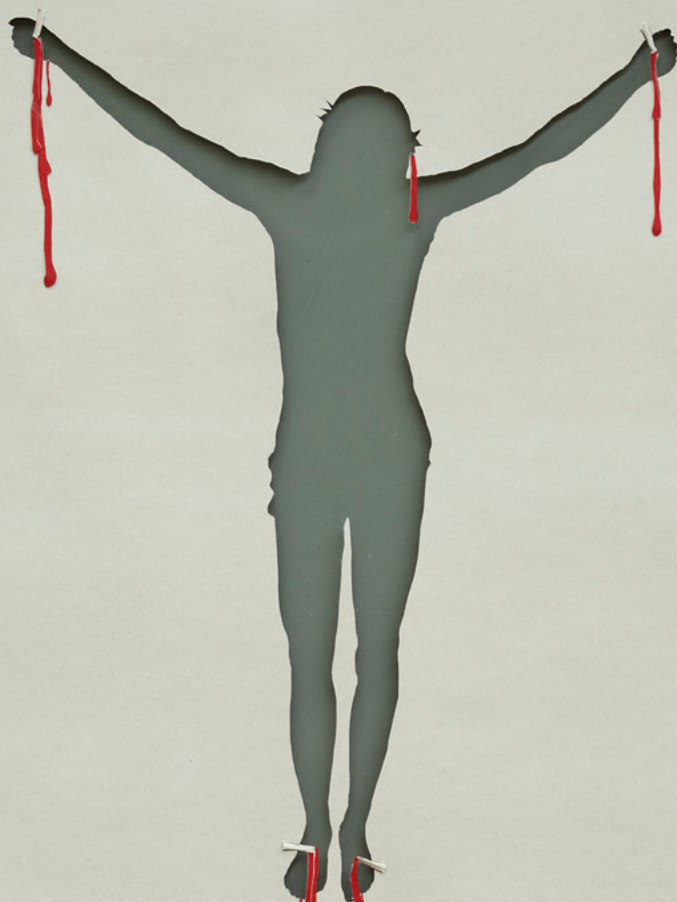


DAILY PRAYER PROJECT



Poem by **ROBERT HERRICK**
To Keep a True Lent

Practice by **DOMINIQUE
DUBOIS GILLIARD**
Failure and Forgiveness

Art by **PETER CALLESEN**
On the other side

Lent

VOL. 7, NO. 3 | MARCH 5–APRIL 19, 2025



Animating a life of prayer through the manifold beauty of the church

The Daily Prayer Project's Living Prayer Periodicals feature daily morning and evening prayer guides for the week. These guides are used throughout the current season of the Christian year. Their simplicity, brevity, and repetition facilitate transformative patterns of prayer in everyday life.

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Lent

MARCH 4-APRIL 19, 2025

Lent simply means “length,” and it designates the forty days leading up to Easter, not counting Sundays. (Sunday, the Lord’s Day, is always a day of feasting in celebration of the resurrection, a “little Easter.”) Lent is a time of reinitiation for the Christian, when we come back to the essential events that make us all “little Christs” in the first place: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our identification with those events. We have been “crucified with Christ” (Gal. 2:20), and we have been “raised up with him” (Col. 2:12).

2024-25 CHRISTIAN YEAR



ADVENT
DEC 1-24



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY
DEC 25-MAR 4



LENT
MAR 5-APR 19



EASTER
APR 20-JUN 7



PENTECOST
JUN 8



ORDINARY TIME
JUN 9-NOV 29

To Keep a True Lent

ROBERT HERRICK

Is this a fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals, and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragged go,
Or show
A downcast look, and sour?

No: 'tis a fast, to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat,
And meat,
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife,
From old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

Robert Herrick (1591–1674) was an English lyric poet and Anglican cleric who authored the poetry collection Hesperides: or, The Works Both Human and Divine.



Lectionary

WED	Mar 5	Ps. 51	Joel 2:1–2, 12–17	Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21; 2 Cor. 5:20b–6:10
THU	Mar 6	Ps. 68	Gen. 19	Matt. 17:14–27
FRI	Mar 7	Ps. 69	Gen. 20	Matt. 18:1–9
SAT	Mar 8	Ps. 70	Gen. 21	Matt. 18:10–20
SUN	Mar 9	Ps. 91	Deut. 26:1–11	Luke 4:1–13; Rom. 10:8b–13
MON	Mar 10	Ps. 71	Gen. 22	Matt. 18:21–35
TUE	Mar 11	Ps. 72	Gen. 23	Matt. 19:1–15
WED	Mar 12	Ps. 73	Gen. 24	Matt. 19:16–30
THU	Mar 13	Ps. 74	Gen. 25	Matt. 20:1–16
FRI	Mar 14	Ps. 75	Gen. 26	Matt. 20:17–28
SAT	Mar 15	Ps. 76	Gen. 27	Matt. 20:29–34
SUN	Mar 16	Ps. 27	Gen. 15:1–12, 17–18	Luke 9:28–36; Phil. 3:17–4:1
MON	Mar 17	Ps. 77	Gen. 28	Heb. 1
TUE	Mar 18	Ps. 78	Gen. 29	Heb. 2:1–4
WED	Mar 19	Ps. 79	Gen. 30	Heb. 2:5–18
THU	Mar 20	Ps. 80	Gen. 31	Heb. 3:1–6
FRI	Mar 21	Ps. 81	Gen. 32	Heb. 3:7–4:13
SAT	Mar 22	Ps. 82	Gen. 33	Heb. 4:14–5:10
SUN	Mar 23	Ps. 63	Isa. 55:1–9	Luke 13:1–9; 1 Cor. 10:1–13
MON	Mar 24	Ps. 83	Gen. 34	Heb. 5:11–6:12
TUE	Mar 25	Ps. 84	Gen. 35	Heb. 6:13–20
WED	Mar 26	Ps. 85	Gen. 36	Heb. 7:1–17
THU	Mar 27	Ps. 86	Gen. 37	Heb. 7:18–28
FRI	Mar 28	Ps. 87	Gen. 38	Heb. 8:1–13
SAT	Mar 29	Ps. 88	Gen. 39	Heb. 9:1–12

Lectionary



SUN	Mar 30	Ps. 32	Josh. 5:9-12	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21
MON	Mar 31	Ps. 89	Gen. 40	Heb. 9:13-10:18
TUE	Apr 1	Ps. 90	Gen. 41	Heb. 10:19-39
WED	Apr 2	Ps. 91	Gen. 42	Heb. 11:1-40
THU	Apr 3	Ps. 92	Gen. 43	Heb. 12:1-13
FRI	Apr 4	Ps. 93	Gen. 44	Heb. 12:14-17
SAT	Apr 5	Ps. 94	Gen. 45	Heb. 12:18-29
SUN	Apr 6	Ps. 136	Isa. 43:16-21	John 12:1-8; Phil. 3:4b-14
MON	Apr 7	Ps. 95	Gen. 46	Heb. 13:1-25
TUE	Apr 8	Ps. 96	Gen. 47	Matt. 21:12-17
WED	Apr 9	Ps. 97	Gen. 48	Matt. 21:18-27
THU	Apr 10	Ps. 98	Gen. 49:1-27	Matt. 21:28-46
FRI	Apr 11	Ps. 99	Gen. 49:28-50:14	Matt. 22:1-14
SAT	Apr 12	Ps. 100	Gen. 50:15-26	Matt. 22:15-46
SUN	Apr 13	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Isa. 50:4-9a	Matt. 21:1-11; Phil. 2:5-11
MON	Apr 14	Ps. 36	Isa. 42:1-9	Matt. 23
TUE	Apr 15	Ps. 71	Isa. 49:1-7	Matt. 24
WED	Apr 16	Ps. 70	Isa. 49:13-16	Matt. 25
THU	Apr 17	Ps. 116	Exod. 12:1-14	Matt. 26:1-56
FRI	Apr 18	Ps. 22	Isa. 52:13-53:12	Matt. 26:57-27:56
SAT	Apr 19	Ps. 88	Job 14:1-4	Matt. 27:57-66

Pray and Work for a New World

BY JOEL LITTLEPAGE

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . .” —HEBREWS 12:1-2A (KJV)

The Christian life is one of great imagination. That artful, daring act of living in light of realities that are not currently visible. It is David selecting his five smooth stones from the brook even though the act of someone as little as him facing something so huge as Goliath the Giant was ridiculous to the naked eye. It is that bold marching into a new order displayed

by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Fannie Lou Hamer, John Lewis, and the other saints and martyrs of the civil rights movement. No one else, seemingly, could see what they saw. Their spirits were animated by a vision of the world in which the ways of God were possible, if only we could imagine it into being.

Lent is a principal time of imagination formation for those who claim Christ as Lord. Lent, in a way, is an annual series of questions that comes upon the soul: Do you really wish to claim *this* Christ and his way? Is *this* truly what you believe about the world? And are you now ready to imagine what bearing this Christ-life into the world looks like *now*? The answer might feel different for us with each passing year. At times, the answer might be bold and confident, like David at the brook, when we say with the great gospel artist John P. Kee: “Jesus is real, I know the Lord is real to me!” In other years, the answer is much less sure: “I honestly don’t know anymore.”

In wisdom, God knows this. God knows the fluctuation of our hearts, minds, and wills. One thing I deeply appreciate about living the Christian year is the constancy of it. This Story doesn’t change—the readings for the given seasons, the events remembered, the language of the hymns and prayers of the services, etc. Indeed, *we* change and vary with the years; our grip is tight or it is loose, we run or run out of breath. The journey requires much patience, mostly patience with ourselves.

That is where this “so great a cloud of witnesses” comes in. If there were ever any statement that enticed the imagination, it is this one. Could it

be true? A cloud of testifiers from the past and present who say, in effect: “No, you aren’t crazy. Keep going. There is beauty ahead, that *whole* kind of beauty that is worth any pain, sacrifice, or disruption in the present.” I wonder how the great “race” of Lent might feel if we could see what they see, that great cloud of knowing surrounding us.

And Lent, of course, looks to Jesus. The King of Imagination, the Creative One who imagines in us a reality we cannot yet see. We are his “workmanship created in him unto good works” (Eph. 2:10), and Lent is the season to more deeply dare to imagine what beautiful acts are possible through even our little lives of love. So, let us run on and train and be brave and lay aside the old ways of sin. There is a different world to be claimed even now, if we could only imagine it into being.

This Lenten edition of the Living Prayer Periodical seeks to animate the imaginative life of faith through this great cloud of witnesses. Through prayers like one from the church in Japan, which imagines the path of God ahead of us: “May my feet follow the footsteps of God this day. O God, may I do your will this day.” Through the artworks in our extended Lenten Gallery, like *Homeless Jesus* by Canadian artist Timothy P. Schmalz,

who through a bronze sculpture causes those who pass by to imagine Christ as an unhoused neighbor. In the Practices, St. Isaac the Syrian espouses the regular cultivation of stillness, prayer, and study as a pathway toward “incomprehensible wonder and divine gladness.” Finally, in the Songbook, the classic hymn “Come, Ye Disconsolate,” with a link to a performance by the gospel artist Shirley Caesar, invites us to imaginatively participate in the Eucharist: “Here see the bread of life, see waters flowing forth from the throne of God, pure from above. Come to the feast of love; come ever knowing: earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.”

Now let us pray and work for a new world. 🌍



JOEL LITTLEPAGE is the associate pastor of Grace Mosaic, laboring in the areas of worship and spiritual formation. A professional musician, he lives in the beautiful Fifth Ward of Washington, DC, with his wife, three sons, and a flock of chickens.



Prayers, Part 1

SUNDAY MORNING *to* WEDNESDAY EVENING

Nathan Dumlao

Sunday Morning

LECTIONARY

MAR 9

Ps. 91
Deut. 26:1–11
Luke 4:1–13;
Rom. 10:8b–13

MAR 16

Ps. 27
Gen. 15:1–12, 17–18
Luke 9:28–36;
Phil. 3:17–4:1

MAR 23

Ps. 63
Isa. 55:1–9
Luke 13:1–9;
1 Cor. 10:1–13

CALL

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Our Father and our God, we open now our very souls
before you, for something within us craves food
which the bread of this world cannot satisfy. We
would quench our thirst at the everlasting fountain.

We thank you for all you have done for us, for
the way you have shepherded us and provided
for us all this journey through, for family
and friends and the fulfillment of daily work.
Above all, for Jesus your Son, our Lord.

Bless our church and your churches everywhere.
Put on your churches' lips the old gospel
of Bethlehem and Galilee and Calvary's
resurrection morning. Come among us. Set the
fires of God burning afresh in our hearts.

Let the words we utter with our mouths and the thoughts we think with our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we make our petition. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer of Gardner C. Taylor (1918–2015), taken from *Conversations with God*. Taylor was an African American Baptist pastor who became known as “the dean of American preaching.”

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a wonder at the passion and cross of Christ
- For those who walk as enemies of Jesus and his body
- For the grace of repentance for yourself and others

THE 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. May you go forward in the power of God at work within you.

Adapted from Ephesians 3:20–21



LECTIONARY

MAR 30

Ps. 32
Josh. 5:9–12
Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32;
2 Cor. 5:16–21

APR 6

Ps. 136
Isa. 43:16–21
John 12:1–8;
Phil. 3:4b–14

APR 13

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29
Isa. 50:4–9a
Matt. 21:1–11;
Phil. 2:5–11

Sunday Evening

LECTIONARY

MAR 9

Ps. 91
Deut. 26:1–11
Luke 4:1–13;
Rom. 10:8b–13

MAR 16

Ps. 27
Gen. 15:1–12, 17–18
Luke 9:28–36;
Phil. 3:17–4:1

MAR 23

Ps. 63
Isa. 55:1–9
Luke 13:1–9;
1 Cor. 10:1–13

CALL

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God,
and he will hear me.

Psalm 77:1

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Lord, I'm yielding to you tonight.
I yield my will to your will.
I yield my desires to your desires.
I yield my way to your way.
You are my Lord, I am your child.
You are the potter, I'm only the clay.
Mold me! Make me what you would have me to be.
I want to live for you.
I want to walk with you.
I want to let my light shine.
Oh Jesus, help me now! Help me now!
Give me your strength. Give me your power.
Let me feel your anointing. Hallelujah!
Let me have that joy. Hallelujah!
That overflowing joy. Yes, yes, yes!
Shine your light upon me tonight.
If there's any evil way, take it out.
I want to be like you.

I want to be fit for the Master's use.

Hallelujah!

A prayer of G. E. Patterson (1939–2007) of Memphis, Tennessee.

Patterson was the presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) from 2000 until his death.

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures.

Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

The LORD has taken away the judgments
against you; he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil. Rest now in
the presence of the King in your midst.

Adapted from Zephaniah 3:15



LECTIONARY

MAR 30

Ps. 32

Josh. 5:9–12

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32;

2 Cor. 5:16–21

APR 6

Ps. 136

Isa. 43:16–21

John 12:1–8;

Phil. 3:4b–14

APR 13

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29

Isa. 50:4–9a

Matt. 21:1–11;

Phil. 2:5–11

Monday Morning

LECTIONARY

MAR 10

Ps. 71
Gen. 22
Matt. 18:21–35

MAR 17

Ps. 77
Gen. 28
Heb. 1

MAR 24

Ps. 83
Gen. 34
Heb. 5:11–6:12

CALL

O LORD, I cry to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Psalm 88:13

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

May my feet follow the footsteps of God this day.
O God, may I do your will this day.
May my mouth praise the love of God this morning.
O God, may I do your will this day.
May my ears hear the words of God and obey them.
O God, may I do your will this day.

A prayer from the church of Japan, taken from *Thy Will Be Done*

ABIDING**LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA**

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For solidarity with Christ in his sufferings
- For those who lead your congregation
- For activists and community organizers

THE 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled. May the Lord bless
you and may you hunger for his kingdom.

Adapted from Matthew 5:6

**LECTIONARY****MAR 31**

Ps. 89

Gen. 40

Heb. 9:13–10:18

APR 7

Ps. 95

Gen. 46

Heb. 13:1–25

APR 14

Ps. 36

Isa. 42:1–9

Matt. 23

Monday Evening

LECTIONARY

MAR 10

Ps. 71
Gen. 22
Matt. 18:21–35

MAR 17

Ps. 77
Gen. 28
Heb. 1

MAR 24

Ps. 83
Gen. 34
Heb. 5:11–6:12

EVENING PRAYER

CALL

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

Psalm 18:3

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

CONFESSION: God, Son of God, so loving, yet hated, so patient, yet assaulted and killed, you showed yourself gentle and merciful even to your persecutors. You have atoned for our sins through the wounds of your passion. As you humbled yourself and suffered death for us, now, in your glory, shine on us with the eternal brightness of your grace. Show us where we have been wrong and forgive us our many sins. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer of the Mozarabic church,
taken from *Prayers through the Centuries*

ASSURANCE: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Rest tonight in the unchangeable love of our Lord Jesus.

Adapted from Hebrews 13:8



LECTIONARY

MAR 31

Ps. 89
Gen. 40
Heb. 9:13–10:18

APR 7

Ps. 95
Gen. 46
Heb. 13:1–25

APR 14

Ps. 36
Isa. 42:1–9
Matt. 23

Tuesday Morning

LECTIONARY

MAR 11

Ps. 72
Gen. 23
Matt. 19:1–15

MAR 18

Ps. 78
Gen. 29
Heb. 2:1–4

MAR 25

Ps. 84
Gen. 35
Heb. 6:13–20

CALL

The Spirit helps us in our weakness.
For we do not know what to pray for as we ought,
***but the Spirit himself intercedes for us
with groanings too deep for words.***

Romans 8:26

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

God, you are faithful and true, you “have mercy on thousands and ten thousands of those who love you,” you love the humble and protect the needy who lack all things, for all things are subject to you. Look down on this your people, who bow their heads to you, and bless them with spiritual blessing. “Keep them as the apple of your eye,” preserve them in piety and righteousness, and give them eternal life in Christ Jesus your beloved Son. With him be glory, honor, and worship to you and to the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

A prayer from the Apostolic Constitutions (375–80 CE),
taken from *Prayers through the Centuries*

ABIDING**LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA**

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For peace in the midst of an anxious world
- For God to transform a situation that appears beyond hope or repair
- For communal justice, reparation, and healing

THE 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and
to give his life as a ransom for many. Depart now in
peace to serve in his name.

Adapted from Mark 10:45

**LECTIONARY****APR 1**

Ps. 90

Gen. 41

Heb. 10:19–39

APR 8

Ps. 96

Gen. 47

Matt. 21:12–17

APR 15

Ps. 71

Isa. 49:1–7

Matt. 24

Tuesday Evening

LECTIONARY

MAR 11

Ps. 72
Gen. 23
Matt. 19:1–15

MAR 18

Ps. 78
Gen. 29
Heb. 2:1–4

MAR 25

Ps. 84
Gen. 35
Heb. 6:13–20

EVENING PRAYER

CALL

Blessed be God,
*because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!*

Psalm 66:20

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus,
please abide with me.
Dispel my deep loneliness!
No one can be my companion forever,
but you are the Lord who is everywhere,
present at all times.
Only you are my dear companion and savior.
In the long dark night
along the silent shadowy pathways,
I beg you to grasp my hand.
When others have forgotten me,
please remember me in eternity!
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

A prayer of Andrew Song (1902–?) of China, taken from *Prayers and Thoughts of Chinese Christians*. Song was an author, theologian, and poet.

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures.

Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" May you rest now in the everlasting love of the Lord.

Adapted from Psalm 106:48



LECTIONARY

APR 1

Ps. 90

Gen. 41

Heb. 10:19–39

APR 8

Ps. 96

Gen. 47

Matt. 21:12–17

APR 15

Ps. 71

Isa. 49:1–7

Matt. 24

Wednesday Morning

LECTIONARY

MAR 5

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ps. 51

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21;

2 Cor. 5:20b–6:10

MAR 12

Ps. 73

Gen. 24

Matt. 19:16–30

MAR 19

Ps. 79

Gen. 30

Heb. 2:5–18

MAR 26

Ps. 85

Gen. 36

Heb. 7:1–17

CALL

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

CONFESSION: *All have sinned and fallen short
of the glory of God.*

For the hatred which divides nation from nation,
race from race, class from class, **Father, forgive.**

For the covetous desires of people and nations to
possess what is not their own, **Father, forgive.**

For the greed which exploits the work of human
hands and lays waste the earth, **Father, forgive.**

For our envy of the welfare and happiness
of others, **Father, forgive.**

For our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,
the homeless, the refugee, **Father, forgive.**

For the lust which dishonors the bodies of
men, women, and children, **Father, forgive.**

For the pride which leads us to trust in
ourselves and not in God, **Father, forgive.**

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving
one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation by Canon Joseph Poole,
written in 1958 in Coventry, England

ASSURANCE: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For the wisdom that comes from remembering our mortality and limitations
- For the ability to say "I'm sorry"
- For a compassionate heart toward those you dislike

THE 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14



LECTIONARY

APR 2

Ps. 91

Gen. 42

Heb. 11:1-40

APR 9

Ps. 97

Gen. 48

Matt. 21:18-27

APR 16

Ps. 70

Isa. 49:13-16

Matt. 25

Wednesday Evening

LECTIONARY

MAR 5

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ps. 51

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21;

2 Cor. 5:20b–6:10

MAR 12

Ps. 73

Gen. 24

Matt. 19:16–30

MAR 19

Ps. 79

Gen. 30

Heb. 2:5–18

MAR 26

Ps. 85

Gen. 36

Heb. 7:1–17

CALL

O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth,
*you make the going out of the morning
and the evening to shout for joy.*

Psalm 65:5, 8

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,
And close by you to stay.
As you with Satan did contend,
And did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.
As you did hunger bear and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and always live
By your most holy word.
And through these days of penitence,
And through your Passiontide,
Forevermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that when this life
Of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!

A prayer by Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838–1898) of England. For the music to this hymn, see p. 65 of this edition.

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures.

Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

Throughout the history of the church, Christians have incorporated practices of prayer that call to mind God's presence in the moment, humbly and gratefully review the time that has passed, and look forward to the gift of another day. Pray through these prompts slowly, giving time to each step of the practice.

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26



LECTIONARY

APR 2

Ps. 91

Gen. 42

Heb. 11:1–40

APR 9

Ps. 97

Gen. 48

Matt. 21:18–27

APR 16

Ps. 70

Isa. 49:13–16

Matt. 25





Practices

for BODY, MIND, and SPIRIT

Failure and Forgiveness

DOMINIQUE DUBOIS GILLIARD

MEDITATION

“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name’s sake.”
—Psalm 79:9

Biblically, justice is a divine act of reparation where breached relationships are renewed and victims, offenders, and communities are restored. Justice, therefore, is about relationships and our conduct within them. Justice asks, “How is righteousness embodied and exuded in how I live in relation to God, neighbor, and creation?” In fact, Scripture could be read as the narrative of God’s restorative justice unfolding in the world.

Biblical justice is established and worked out within the confines of relationship. The relational working out of justice is righteousness. This is why Scripture calls us to pursue right(eous) relationships with God, neighbor, and creation, and through our realigned relationship with God, in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we “become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).


While most people think about God’s holiness, private morality, or spiritual prudence when they see the word “righteousness,” scripturally, righteousness is most commonly used to define those who conduct themselves uprightly in all of their relationships. A righteous person treats all people—whether rich, poor, or condemned—with justice, generosity, and equity (Timothy Keller, *Generous Justice*). The two ancient words translated as “righteousness” in Scripture, *tsedeq* (Hebrew) and *dikaïosynē* (Greek), are used to define someone who has “lived uprightly and behaved justly before God and their neighbor” (Theopedia).

The liturgical prayer for God’s forgiveness that we pray before Communion includes both the things we have done and the things we have left undone. Inaction, silence, and indifference are also relational failures. They breed injustice, oppression, and death.

The relational working out of justice is righteousness.

EXPLORATION

The following reflective explorations are supplied by the Daily Prayer Project in response to Mr. Gilliard's meditation.

1. Take stock of your relationships with God, neighbor, and creation. Perhaps it would be helpful to draw them out, displaying their directions and extent. What individuals and communities are you bonded to? Who are those to whom you are related by your mere act of living around them? Consider also your relationship with the nonhuman elements of creation: plants, animals, earth, water, and sky.
2. What among these webs of relationships is just and righteous? What is broken and in need of reparation? Try to prayerfully see things from God's perspective and not your own in this exploration. Consider portraying this visually amid your webs of relationships.
3. During this Lenten season, as we meditate on the passion of Christ and his willingness to offer himself for a "divine act of reparation," consider what it means to have this Christ-life within you. Where are the places of inaction, silence, and indifference? How is the Spirit prompting renewed righteousness in these relationships? 



DOMINIQUE DUBOIS GILLIARD is the author of *Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice That Restores* (IVP, 2018) and the director of racial righteousness and reconciliation for the Love Mercy Do Justice initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church. An ordained minister, he has served in pastoral ministry in Oakland, Chicago, and Atlanta, and he is currently on the board of directors for the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) and Evangelicals for Justice.

This excerpt is taken from pages 12–14 of *A Just Passion: A Six-Week Lenten Journey*, ed. Cindy Bunch.

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Stillness

JOEL LITTLEPAGE, ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN

MEDITATION

A spiritual teacher who has meant much to me over the last three years has been St. Isaac the Syrian, or, as he is sometimes called, St. Isaac of Ninevah (ca. 613–ca. 700). After rising to a prominent position in his native Syrian church, he was appointed as the bishop of Ninevah (modern-day Mosul, Iraq) in 676 CE. For reasons unknown to us, he resigned that position within six months and forsook the upward ladder of church leadership. He moved out into the desert to be a hermit and eventually became a leader in a small monastic community of people seeking the Lord. He was revered for his teaching and wisdom.

Reading ancient Christians can be quite the intellectual, emotional, and theological task, especially reading desert hermits like Isaac. The distance that exists between them and us is profound: culturally, historically, and sometimes theologically. Reading Isaac is indeed challenging at times. But I happen to think that the challenge of reading Christians of different times, places, and persuasions is a crucial discipline

because it chastens us and reminds us of the vastness of the body of Christ and the limits of our own times. I have found Isaac to be a gentle and wise teacher who focuses much attention on the inner dynamics of a heart that is seeking after the love of God. One of my favorite proverbs of his is “The aim of prayer is that we should acquire from it love of God, for in prayer are to be found all sorts of reasons for loving God” (Hom. 63, B 439, from *The Wisdom of St. Isaac the Syrian*).

Around eighty-five of Isaac’s homilies have survived. The brief homily shared here in its entirety is given the number 13 and is introduced as an exploration of stillness, a challenging practice for ancients and moderns alike. In the prelude to the text, Isaac discusses how sometimes in our lives, “melancholy and suffocation of soul occur[s],” and “sometimes sudden joy and unaccustomed fervor.” The spiritual life is full of seasonal, weekly, and daily modulations: there is light, and then there is darkness; there is melancholy, and then there is joy; there is withdrawal, and then there


Once a man has made up his mind to live his life in stillness, let him set himself in order and pass the rest of his days in the cultivation and regular practice of stillness.

is engagement. The key, Isaac says, is to cultivate the regular practice of stillness and prayer, to keep reading the scriptures and those who have come before us, and to be patient, “expect[ing] to receive help” from God. Help shall then come.

Once a man has made up his mind to live his life in stillness, let him set himself in order and pass the rest of his days in the cultivation and regular practice of stillness.

Whenever it happens to you (as is usual in the regular practice of stillness which is determined by divine grace) that your soul is enshrouded by thick darkness from within and, as with the sun’s rays when they are hidden from the earth by the mist of clouds, for a brief time she is deprived of spiritual comfort and the light of grace on account of the cloud of passions that overshadows her; and further, that the joy-producing power in your soul is curtailed for a little, and your

mind is overshadowed by an unwonted mist: then do not be troubled in mind, do not lend a hand to despondency. But be patient, be engaged in reading the books of the Doctors of the Church, compel yourself in prayer, and expect to receive help. Then straightway help will come unawares.

*For just as by the rays of the sun the face of the earth is unveiled from the darkness of the atmosphere that enshrouds it, even so is prayer able to dissolve and scatter the clouds of passions from our soul, and make our mind transparent to the light of gladness and comfort which, indeed, it customarily produces in our thoughts, but especially when it possesses material of succor from the divine Scriptures and vigilance, which make the mind to shine. For continual study in the writings of the saints fills the soul with incomprehensible wonder and divine gladness. To our God be glory unto the ages. Amen.** 

EXPLORATION

1. How do you notice yourself responding to the words of Isaac? What is the practice of stillness like for you?

2. Consider incorporating regular times of stillness into this Lenten season. Perhaps there is a certain place in your area that is more conducive to this kind of stillness (Isaac found a cave);

3. Who are those teachers of the spiritual life who fill your soul with “incomprehensible wonder and divine gladness”? Consider making a regular practice of learning from them in this Lenten season.

consider making regular visits there.

* *The Ascetical Homilies of Saint Isaac the Syrian*, rev. 2nd ed., trans. Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Boston, 2011. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



Gallery

for CONTEMPLATION

WASHINGTON, DC

Sarah



ON THE OTHER SIDE

Peter Callesen, 2009

Acid-free A4 120 gsm paper, glue, acrylic, watercolor, oak frame, 18½ × 14⅞ × 2¾ in.

Photo: Anders Sune Berg

www.petercallesen.com

On the other side

PETER CALLESEN

CURATOR COMMENTARY

Peter Callesen is a papercut artist from Denmark. He likes to work with A4 paper because it's a material everybody uses and is familiar with, and he's especially interested in transforming the negative two-dimensional space left by his cuts into three-dimensional sculptures.

Here he's done that by shaping the paper cutout of Christ on the cross into four nails that pin his limbs, and red-painted poppy flowers that emerge from his spilled blood and rest on the ledge of the oak frame.

Traditionally, the poppy symbolizes sleep or death. Since World War I, several countries have used red poppies to commemorate soldiers who have died in service, the color evoking blood and therefore sacrifice. Hope and resilience are also encoded in the poppy. Before the poppy blooms, it hangs its head. Here the silhouetted Christ hangs his head, but this is just temporary—his bloom is about to burst open. His sacrifice brings forth life.

In addition to the flower symbolism, this work, with its folded top corner, playfully alludes to the turning of a new page of history. What is “on the other side” of the death of this God-man? Where will the story go?

hash2ash: everything saved will be lost

PANGENERATOR

CURATOR COMMENTARY

“Remember, human, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Taken from God’s words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, this Ash Wednesday dictum is the starting point for Lent. Pronounced by a clergy person as they thumb ashes, in the shape of a cross, onto the foreheads of the people, it enjoins us to think back to our creation from the dust of the earth, and to acknowledge that we will all one day die and return to said dust.

In 2017 the National Museum of Ethnography in Warsaw commissioned an interactive art installation that visualizes this truth quite strikingly. Created by the Polish art collective panGenerator, it is titled *hash2ash: everything saved will be lost*. The installation display prompts visitors to take a selfie on their phones, and then it translates those image pixels into digital particles on a monitor. These particles drop and disperse, triggering the release of black gravel that collects in a mound at the base.

The piece was made outside any kind of religious context and is meant as a comment on vanity culture and digital impermanence. But surely it also invites reflection on the impermanence of our physical bodies, of our this-worldly existence—seeing a likeness of your face dissolve into pebbles. I read *hash2ash* as a modern-day *memento mori*, a sobering reminder of our mortality.

For me, the subtitle evokes Jesus’s saying to his disciples in Matthew 16:24–25, that “whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”—a difficult teaching about the virtue of nonattachment, and about the paradox that true life comes by way of death.



DETAIL

HASH2ASH: EVERYTHING SAVED WILL BE LOST

panGenerator, 2017

Installation at the National Museum of Ethnography, Warsaw

Photo: Maciej Jedrzejewski

www.pangenerator.com

“Truly I tell you,
whatever you
did not do for
one of the least
of these, you did
not do for me.”

— MATTHEW 25:45 (NIV)



Homeless Jesus

TIMOTHY P. SCHMALZ

CURATOR COMMENTARY

In Matthew 25:31–46, Jesus tells his disciples that whenever they feed or clothe or do any kindness to those in need, they are really feeding and clothing and doing that kindness to him. Inspired by this passage, Canadian artist Timothy P. Schmalz created a life-size bronze sculpture that depicts Jesus lying on a bench, covered with a blanket, identifiable only by the nail prints in his feet.

The first cast of the sculpture was acquired by Regis College at the University of Toronto and installed on its campus, and copies have since appeared in cities all over the world, including New York, Washington, DC, Seoul, Manila, Melbourne, Madrid, Amsterdam, Dublin, and Vatican City.

Schmalz says he hopes *Homeless Jesus* will elicit double takes from passersby, many of whom at first mistake the huddled mass for a living person. His aim is twofold: to encourage people to see Christ in their unhoused neighbors and act accordingly, and to comfort those who are unhoused by showing that Christ identifies with them in their suffering.

The artist deliberately left a spot open on the bench for someone to sit and rest or pray. On a tour I took of the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, who owns an edition of the sculpture, I noticed a bag of fresh rolls at Jesus's feet—the guide said it's become a place for locals to leave gifts of food, clothing, and toiletries for anyone to claim.

How might it change the way you respond to a sidewalk request for “spare change” if underneath that coat hood, you saw the face of Christ? If in the hand that holds the money cup, you saw a gaping puncture wound?

HOMELESS JESUS

Timothy P. Schmalz, 2012

Bronze, 36 × 84 × 24 in.

Installation outside Heilige Magdalenakerk, Bruges

Photo: Sanshiro Kubota

www.sculpturebytps.com



A black and white photograph of a cemetery. A wide, cobblestone path leads from the foreground into the distance. On the right side of the path, there are several large, ornate stone tombs or mausoleums. The most prominent one in the foreground has a classical design with columns and a pediment. A low stone wall with a black metal fence runs along the path. In the background, more tombs and trees are visible under a bright sky.

Prayers, Part 2

THURSDAY MORNING *to* SATURDAY EVENING

PARIS

Chris Anderson

Thursday Morning

LECTIONARY

MAR 6

Ps. 68

Gen. 19

Matt. 17:14–27

MAR 13

Ps. 74

Gen. 25

Matt. 20:1–16

MAR 20

Ps. 80

Gen. 31

Heb. 3:1–6

MAR 27

Ps. 86

Gen. 37

Heb. 7:18–28

CALL

Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and he will exalt you.

James 4:10

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

I accept this new day as your gift,
and I enter it now with eagerness;
I open my senses to perceive you;
I lend my energies to things of goodness and joy. Amen.

A prayer of Rita Snowden of New Zealand, taken from Soul Weavings

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For sobriety and presence in a culture of escapism and avoidance
- For the poor and oppressed
- For those who work in the financial industry

THE 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. May you go from this place following after the Good Shepherd.
Adapted from John 10:14-15



LECTIONARY

APR 3

Ps. 92
Gen. 43
Heb. 12:1-13

APR 10

Ps. 98
Gen. 49:1-27
Matt. 21:28-46

APR 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY
See p. 48.

Thursday Evening

LECTIONARY

MAR 6

Ps. 68

Gen. 19

Matt. 17:14–27

MAR 13

Ps. 74

Gen. 25

Matt. 20:1–16

MAR 20

Ps. 80

Gen. 31

Heb. 3:1–6

MAR 27

Ps. 86

Gen. 37

Heb. 7:18–28

CALL

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.

Psalm 3:3

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

From the love of my own comfort,
From the fear of having nothing,
From a life of worldly passions:
Deliver me, O God.

From the need to be understood,
And from a need to be accepted,
From the fear of being lonely:
Deliver me, O God.

From the fear of serving others,
Oh, and from the fear of death or trial,

And from the fear of humility:
Deliver me, O God.

And I shall not want, no, I shall not want.
When I taste your goodness, I shall not want.

A prayer adapted from the song “I Shall Not Want” by Audrey Assad and Bryan Brown, © 2013 Capitol Christian Music Group, Music Services Inc.

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God’s face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and
I myself will make them lie down, declares
the Lord GOD. May you lie down in peace
under the care of the Good Shepherd.

Adapted from Ezekiel 34:15



LECTIONARY

APR 3

Ps. 92
Gen. 43
Heb. 12:1–13

APR 10

Ps. 98
Gen. 49:1–27
Matt. 21:28–46

APR 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY
See p. 48.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

CALL

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Psalm 116:1–2

PSALM

Read Psalm 116.

ADORATION

*Listen to “I Love the Lord” by Isaac Watts, a setting of
Psalm 116, arranged by Richard Smallwood.*

I love the Lord; he heard my cry,
And pitied ev’ry groan.
Long as I love, while troubles rise,
I’ll hasten to his throne.

LESSON

Read Exodus 12:1–14 and Matthew 26:1–56.

PRAYER

Servant-Christ, help us to follow you
into the temple of your chosen people,
to erase from the worship of your
church all that hinders the sense of your
presence, the free flow of your Word;
to open up your house so that it may
be a house of prayer for all people:

Help us to follow you, Christ the servant.

Help us to follow you into the Upper
Room, to share your meal of bread and
cup, to accept our common place in your
one Body, broken to create a New Man:

Help us to follow you, Christ the servant.

Help us to follow you into the garden,
to watch with you, ever vigilant for
signs of the dawning of your new day,
to struggle unsparingly to understand
and to carry out your perfect will:

Help us to follow you, Christ the servant.

Litany of the Disciples of the Servant, Andhra

Theological College, Hyderabad, India

ABIDING

VISIO DIVINA

Wang Suda’s (1910–1963) *Last Supper* takes
place in a traditional Chinese abode,
the table set with porcelain dishes and
chopsticks and surrounded by red lacquer
stools. Jesus wears a gray hanfu and a
moonstone-mounted headpiece and
hands Judas a rice cake, identifying him
as his betrayer. The apostle John rests
on Jesus’s breast (archetypal lover and
beloved of Christ), and the praying man
on the left may be a self-portrait of the
artist.

Scan the image. Choose a detail to focus
on—it could be the face of Christ, the
face of Judas, the paper lantern, the
bamboo plant outside the window, one
of the empty stools—and pray from it.

BENEDICTION

May your body and soul know that
the Lord has loved you with an
everlasting love and has continued
his faithfulness to you. Keep watch
now with your loving Lord.

Adapted from Jeremiah 31:3



THE LAST SUPPER

Wang Suda (北平王), ca. 1940

Watercolor on silk, mounted on a scroll

Ethnological Museum Anima Mundi, Vatican City

Friday Morning

LECTIONARY

MAR 7

Ps. 69
Gen. 20
Matt. 18:1-9

MAR 14

Ps. 75
Gen. 26
Matt. 20:17-28

MAR 21

Ps. 81
Gen. 32
Heb. 3:7-4:13

MAR 28

Ps. 87
Gen. 38
Heb. 8:1-13

CALL

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65-69.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament of the day.

PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
Put me to doing, put me to suffering;
Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you;
Exalted for you, or brought low for you;
Let me be full, let me be empty;
Let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours. So be it. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer of John Wesley (1703-1791) written in 1755.

Wesley was the founder of the Methodist movement.

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For the ability to listen well to God and neighbor
- For the mentors and role models in your life
- For those who work in agriculture

THE 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

And we know that the Son of God has come and
has given us understanding, so that we may know
him who is true; and we are in him who is true,
in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and
eternal life. May you go forth from this place with
understanding and truth in the presence of Christ.
Adapted from 1 John 5:20-21a



LECTIONARY

APR 4

Ps. 93
Gen. 44
Heb. 12:14-17

APR 11

Ps. 99
Gen. 49:28-50:14
Matt. 22:1-14

APR 18

GOOD FRIDAY
See p. 54.

Friday Evening

LECTIONARY

MAR 7

Ps. 69
Gen. 20
Matt. 18:1–9

MAR 14

Ps. 75
Gen. 26
Matt. 20:17–28

MAR 21

Ps. 81
Gen. 32
Heb. 3:7–4:13

MAR 28

Ps. 87
Gen. 38
Heb. 8:1–13

CALL

Even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

Psalm 139:12

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

The sun has disappeared.
I have switched off the light.
But I still know that your moon is there,
and your eyes and also your hands.
Thus I am not afraid.
This day again you led us wonderfully.
Everybody went to his mat satisfied and full.
Renew us during our sleep,
that in the morning we may come afresh
to our daily jobs.
Be with our brothers and sisters far away in Asia
who may be getting up now. Amen.

A prayer from Ghana, taken from An African Prayer Book

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

BENEDICTION

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. May you experience the sleep that the LORD gives his beloved.

Adapted from Psalm 127:1-2



LECTIONARY

APR 4

Ps. 93
Gen. 44
Heb. 12:14-17

APR 11

Ps. 99
Gen. 49:28-50:14
Matt. 22:1-14

APR 18

GOOD FRIDAY
See p. 54.

GOOD FRIDAY

CALL

But you, O LORD, do not be far off!

***O you my help,
come quickly to my aid!***

Psalm 22:19

PSALM

Read Psalm 22.

ADORATION

Listen to the song “Thief (Remember Me)” by iAmSon.

Embrace the imaginative retelling of the experience of the thief hanging beside Christ.

Remember me,
Remember me,
Remember me.

LESSON

Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12 and Matthew 26:57–27:56.

PRAYER

Servant-Christ, help us to follow you into the judgment hall, to stand mocked and condemned for daring to speak directly of divine forgiveness, daring to claim God’s personal commissioning, daring to disrupt the plans of unscrupulous leaders for the control of the masses; to stand for those whose right to stand has been usurped:

Help us to follow you, Christ the servant.

Help us to follow you even unto the cross, to share in carrying your cross like Simon the African, to recognize our life in your death, our hope in your self-spending love, to die to all within us that is not

born of your love:

Help us to follow you, Christ the servant.

Litany of the Disciples of the Servant, Andhra

Theological College, Hyderabad, India

ABIDING

VISIO DIVINA

“When we handle fabric in daily life,” writes artist Leslie Iwai, “we tear, sew, weave, and even pierce it. It wraps newborn babies and covers hospital beds, clothes royalty and bandages wounds. Fabric touches us in the most intimate ways. The layers of translucent fabric scrim in *Scourged* are a way to meditate on the connection between Jesus’s flesh and the fabric that touches it and to consider what these reveal about both his humanity and divinity. In this, we may deeply sense the promise that ‘by his stripes we are healed’ (Isa. 53:5).”

Notice the colors, textures, and shapes of Iwai’s *Scourged*. What creates the focal point? Do you hear any sounds? What effect does the layering have?

Meditate on Jesus’s garment of flesh, torn for you.

BENEDICTION

May your body and soul know that the Lord has loved you with an everlasting love and has continued his faithfulness to you. Keep watch now with your loving Lord.

Adapted from Jeremiah 31:3



SCOURGED

Leslie Iwai, 2012

Cotton scrim, steel, dye, 54 × 15 × 36 in.

Collection of Geneva Campus Church, Madison, Wisconsin

www.leslieiwai.com

Saturday Morning

LECTIONARY

MAR 8

Ps. 70
Gen. 21
Matt. 18:10–20

MAR 15

Ps. 76
Gen. 27
Matt. 20:29–34

MAR 22

Ps. 82
Gen. 33
Heb. 4:14–5:10

MAR 29

Ps. 88
Gen. 39
Heb. 9:1–12

CALL

He regards the prayer of the destitute
and does not despise their prayer.

Psalm 102:17

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the Old Testament of the day.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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.
He will come again 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.

The Apostles' Creed

PRAYER

Protect us, Jesus,
from the world,
the flesh,
and the devil.
We pray in your name,
Amen.

A prayer of Kari Kristina Reeves of New York, taken from *Canyon Road*

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures.
Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For freedom from living for the approval of others
- For a life of simplicity and freedom from the love of money
- For the flourishing of all people in your place, from the womb to the tomb

THE 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

As we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. May you go throughout this day as a comforted comforter in the name of Jesus.

Adapted from 2 Corinthians 1:5



LECTIONARY

APR 5

Ps. 94
Gen. 45
Heb. 12:18–29

APR 12

Ps. 100
Gen. 50:15–26
Matt. 22:15–46

APR 19

HOLY SATURDAY
See p. 60.

Saturday Evening

LECTIONARY

MAR 8

Ps. 70
Gen. 21
Matt. 18:10–20

MAR 15

Ps. 76
Gen. 27
Matt. 20:29–34

MAR 22

Ps. 82
Gen. 33
Heb. 4:14–5:10

MAR 29

Ps. 88
Gen. 39
Heb. 9:1–12

CALL

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

PSALM

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

ADORATION

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 65–69.

LESSON

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PRAYER

CONFESSION: Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, grant us peace.

The Agnus Dei

ASSURANCE: Christ, our Passover lamb, has been
sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not
with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but
with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7–8

ABIDING

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.
- 2. Review this past week with gratitude.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.
- 4. Choose one feature of the week and pray from it.
- 5. Look toward tomorrow and the beginning of a new week.

A PRAYER FOR SABBATH

Creator God,
on the seventh day you rested and were refreshed.
Please help me now to enter into
the rest of your Sabbath,
that I may cease from my work
and delight in your care over my life
both now and forever,
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Lord, you now have set your servants free to go in peace as you have promised, for these eyes of ours have seen the savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon), based on Luke 2:29-32



LECTIONARY

APR 5

Ps. 94
Gen. 45
Heb. 12:18-29

APR 12

Ps. 100
Gen. 50:15-26
Matt. 22:15-46

APR 19

HOLY SATURDAY
See p. 60.

HOLY SATURDAY

CALL

O LORD, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.
Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!

Psalm 88:1-2

PSALM

Read Psalm 88. It asks the questions for this day: "Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you?"

ADORATION

Listen to the song "[He's Gone](#)" by Paul Zach.

After the cross has been carried,
after the weight is laid down,
after the body is buried,
down where the darkness surrounds,
after the end of the violence,
after the sky has gone dark,
now there is nothing but silence,
broken by the beat of our heart.

He's gone. (×4)

After the last words are spoken,
we lay him down in the grave.
After our hearts have been broken,
have all our hopes been betrayed?

He's gone. (×4)

Here at the tomb with our spices,
love from our hearts is not gone.
Watch till the breaking sun rises,
what will we see in the dawn?

LESSON

Read Job 14:1-4 and Matthew 27:57-66.

PRAYER

Servant-Christ, help us to follow you out of the dark tomb, to share daily your resurrection life, to be renewed daily in your image of love, to be used daily as your new Body in your service to the world:

***Help us to follow you,
Christ the servant. Amen.***

Litany of the Disciples of the Servant, Andhra
Theological College, Hyderabad, India

ABIDING

VISIO DIVINA

It's Saturday. The Son of God lies buried in a borrowed tomb. Rembrandt shows the cavernous darkness of this day in one of his prints, which bears only touches of light, illuminating a few devoted faces and the clasped hands of Jesus's weeping mother.

Sit in the shadows of the image.
Gather with the disciples around
the inert Savior and grieve.

BENEDICTION

Hear the Lord say: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Rest now in the resurrection hope that springs out from the soil of death and despair.

Adapted from John 16:33



THE ENTOMBMENT

Rembrandt van Rijn, ca. 1654
Etching and drypoint on paper, $8\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{5}{16}$ in.
Morgan Library and Museum, New York





Songbook

for ADORATION

BALTIMORE

Aaron Burden

Manos cariñosas



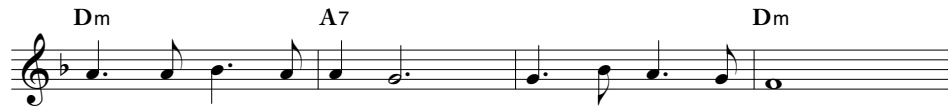
(BLEEDING HANDS)



1. Ma - nos ca - ri - ño - sas, ma - nos de Je - sús,
 2. Ma - nos que su - pie - ron cal - mar el do - lor,
 Translation: *Blee - ding hands of Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,*
Hands whose ten - der touch gave so - lace and re - lief,



ma - nos que lle - va - ron la pe - sa - do cruz.
 ¡Oh ma - nos di - vi - nas de mi Re - den - tor!
On a cross so hea - vy, nailed u - pon a tree,
Ho - ly hands of Je - sus, sooth - ing pain and grief,



Ma - nos que su - pie - ron só - lo ha - cer el bien,
 Que mul - ti - pli - ca - ron los pe - ces y el pan,
Sho - wing on - ly good - ness, to both foe and friend,
Fee - ding hun - gry peo - ple, brea - king fish and bread,



¡Glo - ria a e - sas ma - nos! ¡A - le - lu - ya a - mén!
 ma - nos mi - la - gro - sas que la vi - da dan.
Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia to those hands, A - men.
Wor - king signs and won - ders, rais - ing from the dead.

3. Manos que sufrieron el clavo y la cruz,
 Manos redentoras de mi buen Jesús,
 De esas manos bellas yo confiado estoy,
 Ellas van guiando, pues al cielo voy.

Hands that bore the anguish of the brutal nails,
Hands that bought redemption, love that never fails,
Those sure hands will guide me, lest I go astray,
Pointing me to heaven on the pilgrim way.

4. ¡Oh Jesús!, tus manos yo las ví en visión
 Y vertí mi llanto con el corazón;
 Ví sus dos heridas y la sangre ví
 Que tú derramaste por salvarme a mí.

In a blessed vision, Lord, your hands I saw,
As my weeping spirit filled with love and awe,
Seeing wounds you suffered, nailed upon the tree,
And your blood so precious, shed in saving me.

Text and music by Alfredo Colom. © 1966 New Spring Publishing, Inc. Used with permission.

Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days



1. Lord, who through - out — these for - ty days — for
 2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, — and
 3. As you did hun - ger and did thirst, — so
 4. And through these days — of pen - i - tence, — and
 5. A - bide with us, — that through this life — of



us did fast — and pray, — teach
 did the vic - tory win, — O
 teach us, gra - cious Lord, — to
 through your Pas - sion - tide, — for -
 doubts and hope — and pain, — an



us with you — to mourn our sins — and
 give us strength — in you to fight, — in
 die to self, — and so to live — by
 ev - er - more, — in life and death, — O
 Eas - ter of — un - end - ing joy — we



close by you — to stay. —
 you to con - quer sin. —
 your most ho - ly Word. —
 Lord, with us — a - bide. —
 may at last — at - tain! —

Text: Claudia Frances Hernaman, 1873. Music: LAND OF REST, American folk melody. Public Domain.

Come, Ye Disconsolate



C F C Dm G7 C
 Come, ye dis - con - so-late, where - 'er ye lan - guish,
 Joy of the de - so-late, light of the stray - ing,
 Here see the bread of life, see wa - ters flow - ing

C C7 F Dm G D7 G7
 Come to the mer - cy seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
 Hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure!
 Forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.

C F C C F C
 Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
 Here speaks the Com - for - ter, ten - der - ly say - ing,
 Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing

C E7 F C/G G7 C
 Earth has no sor - row that heaven can - not heal.
 Earth has no sor - row that heaven can - not cure.
 Earth has no sor - row but heaven can re - move.

Text: (st. 1-2) Thomas Moore, 1816, rev. 1824; (st. 3) Thomas Hastings, 1832.

Music: arr. from Samuel Webbe, 1792. Public Domain.

Almighty God



1. Al - might - y God to you — our hearts are o - pen,
 2. Al - might - y God to you — our hearts are o - pen with
 3. Al - might - y God to you — our hearts are o - pen, we

search - ing all — our thoughts and an - xious fears. —
 gra - ti - tude we raise our song to you. —
 long for more than what this world pro - vides. — No

Wash us in — the foun - tain of — your mer - cy.
 Come and fill — the prais - es of — your peo - ple.
 shal - low spring will ev - er sa - tis - fy us.

Come with your light, we can - not hide from you. —
 In grace and truth tou make us new a - gain. —
 Your ri - ver deep floods ov - er ev - ery - thing —

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le -

lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

Text and music by Sandra McCracken, Leslie Jordan, and David Leonard. © 2015 DRINK YOUR
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Andrey Grinkevich



Animating a life of prayer
through the manifold beauty of the church