paralleling the 40 years Israel spent in the wilderness in repentance and the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and suffering temptation. This period was used not only by catechumens, but also their entire congregations to remember their own baptisms and prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Ash Wednesday comes from the tradition of Christians receiving ashes on their foreheads. In the Bible, especially the Old Testament, ashes symbolize our frailty and sorrow, and so we see God's people of old using ashes during seasons of deep

repentance and lamentation. The final week of Lent is Holy Week. It begins with Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus entry into Jerusalem and reception as King. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples during which Jesus washed his disciples feet and instituted the Lord's Supper as a sacrament. The name "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, meaning "new commandment" because after washing his disciples feet, Jesus tells them: "A new commandment I give to you, love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34). On Good Friday, we remember the death of Jesus on the cross. While tragic, we call the day good because Jesus' death means forgiveness and new life for his people. The final day of Lent is the Easter Vigil, or Holy Saturday. It's a day of waiting and anticipation for the celebration of Easter Sunday, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the end of all sin and death. Hallelujah!

We all have different reactions to the season of Lent and its practices. Some of us come from traditions and congregations that observe Lent and explain it well. Some of us observe Lent by practicing some measure of austerity but without really understanding why. Some of us know Lent only by what immediately precedes it: Mardi Gras or Carnival or Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. Still, there are those of us who never have observed it and do not know why we should. Regardless of our experiences and reactions, it is important to consider the meaning of Lent, as well as how and why we should observe it.

## **KEEPING LENT — A RULE OF LIFE**

So how do we keep a holy Lent? We encourage you to consider the following:

**Self-examination:** Lent is an opportunity to throw off that which hinders us; to repent of sin. Without self-examination, repentance is impossible. As Lamentations 3:40 says: “Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD.” So, use Lent as an opportunity to ask yourself some hard questions about your desires and habits, your ambitions and failures, your hopes and fears, and your pride and shame. The Holy Spirit uses this kind of intentional self-examination to reveal our sin and idolatry, or all the ways we seek life apart from God.

**Self-denial:** Consider fasting during Lent. This kind of self-discipline and self-denial help us to remember that we do not live by bread alone (Matthew 4:4) and that Jesus is the true bread of life (John 6:35). How? As we abstain from food and other excesses, we deprive ourselves of the things that make us feel self-sufficient and protected. It’s in this place where we confront the temptation to live apart from God as our own gods. It’s in this place that we can confront our sin and hear with fresh ears the Good News that Jesus defeated sin and death and now invites us to live anew with him. We recommend fasting by giving up a food, beverage, or activity that you often turn to for comfort. Perhaps this is chocolate, chips, beer or wine. Perhaps it is watching TV or spending time on social networks. As you consider what to abstain from, you may feel the need to abstain from more than one thing. Another way to fast is to give up one meal a day. If you would like to practice a full day of complete fasting (no food, but water/juice allowed), we recommend doing so on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday. Many Christians do this weekly on Fridays during Lent. These are the traditional days for full fasting for many Christians around the world. Please note that Sundays are never fast days; they are feast days. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, and we celebrate that fact every Sunday, even during Lent! This is why the Sundays in Lent are not part of the season. So during Lent, take a break from fasting on Sundays and remember with joy that our salvation is a gracious gift from God!

**Self-giving:** As self-examination and self-denial turn us away from self to God, the practices also create more and more room in our lives for others. So for centuries, Christians have used Lent as a time to cultivate compassion, or love of neighbor, especially the poor, oppressed and marginalized. There are many ways to do this. Here

are a few suggestions: Consider taking any money saved from fasting and giving it to the Resurrection Brooklyn Mercy Fund and to other ministries dedicated to mercy and justice. Join or recommit to a church ministry like the Mercy Team or Prayer Team to practice “love in action.” Get to know the community non-profits your congregation already partners with, and reach out to others. Learn what the needs of your community are by listening well, and help mobilize your congregation to meet those needs. A final suggestion is to commit to praying for your neighborhoods, asking God to open your eyes to its needs.

**The Means of Grace:** Finally, undergirding self-examination, self-denial and self-giving are the means of grace. Historically, the church has said there are three means of grace, or instruments through which God helps us turn to him and grow more and more like Christ: prayer, scripture and sacraments. As we turn to God, prayer becomes natural. We offer to God our hearts, souls and minds in prayer, and in turn, we discover God’s attention is already fixed on us and that he’s listening and ready to speak to us. In Scripture, we hear God’s life giving word to us and we are reminded over and over again of the Good News, that he comes to us in Jesus Christ. In the Sacraments, we physically experience the presence of God and his promises. Moreover, the Sacraments remind us that we are to experience the entirety of our Christian lives in community with our brother and sisters in Jesus Christ. So, if regular times of Bible study and prayer have never been part of your life or they once were but have become less so, then Lent is a wonderful time to re-engage: Consider framing your days with short times of prayer and study in the mornings or evenings or both. Join a small group or ask your family or roommates to join you in periodic devotionals. And make it a point to attend Sunday services. Our faith is a communal faith. We are not meant observe Lent alone. We are not meant to follow Jesus on our own. There are many today who identify themselves as Christians but for whom the church is peripheral and tangential. If this sounds like you, then use this Lenten season to commit yourself to the community of God’s people.

If you are a follower of Christ and yet have never been baptized, then make every effort to be baptized as soon as possible. If you have been baptized, remember that in baptism you were incorporated into a community, the family of God, and that you are to join in the family meal, the Eucharist. And parents, the Lenten season is a wonderful time to help your children realize that the church is their family, that worship is their

first duty and greatest joy. And if your children understand the gospel, then this season could be a wonderful time to take the steps toward having them admitted to the Lord's Table. All in all, Lent is a natural time to live into a "Rule of Life"—a way of structuring our ordinary days with Christian practices that root us in the Holy Spirit and gently guide us towards God and God's love manifested in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **EASTER SEASON**

There's much wisdom in preparing for Easter for 40 days because Easter itself is a 50 day celebration in response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, his victory over sin and death, and his gift of new and everlasting life. Easter is much more than a fun weekend of chocolates, pastel outfits, egg hunts, and spiral hams! If we take time to prepare for a wedding, an anniversary, a birthday, a graduation, a vacation, an athletic competition or any other special occasion, how much more should we prepare for Easter, the feast of feasts?

So, whereas Lent is marked by mourning and fasting, Easter is marked by boisterous celebration. Find ways to feast with your brothers and sisters. Continue leaning into the means of grace. It's a season to celebrate the new life Jesus makes possible in all areas of our lives!



# THE GUIDE

To help you, we offer this guide. The guide begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday after Easter. It includes daily Scripture lessons from the Old Testament, New Testament Epistles and the Gospels taken from the Daily Office Lectionary, which is followed by Christians around the world during Lent throughout the liturgical year. It also includes prayers of confession and thanksgiving for each week of Lent, as well as a meditation based on different Lenten images and historic crosses.

The guide and our recommendations for Lent not meant to burden you. They are meant to help you enter into the death and resurrection of Christ and find new life. So our final encouragements: Practice Lent as best as you can. This season, like the entirety of Christian life, is not about perfection! Start with a few practices and build on them, or go deeper in the practices you already have. Whether using the guide on your own or with your family, friends, or small group, follow the entire guide or focus on a part. If you have time to read all three scripture lessons, great! If not, focus on the Gospel reading. It is a great joy for us to be your pastors. We are so thankful that God has brought us together and we are honored to be able to worship and serve our Lord together with you. May Christ grant us all a blessed Lent and Easter!

WITH GREAT LOVE FOR YOU ALL,  
*The Pastoral Staff of Resurrection Brooklyn*

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: Portions of this guide have been adapted from “On Keeping a Holy Lent” by Craig Higgins. Several of the weekly meditations have been adapted from Lenten materials from Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI. The schedule of readings is adapted from Daily Office from the Book of Common Prayer.

<sup>2</sup> PDF versions of the guide are available at [www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org](http://www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org). A PDF songbook of all the recommended music is also available. In addition, for the season of Lent, Resurrection Daily Prayer emails will be adapted according to this guide and will include links to the hymns and lyrics each week. To sign up for the prayer emails, visit the website.

## **START OF LENT** / *March 6*



### **MEDITATION – ASHES**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday; the day many Christians receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads. Why? In Scripture, ashes are a public sign of confession and repentance, as well as a plea for God's help, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Ashes are also a sign of human frailty and dependence on God, the creator of all things. As Lent begins, consider attending a local Ash Wednesday service. Also prayerfully consider the following questions in light of the scripture lessons: In what ways have I been running away from God or doubting God's love for me? What hopes of healing do I have for myself and the world around me?

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Art by Katie Decker McNamara

## **OPENING PRAYER /** *based on a prayer from Kenyan Christians*

Lord Jesus, I bring to you: my sins for your forgiveness. My hopes, my aims, my ambitions for your redemption. My temptations for your strength. My sickness for your healing. My family, friends and all loved ones for your care and protection. We remember we are made from dust and to dust we shall return. In our frailty, we turn to you, our only hope. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION /** *A Prayer from St. Augustine, North Africa (AD 354-430)*

O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow; enlarge it that you may enter in. It is ruinous, O repair it! It displeases Your sight. I confess it, I know. But who shall cleanse it, to whom shall I cry but to you? Cleanse me from my secret faults, O Lord, and spare Your servant from strange sins. *Amen.*

## **READINGS\***

- **Ash Wednesday:** Jonah 3:1-4:11; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 18:9-14
- **Thursday:** Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Titus 1:1-16; John 1:29-34
- **Friday:** Deuteronomy 7:12-16; Titus 2:1-15; John 1:35-42
- **Saturday:** Deuteronomy 7:17-26; Titus 3:1-15; John 1:43-51

## **SONG**

Come Ye Sinners

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED** *(See page 26)*

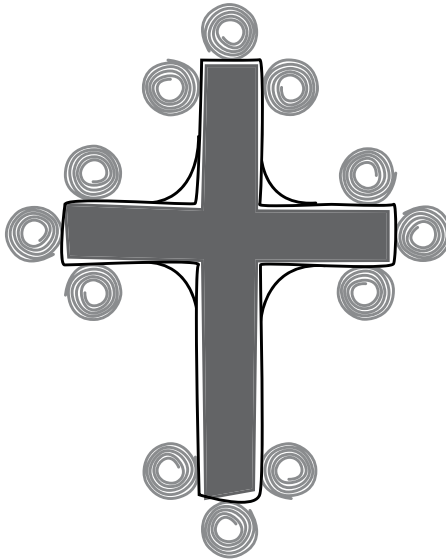
## **CLOSING COLLECT /** *From the Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roommates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

**WEEK 1** / *March 10*



**MEDITATION – THE TREFOIL CROSS**

See the small buds at the end of each arm? They help us remember the unity of the Trinity—The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They also represent the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love (1 Cor 1:13). This week, prayerfully consider these virtues, especially in light of the scripture lessons. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate these virtues in you and your congregation, household, and neighborhood and this Lent.



Art by Chi Ling Moy

**OPENING PRAYER /** *based on a prayer from the Church of the Province Melanesia*

O Jesus, be the canoe that holds me up in the sea of life; be the rudder that helps me in the straight road; be the outrigger that supports me in times of temptation; let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each day. Keep my body strong, so I can paddle steadfastly on in Lent and all the days of my life with you. *Amen.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION /** *A Prayer of Confession from St. Ephraim the Syrian (AD 305-373)*

O Lord and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of laziness, despair, domination, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of sobriety, humility, patience and love to your servant. Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

**READINGS\***

- **Sunday:** Deuteronomy 8:1-10; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31; Mark 2:18-22
- **Monday:** Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Hebrews 2:11-18; John 2:1-12
- **Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 9:4-12; Hebrews 3:1-11; John 2:13-22
- **Wednesday:** Deuteronomy 9:13-21; Hebrews 3:12-19; John 2:23-3:15
- **Thursday:** Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5; Hebrews 4:1-10; John 3:16-21
- **Friday:** Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Hebrews 4:11-16; John 3:22-36
- **Saturday:** Deuteronomy 11:18-28; Hebrews 5:1-10; John 4:1-26

**SONG**

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

**THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED** *(See page 26)*

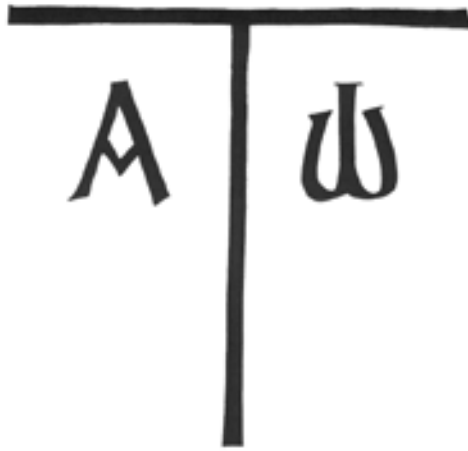
**CLOSING PRAYER /** *From the Lutheran Book of Worship*

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer, and stretch forth the right hand of your Majesty to defend us from them that rise up against us; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roommates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

**WEEK 2** / *March 17*



**MEDITATION – THE TAV CROSS**

Resembling the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet, tav, this cross has long symbolized the fulfillment of all the promises of God in Jesus Christ, the first and the last who quenches our deepest thirst for true life (Rev. 21:6-7, John 4:13). This illustration also includes the first and last Greek letters, alpha and omega, which Scripture uses to describe Christ as the eternal God, the beginning and the end of all things. This week, prayerfully consider the promises of God and the habits that break your trust in God to satisfy you. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate new habits that renew your trust and patience as you wait on God.



Art by Rudolf Koch (1876-1934)

**OPENING PRAYER /** *based on a prayer written by Palestinian women of Jerusalem*

O Christ as we follow you down the Road to Calvary, guide us to become active participants, not curious bystanders. O Christ, as we make our way to your cross, give us the love that can forgive those who trespass against us. O Christ, as we witness and receive the new life given to us through your Resurrection, empower us with faith to act and spread the Good News. *Amen.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION /** *based on a prayer from the Philippines.*

Lord, forgive us, for we fragmented persons. We go many directions at once. We mouth liberation, we live oppression. We shout peace, we practice violence. We shout justice, we walk in injustice. We preach love, we practice hate. Through your compassion have mercy on us, forgive us our sin, and make us whole. Open our ears to hear your voice of love. *Amen.*

**READINGS\***

- **Sunday:** Jeremiah 1:1-10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-23; Mark 3:31-4:9
- **Monday:** Jeremiah 1:11-19; Romans 1:1-15; John 4:27-42
- **Tuesday:** Jeremiah 2:1-13; Romans 1:16-25; John 4:43-54
- **Wednesday:** Jeremiah 3:6-18; Romans 1:28-2:11; John 5:1-18
- **Thursday:** Jeremiah 4:9-10,19-28; Romans 2:12-24; John 5:19-29
- **Friday:** Jeremiah 5:1-9; Romans 2:25-3:18; John 5:30-47
- **Saturday:** Jeremiah 5:20-31; Romans 3:19-31; John 7:1-13

**SONG**

My Song is Love Unknown

**THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED** *(See page 26)*

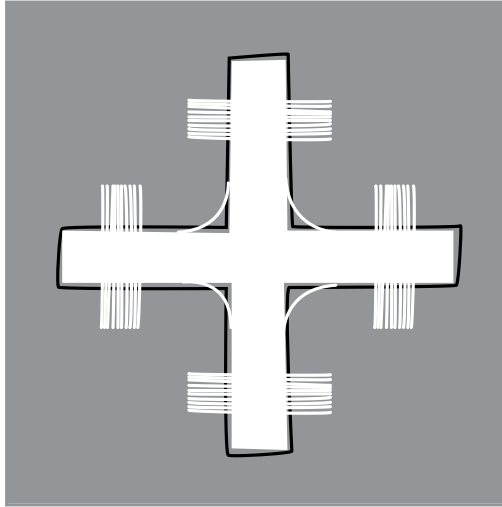
**CLOSING COLLECT /** *from the Daily Prayer of the Church (RCC)*

O God, you commanded us to listen to your beloved Son: Nourish us inwardly with your Word of life, and purify the eyes of our spirit, that we may rejoice in the sight of your

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roommates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

**WEEK 3 /** *March 24*



**MEDITATION – THE CROSSLET CROSS**

Look carefully. Do you see the four crosses woven together in this cross? This cross helps us remember that Jesus died for the world and that he gathers his family from every language, nation, tongue and tribe. (Rev. 7:9) This week, especially in light of the scripture lessons, prayerfully consider the habits and practices that breed division in your relationships and communities. Consider the ways God wants you to cultivate peace and reconciliation, as well as the ways you may extend God's gracious welcome to others.



Art by Chi Ling Moy



## **OPENING PRAYER / *Based on a prayer from Thailand***

O God, our Father, the fountain of love, power and justice, the God who cares, especially for the least: grant us today your guidance and wisdom so that we may see our sin and need of your grace. Give us courage and obedience so that we may follow you completely with joy. Help us, Lord, to bear witness to the cross of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone is the reason for hope, and in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION / *Based on Psalm 51***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. *Amen.*

## **READINGS\***

- **Sunday:** Jeremiah 6:9-15; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Mark 5:1-20
- **Monday:** Jeremiah 7:1-15; Romans 4:1-12; John 7:14-36
- **Tuesday:** Jeremiah 7:21-34; Romans 4:13-25; John 7:37-52
- **Wednesday:** Jeremiah 8:18-9:6; Romans 5:1-11; John 8:12-20
- **Thursday:** Jeremiah 10:11-24; Romans 5:12-21; John 8:21-32
- **Friday:** Jeremiah 11:1-8,14-20; Romans 6:1-11; John 8:33-47
- **Saturday:** Jeremiah 13:1-11; Romans 6:12-23; John 8:47-59

## **SONG**

Before the Throne of God Above

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED** *(See page 26)*

## **CLOSING COLLECT / *based on an Orthodox prayer for Lent***

O Lord, may our prayers be pleasing to you. May our requests enter before you as sweet smelling incense. O Lord we call upon thee, come for our help, hear our prayer and

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roommates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

**WEEK 4 /** *March 31*



### **MEDITATION – THE ANCHOR CROSS**

From Hebrews 6:19, this ancient cross is a reminder that the only hope we have in life is Jesus Christ and that we must anchor our hope in him. Prayerfully consider this week especially in light of the scripture lessons, your anxieties and fears and the ways they keep you from knowing the steadfast love of God. As you practice Lenten disciplines and the means of grace this week, however imperfectly, remember God is truly present with you and anchoring you in his love!

—  
Art by David Sankey

**OPENING PRAYER /** *based on a prayer from the Galla people, Ethiopia*

O God, you have prepared in peace the path I must follow today and tomorrow. Help me to walk straight on that path. If I speak, remove lies from my lips. If I am hungry, take away from me all complaint. If I have plenty, destroy pride in me. May I go through my days calling on you, you alone, O Lord, Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. *Amen.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION /** *based on a prayer from Uruguay*

Lord Jesus, you placed me in the world to be its salt. I have been selfish and have turned away from those who need your grace. Forgive me. Lord, you placed me in the world to be its light. I have been afraid of the shadows and have turned away from those who need your truth. Forgive me. Lord, renew me by your love and teach me to share the life you give, to struggle for bread and for justice with my neighbors, and to walk the way of your cross always. *Amen.*

**READINGS\***

- **Sunday:** Jeremiah 14:1-9,17-22; Galatians 4:21-5:1; Mark 8:11-21
- **Monday:** Jeremiah 16:10-21; Romans 7:1-12; John 6:1-15
- **Tuesday:** Jeremiah 17:19-27; Romans 7:13-25; John 6:16-27
- **Wednesday:** Jeremiah 18:1-11; Romans 8:1-11; John 6:27-40
- **Thursday:** Jeremiah 22:13-23; Romans 8:12-27; John 6:41-51
- **Friday:** Jeremiah 23:1-8; Romans 8:28-39; John 6:52-59
- **Saturday:** Jeremiah 23:9-15; Romans 9:1-18; John 6:60-71

**SONG**

What Wondrous Love is This

**THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED** *(See page 26)*

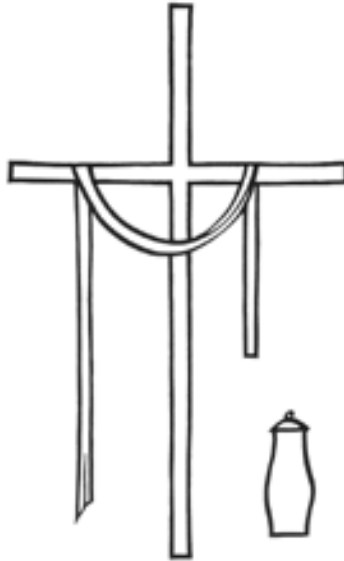
**CLOSING COLLECT /** *from the Daily Prayer of the Church (RCC)*

Lord God, in a wonderful manner you reconcile humankind to yourself through your only Son, the eternal Word: Grant that your Christian people may press on toward the Easter sacraments with lively faith and ready hearts; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roommates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

**WEEK 5 /** *April 7*



**MEDITATION – THE COVERED CROSS**

Purple has long been the color of Lent. It symbolizes repentance and the humiliation of Jesus, who was made to wear a purple cloth throughout much of his passion (Mark 15:17). Many Christian traditions cover the cross with purple cloth during the last few weeks of Lent as a visual reminder of Christ's suffering on our behalf of our sin in order to reconcile us to God. This week, prayerfully consider the work of Christ and reflect on the many ways you try to make yourself right with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you rest in God's love for you.



Art by Rudolf Koch (1876-1934)

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, you desire that all people should eat and be satisfied. As we follow Jesus and are transformed by his death and resurrection, may we spend our lives in his ways of love and hospitality so that all may share in your bounty. *Amen.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION / *Based on Luke 15*

Our Father, have pity and mercy on us. We have sinned against heaven and you. We are not worthy to be called your children. Accept us at least as hired servants. O merciful God, forgive us all the sins we have committed against you. We pray this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

## READINGS\*

- **Sunday:** Jeremiah 23:16-32; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Mark 8:31-9:1
- **Monday:** Jeremiah 24:1-10; Romans 9:19-33; John 9:1-17
- **Tuesday:** Jeremiah 25:8-17; Romans 10:1-13; John 9:18-41
- **Wednesday:** Jeremiah 25:30-38; Romans 10:14-21; John 10:1-18
- **Thursday:** Jeremiah 26:1-16; Romans 11:1-12; John 10:19-42
- **Friday:** Jeremiah 29:1-13; Romans 11:13-24; John 11:1-27
- **Saturday:** Jeremiah 31:27-34; Romans 11:25-36; John 11:28-44

## SONG

There is a Fountain

## THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED (*See page 26*)

## CLOSING COLLECT / *from the Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roomates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

## **HOLY WEEK** / *April 14*



### **MEDITATION – THE CROWN OF THORNS**

On Palm Sunday, Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as a king with joyful shouts of “Hosanna, hosanna!” Only a few days later, he was arrested and condemned as a criminal. During his trial, Pilate ordered Jesus to wear a crown of thorns (John 19:2) to mock Jesus’ true kingship. This crown reminds us of the suffering, injustice and separation from God that Jesus endured for us. This week, prayerfully consider all the ways you deny Jesus as King and avoid suffering for God and others. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you respond to God’s love with joyful obedience.



Art by Rudolf Koch (1876-1934)

## OPENING PRAYER

Loving Father, as we journey with your Son in this week of remembrance and hope, help us to experience and receive you and your love for the world more clearly. Transform us by the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of your Son, our Lord, we pray. *Amen.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted “Hosanna: ‘Save us now!’” On Good Friday they shouted “Crucify!” We confess our praise is often empty. We sing “Hosanna,” but cry “Crucify.” As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. *Amen.*

## READINGS\*

- **Palm Sunday:** Zechariah 9:9-12; 1 Timothy 6:12-16; Matthew 21:12-17
- **Monday:** Jeremiah 12:1-16; Philippians 3:1-14; John 12:9-19
- **Tuesday:** Jeremiah 15:10-21; Philippians 3:15-21; John 12:20-26
- **Wednesday:** Jeremiah 17:5-17; Philippians 4:1-13; John 12:27-36
- **Maundy Thursday:** Jeremiah 20:7-11; 1 Cor.=inthians 10:14-17; 11:27-32;  
John 17:1-26
- **Good Friday:** **AM:** Genesis 22:1-14; 1 Peter 1:10-20; John 13:36-38  
**PM:** John 19:38-42
- **Holy Saturday:** **AM:** Job 19:21-27; Hebrews 4:1-16  
**PM:** Romans 8:1-11

## SONG

Were You There

## THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 26)*

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roommates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

**CLOSING COLLECT** / *The Collects for Holy Week come from Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic prayer books.*

**Palm Sunday:** Almighty God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross for us. Grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus. *Amen*

**Monday in Holy Week:** Almighty God, grant that we, who in our times of trial often grow weak and falter, may take heart again and find new strength, seeing that Christ in his Passion has offered for us the obedience we are too frail to offer thee; through the same Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. *Amen.*

**Tuesday in Holy Week:** Almighty and Everlasting God, Grant us grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's Passion, that we may obtain pardon of our sins; through the same Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. *Amen.*

**Wednesday in Holy Week:** Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds are continually afflicted, may mercifully be set free by the Passion of your Only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

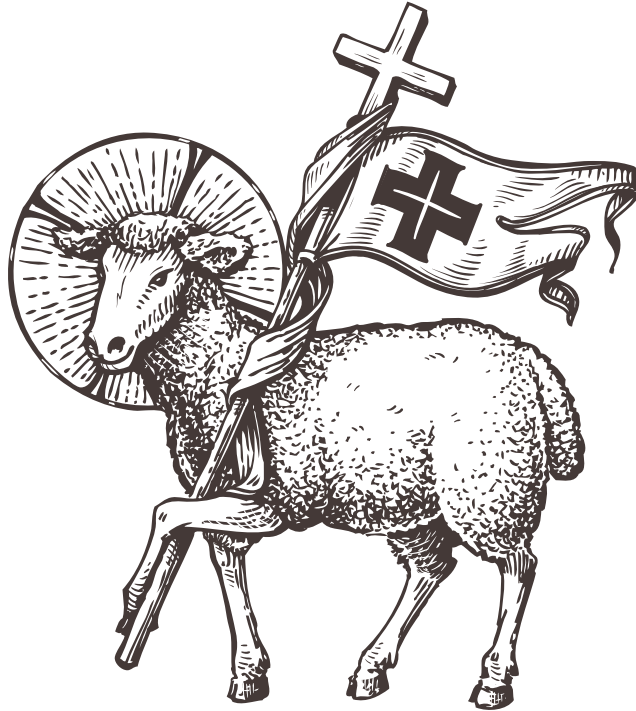


**Maundy Thursday:** Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

**Good Friday:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us: Save us and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord. *Amen.*

**Holy Saturday:** Almighty and everlasting God, your only-begotten Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory: In your mercy raise up your faithful people, buried with him in baptism, to be one with him in the eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

**FIRST WEEK OF EASTER / *April 21***



**MEDITATION – THE LAMB OF GOD**

John the Baptist names Jesus the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:21). Jesus is the Lamb of God because his death is the atoning sacrifice for all the world. And Jesus is not only the sacrificial lamb, but the victorious lamb! Through his death and resurrection, Jesus overcomes sin and death and offers the gift of new life freely to all who believe in his name. Spend a few moments considering the Good News of Easter. Give thanks for God’s forgiveness and the ways, both big and small, that God is bringing forth new life in and around you.

## OPENING PRAYER

The stone has been rolled away! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Sin and death are defeated! Alleluiah, alleluiah! *Amen!*

## CONFESSION

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace. *Amen.*

## READINGS\*

- **Easter Sunday:** Isaiah 51:9-11; John 20:19-23
- **1 Easter Monday:** Jonah 2:1-9; Acts 2:14; 22-32; John 14:1-14
- **1 Easter Tuesday:** Isaiah 30:18-21; Acts 2:36-47; John 14:15-31
- **1 Easter Wednesday:** Micah 7:7-15; Acts 3:1-10; John 15:1-11
- **1 Easter Thursday:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 3:11-26; John 15:12-27
- **1 Easter Friday:** Daniel 12:1-4;13; Acts 4:1-12; John 16:1-15
- **1 Easter Saturday:** Isaiah 25:1-9; Acts 4:13-31; John 16:16-33

## SONG

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

## THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 26)*

## CLOSING COLLECT */ from the Book of Common Prayer*

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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\* Use the guide as you are able: pray through all the parts or focus on a part. Pressed for time or praying with family, roommates, or a small group? Focus on the Gospel lesson. Also consider reading the Gospel in the mornings and the other two in the evenings.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;  
for thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. *Amen.*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

## APPENDIX OF SONGS

### **Come Ye Sinners**

Hamilton / Hart / Seay

1 Come ye sin - ners, — poor and nee - dy, Weak and woun - ded, — sick and sore;  
2 Come, ye thir - sty, — come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty — glo - ri - fy;  
3 Come ye wea - ry, — hea - vy - la - den, Lost and ru - ined — by the fall;  
4 Let not cons - ci - ence make you lin - ger, Nor of fit - ness — fond - ly dream;

Je - sus read - y stands to save\_ you, Full of pi - ty, — love and pow'r.  
True be - lief\_ and true re - pen - tance, Ev' - ry grace that\_ brings you nigh.  
If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, You will ne - ver\_ come at all.  
All the fit - ness He re - qui - reth Is to feel\_ your\_ need of Him.

#### *Chorus*

I will a - rise and\_ go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me\_ in His arms;

In the arms\_ of my dear Sa - vior, O there are\_ ten\_ thou - sand charms.

# How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Stuart Townend



1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, How vast be - yond all mea - sure That  
2. Be - hold the Man u - pon a cross, My guilt u - pon His should - ders, A -  
A. I will not boast in a - ny - thing, No gifts, no pow'rs, no wis - dom, But



He would give His on - ly Son To make a wretch His trea - sure! How  
shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice Call out a - mong the scoff - ers, It  
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death and re - sur - rec - tion, Why



great the pain of scar - ing loss, The Fa - ther turns His face a - way As  
was my sin that held Him there Un - til it was ac - com - plished, His  
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer, But



wounds which mar the Cho - sen One Bring ma - ny souls to glo - ry!  
dy - ing breath has brought me life; I know that it is fi - nished,  
this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som!

# My Song is Love Unknown

Samuel Crossman / John Ireland

♩ = 96    D    D/F#    Bm/D    F#m/A    A7    G/B    Bm    A/C#    D    D<sup>sus</sup>/E    F#m    Bm/D    G    Bm/F#

1. My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me, love  
 2. He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but  
 3. *Some - times they strew his way, and his sweet prais - es sing, re -*  
 4. Why, what hath my Lord done? What makethis rage and spite? He  
 5. *They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made a way. A*  
 6. In life, no house, no home, my Lord on earth might have; in  
 7. Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di - vine; nev -

C<sup>°</sup>/E    Em    F#m    Bm    A/C#    Bm/D    F#m    E<sup>sus</sup>    E<sup>sus</sup>2    /D    E/D    A/C#    Bm7    A    D

to the love - less shown that they might love - ly be. Oh,  
 men made strange and none the longed for Christ would know. But  
*sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King. Then*  
 made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight. Sweet  
*mur - der - er they save; the Prince of Life they slay. Yet*  
 death no friend - ly tomb but what a stran - ger gave. What  
 er was love, dear King! Nev - er was grief like thine. This

C    Bm/D    Em    C    G    F#°/A    Bm    Bm7/A/C#    D    G/B    D/F#    G<sup>major</sup>7    F#m/A    A7    D

who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 oh, my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.  
*"Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.*  
 in - jur - ies! Yet they, at these, them - selves dis - please and 'gainst him rise.  
*cheer - ful he to suf - fering goes that he his foes from thence might free.*  
 may I say? Heav'n was his home; but mine the tomb where - in he lay.  
 is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could glad - ly spend.

# **Before the Throne of God Above**

Charatie Bancroft / William Bradbury



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove; I have one strong and per - fect  
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me of the wrong with  
3. Be - hold him there! The Ris - en Lamb; my per - fect spot - less Right - eous



plea. A great High Priest whose name is Love; who - ev - er lives and pleads for  
in, up - ward I look and see him there; who made an end to all my  
ness. The great un - change - a - ble I Am; the King of Glo - ry and of



me. My name is grav - en on his hands; My name is writ - ten on his  
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died; my sin - ful soul is count - ed  
grace. One with Him - self I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his



heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can  
free. For God, the Just is sat - is - fied; to look on  
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high; with Christ my



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.  
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.  
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.



# What Wondrous Love is This

Traditional

1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2. When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, I will  
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

5. soul! What won - drous love sink - is this, O my soul! soul!  
 down When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, down  
 sing, To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, sing.  
 on, And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

9. What won - drous love sink - is this, That Be - caused the Lord of  
 When I God and to death the I'm Lamb, Who - neath God's right - eous  
 To God when from death I'm Lamb, free, I'll sing is the and great joy - ful

13. bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side His crown theme, for my soul, for my  
 Am, "While mill - ions join the - ty, I'll sing, sing, for I will  
 be, And thro' e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing

17. soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, soul.  
 soul, Christ laid a - side His crown theme, for my soul, soul.  
 sing, While mill - ions join the - ty, I'll sing, sing, sing.  
 on, And thro' e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on,

# There is a Fountain

William Cowper

1 There is a foun-tain filled with blood Drawn from Im-ma-nuel's veins;  
2 The dy-ing thief re-joiced to see That foun-tain in his day;  
3 Dear dy-ing Lamb, Thy pre-cious blood Shall ne-ver lose its pow'r,  
4 E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flo-wing wounds sup-ply,  
5 When this poor lis-ping, stamm'-ring tongue Lies si-lent in the grave,

And sin-ners, plunged be-neath that flood, Lose all their guil-ty stains:  
And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins a-way:  
Till all the ran-somed Church of God Be saved, to sin no more:  
Re-deem-ing love has been my theme, And shall be till I die:  
Then in a no-bler, swee-ter song I'll sing Thy pow'r to save:

Lose all their guil-ty stains, Lose all their guil-ty stains; And  
Wash all my sins a-way, Wash all my sins a-way; And  
Be saved, to sin no more, Be saved, to sin no more; Till  
And shall be till I die, And shall be till I die; Re  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save; then

sin-ners, plunged be-neath that flood, Lose all their guil-ty stains.  
there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins a-way.  
all the ran-somed Church of God Be saved to sin no more.  
deem-ing love has been my theme, And shall be till I die.  
in a no-bler, swee-ter song I'll sing Thy pow'r to save. A-men.

# Were You There

African-American Spiritual / Melva Wilson Costen

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)  
2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)  
3. Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)  
4. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? Oh!  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

# Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Charles Wesley



1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," - Al - le - lu - ia!  
2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; - Al - le - lu - ia!

5  
Sons of men and an - gels say; Al - le - lu - ia! Raise your joys and  
Christ has burst the gates of hell; Al - le - lu - ia! Death in vain for -

10  
tri - umphs high; Al - le - lu - ia! Sing ye, - heav'ns, and  
bids His rise; Al - le - lu - ia! Christ has - op - ened

14  
earth re - ply; - Al - le - lu - ia!  
par - a - dise. - Al - le - lu - ia!

3. Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave?

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

5. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia!  
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia!  
Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia! Alleluia!







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