

I AM
YOU ARE
2019 LENTEN

GOD
MY PEOPLE
DEVOTIONAL



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

INTRODUCTION

The season of Lent has typically held a special place in the life of the Church. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating in the events of Holy Week, Lent is an invitation to focus on what is central to our faith. It has also become a time for personal and spiritual reflection on who we are as God's people and on what God has given us so graciously in Christ.

In earlier times, Lent was a time to prepare for receiving Baptism. More recently it has become a time to lift up in worship and education the core teachings of our faith or to explore some of the major personalities who surround Jesus on His journey to the cross.

This devotional booklet is meant to enhance and enrich our Lenten observance. We have chosen two themes. One is a selection of biblical passages in which God is addressed as the "Great I Am." The other is a selection of passages in which we are addressed as God's people, "You are..."

It is our hope that, as we reflect on these passages from God's Word, our faith in God may be strengthened and our commitment to His Word renewed.

It is also our prayer that, as we move from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, we may join the two disciples of Jesus as they cried out, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32 ESV).

The Rev. Paull Spring, *Bishop Emeritus*

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, *Assistant to the Bishop for Missions*

This Lenten devotional also includes readings from our daily Bible reading guide, *Reading the Word of God*, which was conceived and prepared as a result of the ongoing discussions between representatives of three church bodies: Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC), The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). This guide takes the reader through the entire Old Testament one time in three years, with the exception of Psalms, which are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years. A reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) and a reading from the New Testament is assigned for each day. To continue the daily readings following this devotional, visit thenalc.org/devotions.

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A S H

ALMIGHTY AND
YOU HATE NOTHING
AND FORGIVE THE
ARE PENITENT.
NEW AND CONTRITE
TRULY REPENTING
WE MAY OBTAIN
THE GOD OF
FULL PARDON AND

W E D N E S D A Y

EVER-LIVING GOD,
YOU HAVE MADE
SINS OF ALL WHO
CREATE IN US
HEARTS, SO THAT
OF OUR SINS,
FROM YOU,
ALL MERCY,
FORGIVENESS.

ASH WEDNESDAY – March 6

"I am God Almighty" (Genesis 17:1)

Reading: Genesis 17:1-8

Gracious God, as we start this Lenten journey, we confess that You are almighty. Without You we can do nothing. But with You nothing is impossible. Just as You did for Abram, help us during our weakest moments and confirm Your covenant through Your holy Word.

During this season of prayer, reflection, repentance and devotion, convict through Your holy Word, lead through Your Holy Spirit and redeem our lives through Your grace.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

Joel 2:12–19; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10; Matthew 6:1–21

THURSDAY – March 7

"I am who I am" (Exodus 3:14)

Reading: Exodus 3:7-15

Gracious God, open our eyes to see You. Move our hearts to follow You and touch our minds to understand the Scriptures. As You fully revealed Yourself to Moses, please reveal Yourself to us. Help us to know You, learn from You and spend time with You.

As you reveal Yourself to us through Your beloved son, Jesus Christ, please help us share about You through our words and actions. May this season of Lent be a season of knowing You better with the help of Your amazing grace that opens the eyes of the blind to see God.

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

2 Samuel 1:17–2:7; Psalm 62; 1 Thessalonians 3:6–13

FRIDAY – March 8

"I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:2)

Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Gracious God, thank You for revealing and introducing Yourself to us. Without You we are lost sinners, condemned to eternal judgment. But through Your son, Jesus Christ, You came down to earth and saved us. Just as You brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, You rescued us by taking on our sins and denying the power of Satan and the world.

With the help of Your Holy Spirit we are now redeemed, called and saved to be God's children. Thank You for coming into our Egypt to bring us out. Thank You for meeting Moses on Mount Sinai to reintroduce Yourself and establish Your covenant with us by saying unto us, "I am the Lord your God." We were lost but now we are found. We were slaves of sin, Satan and the world, but now we are free. With believers all around the world we worship our gracious and saving God.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

2 Samuel 2:8–32; Psalm 63; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–18

SATURDAY – March 9

**"I am the Lord your God. I am holy"
(Leviticus 19:2 CEV)**

Reading: Leviticus 19:1-4

Dear holy and gracious God, with the heavenly host we confess and declare, "Holy, holy, holy is our Lord and God Almighty." You are holy and we are sinners, yet You came to us through Your son, Jesus Christ, who took our sins upon Himself and paid our debt.

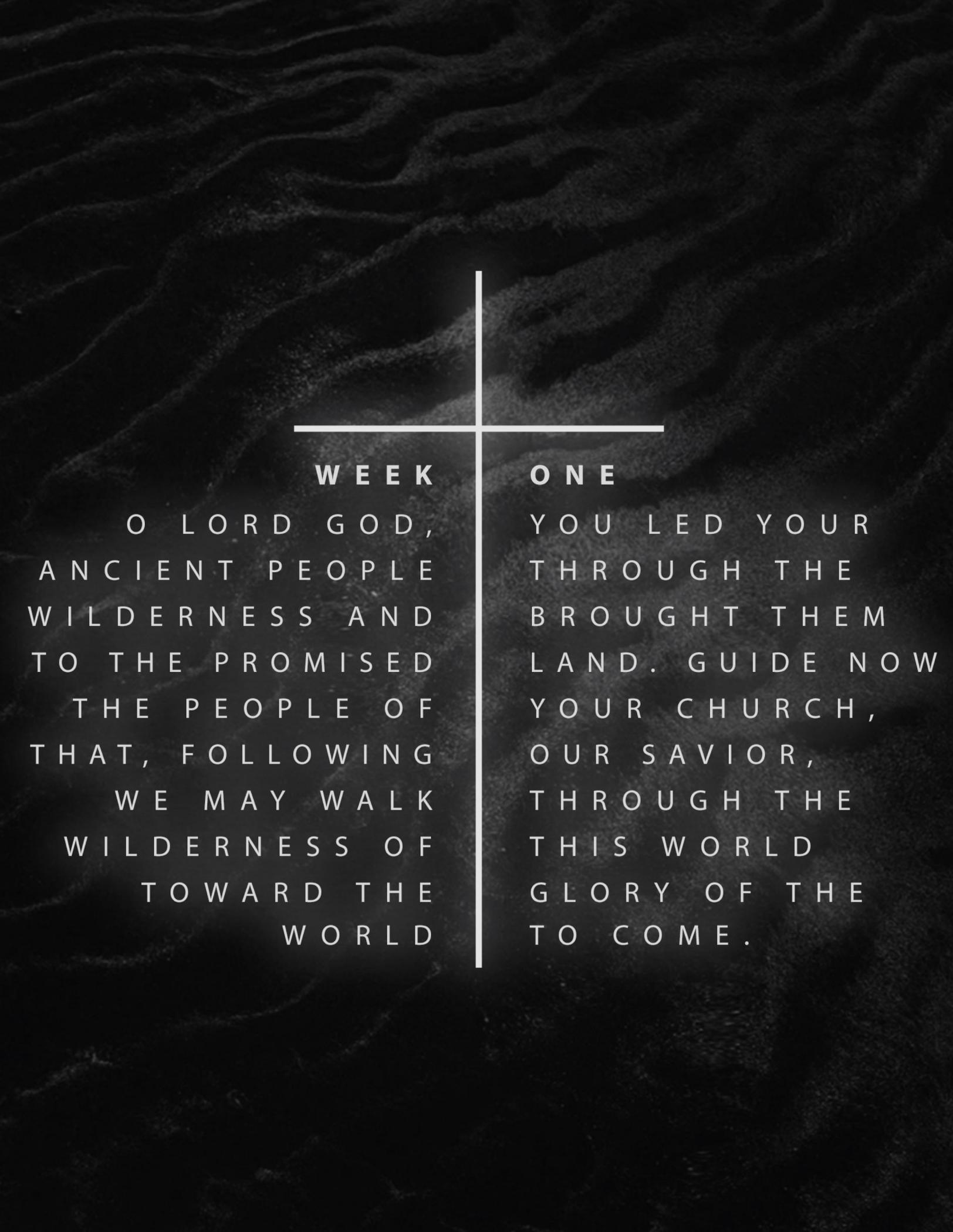
Lord God, every time we hear and reflect on Your holiness, we remember our sinfulness and fall on our knees to confess before Your holy throne. Even now we confess our sins committed in disobedience to Your Word. As we confess our sins and acknowledge Your holiness, we always receive the entire

forgiveness of our sins. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us and give us a completely new life. Through Your work on the cross, we are now sinners made saints by Your amazing grace. Thank You, God.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

2 Samuel 3:1–25; Psalm 64; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–28



WEEK

O LORD GOD,
ANCIENT PEOPLE
WILDERNESS AND
TO THE PROMISED
THE PEOPLE OF
THAT, FOLLOWING
WE MAY WALK
WILDERNESS OF
TOWARD THE
WORLD

ONE

YOU LED YOUR
THROUGH THE
BROUGHT THEM
LAND. GUIDE NOW
YOUR CHURCH,
OUR SAVIOR,
THROUGH THE
THIS WORLD
GLORY OF THE
TO COME.

MONDAY – March 11

**"I, even I, am he; there is no god besides me"
(Deuteronomy 32:39)**

Reading: Deuteronomy 32:36-39

Dear gracious and almighty God, we come before You fearful of death, in doubt and confusion about God while acknowledging Your power and authority over death and life. Today we thank You for sending these words of assurance.

Along with faithful believers throughout the ages and throughout the world, we confess that, yes, You alone are the one with supreme power and authority over life and death. There is no other. In this Lenten season, as we reflect on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, help us to deepen our faith in You and share this truth with our family, friends and neighbors.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 4; Psalm 66; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

TUESDAY – March 12

"I am a rose of Sharon" (Song of Solomon 2:1)

Reading: Song of Solomon 2:1-7

Dear gracious and loving God, in the middle of this thorny, painful and hopeless world, thank You for sending us signs of hope, life and love: A rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys, a lily among thorns. Today we remember and pray for all our loved ones, friends and neighbors whose lives, like this rose, are like a lily among thorns. We lift up their names to You. Help them overcome their lives in the valley and come up to the mountain top with Jesus. Help them not to be choked by the thorns but continue to hear the Word and grow in their faith amid their thorny circumstances.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 5:1-16; Psalm 67; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

WEDNESDAY – March 13

"The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)

Reading: Psalm 23:1-6

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to us like a good shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep behind and searches for the one that is lost. Lord Jesus, thank You for finding my life and the lives of my fellow believers. You are our Good Shepherd who willingly and sacrificially laid down Your life for us. You died that we may have life.

Lord Jesus, we confess every day that You are our Good Shepherd. We are the sheep of Your flock. Without You we have no provision, no protection and no promotion. But we thank You, because You came to us to remove our burden and to make us lie down by the green pastures and You lead us in the path of righteousness. Our God is our Good Shepherd.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 5:17-6:4; Psalm 68; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

THURSDAY – March 14

"He will feed his flock" (Isaiah 40:11)

Reading: Isaiah 40:6-11

Lord God, because of You we are led, fed, protected and loved. You are a God who feeds us lavishly—to overflowing. Your people, who are called by Your name, are fed with Your Holy Word, Your saving grace and Your eternal love.

In these days of Lent, help us to sit at the feet of the cross, along with other believers, and learn from You what it means to be fed, led, protected and loved by You through Jesus. Fill our hearts with the heavenly feast of Your Word, that we may have no desire for

other things to fill our dreams and complete our lives. Lord, You have words of eternal life; we have nowhere else to go to feed our lives. Thank You for feeding Your flock with Your Word.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

2 Samuel 6:5–23; Psalm 69; 1 Timothy 1:1–11

FRIDAY – March 15

"I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10)

Reading: Isaiah 41:8-10

Dear gracious, loving and saving God, thank You for taking that first step towards us to forgive, redeem and save us. Thank You for openly and directly saying, "I am with you." For there is no way for us to come to You and be with You through our own initiative.

Gracious God, thank You for taking that first step of forgiving us, reconciling us to Yourself and coming down to be with us. That is why we worship and love You as our God. You are Immanuel, God with us.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

2 Samuel 7:1–17; Psalm 70; 1 Timothy 1:12–20

SATURDAY – March 16

"I am the first and I am the last" (Isaiah 44:6)

Reading: Isaiah 44:1-8

Dear gracious and loving God, we offer our thanks for Your amazing promises and ever-comforting presence. Hearing these promises, we ask You to help us increase our faith and trust in You. In Your Word, You stated that You are the first and You are the last. Thus, You are our eternal rock and ever-present hope.

During this season of Lent, help us to confess our lack of faith and receive forgiveness for our unbelief and many doubts. We pray that, through the power of your Holy Spirit, we continue to grow in our faith daily and walk with You faithfully.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

2 Samuel 7:18–29; Psalm 71; 1 Timothy 2:1–15



WEEK

HEAVENLY FATHER,
ALWAYS TO
BRING BACK ALL
AND STRAYED FROM
LEAD THEM AGAIN
FAITH THE TRUTH
AND HOLD

TWO

IT IS YOUR GLORY
HAVE MERCY.
WHO HAVE ERRED
YOUR WAYS;
TO EMBRACE IN
OF YOUR WORD
IT TRUE.

MONDAY – March 18

**"I myself will search for my sheep"
(Ezekiel 34:11)**

Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16

Dear gracious and loving God, in You we have a true shepherd. Throughout the Bible we see how You cared for Your people. You brought Your people out of slavery; You led them through the wilderness. You fed them, protected them and You even fought their battles for them.

Today we give thanks that You are still caring for us and showing us Your enduring love through Your son, Jesus Christ. In Jesus we have a good shepherd. He gave His precious life on the cross for us. For all of these things we bring our gratitude and praise to You, Christ, our Shepherd and Lord forever.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 9; Psalm 73; 1 Timothy 3:14–4:16

TUESDAY – March 19

**"For where two or three are gathered
in my name, I am there among them"
(Matthew 18:20)**

Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Dear gracious God, we are all sinners, saved and gathered by You. Through our salvation, we became Your children. As Your children we have become sons and daughters of God—related to each other as brothers and sisters. Thus, we gather together to worship, to learn and to be Your disciples.

Thank You for promising to be among us always. In the midst of our conflict, deceptions, and many more messy things, You never leave us. We are sinners who gather in Your name around the water of Baptism, around Your body and blood, and around Your Holy Word. You are always in our midst to give us new life, to feed us through Word and Sacrament and to make us Your disciples. Help us through Your Holy Spirit to be mindful of Your real presence and bring our praise

to You, our God, in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 10; Psalm 74; 1 Timothy 5:1–16

WEDNESDAY – March 20

**"I am with you always"
(Matthew 28:20)**

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Dear gracious Jesus, we thank You for the promise given to Your disciples and followers. This promise keeps Your Church moving forward, without fear, amid persecution and opposition.

Everywhere we go You are with us; You never leave us or forsake us. Your promise is an eternal rock under our feet. We stand, walk, run and work on that strong foundation. When the enemy of the Gospel comes to threaten and stop us, Your presence is our shield and Your Word is our sword. Thank You for being with us individually; thank You for being with our families. Thank You for being with Your Church and thank You for keeping our nation under Yourself. We pray this prayer rejoicing in Your promise and trusting in Your presence.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 11:1–13; Psalm 75; 1 Timothy 5:17–6:2

THURSDAY – March 21

**"The Son of Man came ... to serve"
(Matthew 20:28)**

Reading: Matthew 20:20-28

Dear gracious God, in this world there are so many people competing to be lords and rulers above others. Millions of people are committed to becoming higher than others. Our youth idolize movie stars, sport personalities and super stars in

various fields. Lord God, help us to focus not on super stars, but on our super servant, Jesus.

Help to make serving others the purpose of our lives. In this individualistic and competitive world, it is very difficult to stay true to and humbly submit to the authority of your Holy Word. Help us, Lord, to imitate Your example, obey Your Word, follow Your principles and put others ahead of ourselves. Help us to be servants of others as You humbled Yourself to serve others.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 11:14–27; Psalm 76; 1 Timothy 6:3–10

FRIDAY – March 22

"For a little while longer I am with you"
(John 7:33 NASB)

Reading: John 7:25-39

Dear gracious Lord, in this section of your Word you help us think and reflect on the length of our lives. Life on earth is our opportunity to live with You and for You. This is our moment to honor and serve You by honoring and serving others in Your name.

Jesus said, "for a little while longer I am with you." We thank you for giving us many "little whiles" here on earth to serve You by sharing Your love and Your Word with our neighbors and friends. Dear God, today we set out to use every moment and opportunity You give us to humbly do what we are called and sent to do. Help us not to miss small windows of opportunities to make Christ known.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 12:1–23; Psalm 77; 1 Timothy 6:11–21

SATURDAY – March 23

"I am from above" (John 8:23)

Reading: John 8:21-30

Dear gracious and loving God, You sent Your son, Jesus, from above to down below, where we are. Our Lord Jesus came from above and humbled himself to come to the lowest point of life, where sin and Satan reign, to set us free.

We, in our nature, are always bound to dwell and stay in bondage to sin. There is no way for us to free ourselves from that lowest state of bondage. Thus, we are forever grateful to Jesus, our Savior, who came from above to find us in this lowest state of life. Our Lord came from above to die for us, pay our debt and redeem us by His blood. Through His amazing redemptive work, we are now lifted up to be with Him eternally. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for Your amazing grace. Help us to always remember what you have done for us, rejoice in it and share the Good News with others.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 12:24–13:22; Psalm 78:1–35; 2 Timothy 1:1–18



WEEK

ETERNAL LORD,
HAS BROKEN INTO
WORLD THROUGH
AND RESURRECTION

HELP US TO
AND OBEY IT,
BECOME
OF YOUR

THREE

YOUR KINGDOM
OUR TROUBLED
THE LIFE, DEATH,
OF YOUR SON.

HEAR YOUR WORD
SO THAT WE
INSTRUMENTS
REDEEMING LOVE.

MONDAY – March 25

"Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58)

Reading: John 8:48-58

Dear gracious and eternal God, we come before You, acknowledging Your eternal wisdom in planning to save us through your son, Jesus, who was there in the eternal past. Jesus openly stated that, "before Abraham was, I am." Sometimes we are preoccupied in our little worlds and ignore the truth of the Gospel. We are concerned about now, about here and about ourselves. Lord Jesus, free us from our preoccupations and bestow upon us the freedom of the Gospel. The Gospel frees us to not to be bound by the here and now but to connect with the eternal past and eternal future.

Lord Jesus, help us to remove ourselves from making our own lives the center of our universe so that we may center our lives on Christ. In this season of Lent, help us to repent of self-centeredness and renew our commitment to Christ-centered living.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 14:1-17; Psalm 79; 2 Timothy 2:14-26

TUESDAY – March 26

"I am the door" (John 10:7, 9 ESV)

Reading: John 10:1-10

Dear gracious God, we come to You with praise and thanksgiving for sending Jesus to die for us and open the gateway into Your kingdom. In this world of confusion, where people are teaching and believing that there are many doors to heaven, help us to stand on your eternal Word and confess that there is only one door, Jesus, the only door to heaven and the only means of our salvation.

Lord Jesus, we are grateful for your sacrificial work on the cross. As you went to the cross to die for us, the door to heaven opened and the curtain in the temple tore apart. God came to find sinners and invite us to have a relationship with Him and with each other in the name of Jesus. We now praise You

and walk through the door to have fellowship with You and with our brothers and sisters in the faith.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 14:18-33; Psalm 80; 2 Timothy 3:1-9

WEDNESDAY – March 27

"I came that they may have life" (John 10:10)

Reading: 1 John 1:1-10

Dear gracious God, we are humbled and amazed at how You always come to us. Even while we were dead in our sins You came to us to give us new life. Our enemy, Satan, comes to steal, kill and destroy our lives. But you came to destroy the works of Satan. Because of Your work, You now give us abundant life. We are blessed with that amazing gift. Our lives are filled and overflowing with the gift of life that flows into us through the promise of our Baptism.

Today we pause to acknowledge that our archenemy, Satan, is trying to steal and destroy this life You have given us through Jesus. At the same time, we boldly confess that Jesus comes to destroy those evil works of our enemy. By so doing He gives us life in abundance so that we can share that life with others.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 15:1-16; Psalm 81; 2 Timothy 3:10-17

THURSDAY – March 28

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11)

Reading: John 10:11-18

Dear gracious, heavenly God, we are lost without Your grace, blind without Your light and dead without Your life. Thus, we thank You for being our Good Shepherd. As a good shepherd, You always find us when we are lost, You guide us back to life and

You save us from eternal death and destruction. You are our Good Shepherd.

Today we put our lives in Your hands. We commit and dedicate our lives in total devotion to follow and obey You. As a good shepherd, You found us, You washed us, You fed us and now You are leading our lives daily. We are Your flock living under Your care, trusting in You. Without You we have no identity, no vision and no future. Please help us, by Your grace, to always follow our Good Shepherd and not to be sidetracked by false shepherds leading people to a life of disobedience to God.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 15:16-37; Psalm 82; 2 Timothy 4:1-8

FRIDAY - March 29

"The Father and I are one" (John 10:30)

Reading: John 10:22-30

Dear gracious, heavenly Father, we are always thankful that Your Son, Jesus, took on human flesh, became fully human and dwelt among us. He humbled Himself and came down to our level to serve and save our lives from sin, Satan and eternal condemnation.

Dear Jesus, as You humbled Yourself and came down to be with us, many doubted and denied that You are one with the Father. They denied Your identity and discounted Your teaching as false. Help us not to be trapped by that lie. Increase our faith through grace to trust You more and to believe in You as our God, Savior and Lord. In this season of Lent we see You

suffering, carrying the cross and standing in front of judges and kings. As we see You humbled and humiliated for us, help us to be humble believers and followers of the person and words of Jesus.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 16:1-14; Psalm 83; 2 Timothy 4:9-22

SATURDAY - March 30

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)

Reading: John 11:17-27

Dear gracious Jesus, along with You we boldly confess that You are the resurrection and the life. Without You there is no life. You defeated and destroyed death; You have total victory over death. In fact, You are the only victor over death. No other religion or religious leader can make that statement and claim.

Dear Lord, through You we have resurrection and life. It is such a joy to say those words, stand on those claims and, along with believers throughout the world and throughout the ages, confess that we share that life in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for opening our hearts and for helping us believe these mighty words of faith and salvation.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 16:15-17:14; Psalm 84; Titus 1:1-16



WEEK

GOD OF
BY YOUR POWER
TO FORGIVE,
CLEANSE US
AND MAKE

FOUR

ALL MERCY,
TO HEAL AND
GRACIOUSLY
FROM ALL SIN
US STRONG.

MONDAY – April 1

**"Where I am, there will my servant be also"
(John 12:26)**

Reading: John 12:20-26

Dear glorious and gracious God, there are so many leaders who labor and work hard throughout their lives along with their servants. However, when victory and glory come they take total credit for the victory and never share their glory with their servants. Not so with You, Jesus!

Dear Jesus, thank You for openly promising that "where I am, there will my servant be also." We are going to dwell with You, to eternally live with You and shine like stars in Your presence. As we face opposition and persecution today, we rejoice in that hope. In You alone we fully trust, and in that hope, we always rejoice in Jesus' name.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 18:8–33; Psalm 86; Titus 3:1–15

TUESDAY – April 2

**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"
(John 14:6)**

Reading: John 14:1-7

Dear God, thank You for anchoring and establishing our faith on cornerstone statements like this. Thank You for not leaving us confused over who and what we believe. Our faith in You is not left to options, choices and alternatives. You have called us to go on "the way," to believe in the "the truth" and to live "the life." There is absolutely no confusion in this truth. Jesus, help us to have strong and unmovable faith in Your eternal words.

Dear God, we also pray that You would call many of our brothers and sisters to believe in these words of Christ and not to give way to the spirit of confusion. Help our pastors, seminary professors, bishop and laity to be eternally anchored on this truth of Christ. Trusting in Your Holy Spirit to keep our faith alive,

we continue to confess saying that, Jesus, You are the way, the truth and the life.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 19:1–23; Psalm 87; Philemon 1–25

WEDNESDAY – April 3

"I am the vine" (John 15:5)

Reading: John 15:1-11

Dear gracious and loving God, thank You for coming to us through Your son, Jesus Christ. Thank You for speaking to us in very simple and easy to understand statements. You are the vine and we are the branches. We often make the mistake of thinking that we are the main tree and you are one branch of our lives. We repent of that sin and pray that You redeem us from that lie. You are the vine, You are the foundation, You are the solution, You are the source and You are the anchor of our lives.

In this season of Lent, we pray that we get our lives in order and start to acknowledge the truth that you are the tree to which we are engrafted by God's amazing grace. Through our relationships with You, we have completely new lives, new identities and bear new fruits. Keep us attached to You and bless us to live that life of fruitfulness.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 19:24–43; Psalm 88; Hebrews 1:1–7

THURSDAY – April 4

"I am not alone" (John 16:32b)

Reading: John 16:25-33

Dear gracious God, thank You for Your ever-present companionship in our lives. We are never alone because of Your love and Your presence with us. Your presence is our confidence. In Genesis 2:18, Your Word states that it is not good for a man to be

alone. That is not only true for marriage or for human relationships—our lives are empty and vulnerable without You.

In today's Word, You assure us by saying that You are not alone. Your father is always with you. In the same way, we confess today that we are not alone, for You are with us. Nothing can separate us from Your love and from having a strong fellowship and everlasting relationship with You. We are Yours and You are ours. For that we are forever thankful.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 20; Psalm 89; Hebrews 1:8-14

FRIDAY – April 5

"I am the Alpha and the Omega" (Revelation 1:8)

Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

Dear God, we echo Your powerful words spoken in Revelation 1:8 and declare that You are the Alpha and the Omega. There was no one before You and no one will be after You. Our lives are lived in full in between that Alpha and Omega. Through Baptism, You give us a new birth and through Your Word and Communion You give us and assure us of our eternal lives. Thank You for being our Alpha and our Omega.

Lord Jesus, there are billions of people still living in darkness without the knowledge of this liberating truth. Please use us as Your instruments with commitment and dedication to sharing this everlasting truth from our Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 21; Psalm 90; Hebrews 2:1-9

SATURDAY – April 6

"I am he who lives" (Revelation 1:8)

Reading: Philippians 1:19-30

Dear gracious and eternal God, life comes from You. You are the sole source of life. Because You live, we also live in and through You. Even death could not overcome You. During this Lenten season we reflect on that very deep reality of life and death. Pain on the cross, persecution, false accusations, humiliation and death tried to stop and crush life in You.

Dear Jesus, throughout that dark season of pain You gently, humbly and silently went through all of those events. No matter how hard Satan and the world tried to kill You and end Your life, death could never overcome life. Thank You for allowing us to share that life with You. Please help us to grow deeper in our knowledge of that life and our commitment to share that life with others.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 22:1-25; Psalm 91; Hebrews 2:10-18



WEEK

ALMIGHTY GOD,
IN OUR WEAKNESS
TO BE YOUR
FORGIVENESS
THE WORLD.
YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,
FOLLOW YOUR
PROCLAIM YOUR

FIVE

OUR REDEEMER,
WE HAVE FAILED
MESSENGERS OF
AND HOPE IN
RENEW US BY
THAT WE MAY
COMMANDS AND
REIGN OF LOVE.

MONDAY – April 8

**"I am setting before you today"
(Deuteronomy 11:26)**

Reading: Deuteronomy 11:22-32

Dear gracious and everlasting God, today we come before You in worship and praise for Your amazing grace that is leading our lives in such incredible and powerful ways. We are always faced with many choices; however, we are very thankful that You do not leave us to make decisions based on our own understanding.

Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to lead us. Thank You for giving us Your Word to create faith in us. Thank You for Your grace to give us new life. Thank You for Your loving touch that opens our eyes. In all this, when we are faced with crossroads and choices, help us to yield to Your wisdom and Your Holy Spirit. Lord God, help us to never lean on our own understanding.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 23:1–12; Psalm 93; Hebrews 3:12–19

TUESDAY – April 9

**"Blessed are you when
people revile you and persecute you"
(Matthew 5:11)**

Reading: Matthew 5:3-12

Dear gracious, heavenly Father, we are forever grateful for this powerful truth stated in your Word. Today we recall the persecution and pain You went through for our sake. In the midst of that pain and persecution You never retaliated and never turned to bitterness. Please help us to share that life and fill our lives with Your grace to face persecution, trusting in You and humbly serving You.

Today there are millions of people being persecuted for the sake of the Gospel and facing the vicious reality of hate and injustice because of their faith in You. Please help them to stay in the state of being blessed, grant them the grace to bless their enemies

and continue sharing Your life with the world. Thank you for teaching us how to go through persecution through Your Word and through Your actions.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 23:13–39; Psalm 94; Hebrews 4:1–13

WEDNESDAY – April 10

"You will know the truth" (John 8:32)

Reading: John 8:31-39

Dear gracious God, we acknowledge and confess that true and freeing knowledge comes from You. Jesus, You declare to Your disciples that they shall know the truth. You came to make the ultimate truth known. That truth is You! Thank You for revealing Yourself to us.

Dear Jesus, there are many times when our eyes are unable to see, our ears unable to hear and our minds unable to comprehend this truth. As a result, we miss the mark and sin. That sin leads us into bondage. Oh God, send us Your grace and open our minds to understand Scripture and to know You fully. As we know You, that knowledge brings us into total freedom. Thanking You for Your grace, we put our lives in Your hands to lead us into and keep us in that life of freedom in Jesus.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
2 Samuel 24; Psalm 95; Hebrews 4:14–5:10

THURSDAY – April 11

"You know him" (John 14:17)

Reading: John 14:1-17

Dear gracious and loving God, we praise Your name for granting us Your grace to lead us from darkness into that marvelous light of knowing You. Knowing You comes as You reveal Yourself to us fully. Because

of that revelation, we live an amazing life of freedom and joy.

In the Gospels, You invite us to learn from You and even grow in our knowledge of You. Lord Jesus, we want to grow more and more by knowing You and trusting in You. Help us to deepen our commitment to You through discipleship and our fellowship with You and our fellow brothers and sisters on this journey of faith.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
Proverbs 1:1-19; Psalm 96; Hebrews 5:11-6:8

FRIDAY – April 12

"You are the branches" (John 15:5)

John 15:1-11

Dear gracious God, we thank You today for this amazing privilege of having a strong connection with You. We are branches connected to You. You brought us from afar by Your grace. You pulled us closer to Yourself through Your love and You gave us a solid foundation to stand on.

Dear Jesus, today help us to examine our lives and the strength of our relationship with You. Please allow us to prune some of the extra branches growing in our lives that are spreading roots of destruction and becoming a burden to us. Give us lives of repentance and self-examination, marked with confession and absolution. In this season of Lent, help us to be pruned by Your Word and

prepared to be more and more fruitful for Your glory alone.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 97; Hebrews 6:9-20

SATURDAY – April 13

"I have called you friends" (John 15:15)

Reading: John 15:12-17

Dear gracious and loving God, thank You for inviting us into friendship with You. Though we were Your enemies, You saved us and brought us closer to You. You call us Your friends. We are no longer far from You. We have been brought closer to You. We are no longer enemies. We are friends. We are no longer slaves. We are free. We are no longer servants. We are children of God.

Dear Jesus, You are all about relationships. You have invited us to live closer to Your heart and deeply rooted in Your promises. In this season of Lent, help us to examine the depth and truth of our friendship with You, and also with our fellow believers in Jesus.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
Proverbs 2; Psalm 98; Hebrews 7:1-10



H O L Y

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MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK - April 15

"You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8)

Reading: Acts 1:6-11

Dear gracious God, throughout the ages You have never left Yourself without a witness. Right after Your resurrection You gave Your disciples and followers many conclusive proofs of Your resurrection. They were convinced and completely overwhelmed by the evidence. Dear Jesus, please help us to have the same foundation of faith as the disciples—grounded in the everlasting truth of Your bodily resurrection.

Dear Jesus, as believers saved, sanctified and sent into the world, help us to live out our faith as Your witnesses. Your faithful apostles went all around the world spreading Your Good News and sharing the Gospel of Jesus. Please help us to have their conviction and to be Your faithful witnesses from our Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
Proverbs 3:1-18; Psalm 99; Hebrews 7:11-28

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK - April 16

"You are God's temple" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Dear gracious and holy God, we give You thanks for calling us into repentance through your Holy Spirit and for allowing us to receive forgiveness and renewal of life. Thank You for sanctifying our lives and transforming us into Your holy temple, the dwelling place of Your Holy Spirit.

During this Holy week, we acknowledge that Your Son, Jesus Christ, is our holiness. Without Him we have no holiness. Through the painful death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we are made holy. Thank You for removing our sin, debt and burden of judgment. You took all of that upon Yourself to give us the privilege of becoming Your holy temple.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
Proverbs 3:19-35; Psalm 100; Hebrews 8:1-13

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK - April 17

**"You are the body of Christ"
(1 Corinthians 12:27)**

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Dear gracious heavenly Father, through the promise of Baptism You have bestowed a new identity upon us. We are no longer aliens or foreigners separated from You. We are now called and cleansed through the work of Jesus on the cross.

Dear Jesus, thank You for calling us into such a close relationship with You. Thank You for giving us Your body and blood. Through Your powerful Word and Sacrament, we are now the Body of Christ. Thank You for making us one body. Help us, through Your Holy Spirit, to always serve and worship You, embraced and established by Your Body.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:
Proverbs 4; Psalm 101; Hebrews 9:1-10

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 18

"I am your shield" (Genesis 15:1)

Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Dear gracious and loving God, we are often faced with fear and doubt. At times we feel forgotten and forsaken. Just like Jesus in Gethsemane, we struggle with the bitterness and cruelty of life. There are times when we feel distant and separated from You. Oh God, thank You for these words spoken to Abraham.

Today we believe in these words and confess that You are our Shield. Nothing can break through our Shield and harm us. We are saved by Your grace, forever. Therefore, our lives are fully covered, and nothing can come and snatch us from Your hands.

Even during the darkest hours, as when Jesus on the cross cried out, "Eloi, Eloi Lama Sabachtani" ... "My God, My God why have you forsaken me," You are with us and You are our Shield. Our life is in Your hands and under Your grace.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; John 13:1-17

GOOD FRIDAY – April 19

"God ... made us alive" (Ephesians 2:4-5)

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Dear gracious and holy God, thank You for declaring these words of life in the midst of pain and death. Even while we were dying and dead in our sins, You called us to be alive. We thank You for giving us life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today, as we are completing our Lenten journey, help us to remember and be anchored in the powerful truth of God's Word. Your Word declares life in the midst of death and light in the midst of darkness.

Jesus, thank You for going to the cross and thank You for dying our death. Because of You we are called to be alive. You are life, and life comes only from You.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

Isaiah 53; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 19:17-30

HOLY SATURDAY – April 20

"You are a chosen race" (1 Peter 2:9)

Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Dear gracious and heavenly Father, You are our God with the power and the authority to choose and grant a new race. We thank You, holy God, for making us a chosen race through the powerful blood of Jesus Christ that was poured into our lives.

Gracious Jesus, in our fallen nature and in our sin, we were far from the covenant, never connected to the holy God. Through Your death, You washed away our sins, renewed our lives, and granted us a new name and identity. Today we are declared a chosen race. Please help us to always be thankful for Your amazing saving grace and help us to use this new name and nature to serve Your holy Church in total dedication and submission.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Reading the Word of God Daily Readings:

Proverbs 5; Psalm 102; Hebrews 9:11-28



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