

Lenten Devotionals 2022

Week 2



Wednesday – March 9

Scripture – Luke 22: 14-20: When the hour had come, Jesus took a place at the table with the apostles. Jesus said to them, “I’ve longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I tell you, I will not eat it again until everything is fulfilled in the reign of God”. Then taking a cup of wine, Jesus gave thanks and said, “take this and share it among you. I tell you I will not drink wine from now on, until the reign of God comes.” Then Jesus took bread and gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying “This is my body, which will be given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Jesus did the same with the cup after supper and said, “this cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which will be poured out for you.”

Reflection – Every Sunday for centuries, the Paschal meal brought Christian community together to celebrate the awareness of the mandate “do this in remembrance of me”. How does sharing communion within community keep this mandate from Christ a living and vibrant one?
Prayer – God of community, may we put aside our differences to focus on you and on the direct teachings of Christ, rather than keeping ourselves divided over issues that do not concern

the heart of God. Through the merciful Christ, we pray. Amen.

Thursday – March 10

Scripture – Matthew 20: 17-23: Then the mother of Zebedee’s children brought James and John to Jesus, and knelt down to beg a favor of him. “What do you want?” Jesus asked. She answered “Promise me that in your kingdom these children of mine will sit, one at your right hand and the other at your left.” Jesus replied, “Do you know what you are asking? Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?” “We can,” they said. “Very well,” said Jesus, “you will drink my cup. But as for seats at my right hand and my left, these are not mine to give. They belong to those for whom they’ve been prepared by my Abba God.”

Reflection – There is a significant difference between Easter and Passover. Lent is designed to prepare us, and the Passover is a sign of salvation. Easter is the sign of “God with us”; past, present and future. This is the life-breath of faith in a life in Christ. How can you renew your commitment to the life of Resurrection through these ways of healing the soul?

Prayer - God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.



"Lent is not something we do for God – Lent is something we do *with* God."

Friday – March 11

Scripture – Mark 1: 12-13: Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for 40 days and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

Reflection – Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness inspired our call to journey with Jesus toward the cross through Lent. Have you seen examples of the angels looking after you as you have been on this journey so far?

Prayer - Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saturday – March 12

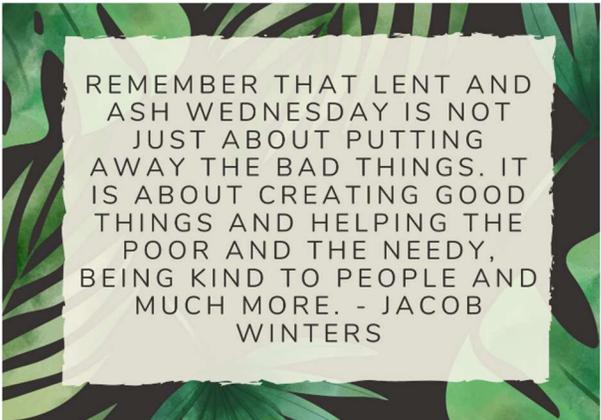
Scripture – Mark 2: 18-22: Now John's disciples and the Pharisees fasted regularly. Some people came to Jesus with the objection, "why do John's disciples and those of the Pharisees fast, while yours don't?" Jesus replied, "How can wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is still among them? So long as the bridegroom stays with them, they cannot fast. The day will come, however, when the bridegroom will be taken away; on that day they will fast. No one sews a patch of

unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. Otherwise, the patch pulls away from it; the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Similarly, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If one does, the wine will burst the skins, and both wine and skins will be lost. No, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

Reflection – Fasting is common in every major world religion. It encourages the seeker to distinguish between self-control and our human compulsion toward self-satisfaction. This distinction gives us an edge in our capacity for spiritual concentration. In Lent, how have you seen your own weak places, the wounds in your soul? Have you been encouraged to live beyond your base aspirations?

Prayer - God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

Sunday – March 13 – Join us in person or online for Sunday worship!!



REMEMBER THAT LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY IS NOT JUST ABOUT PUTTING AWAY THE BAD THINGS. IT IS ABOUT CREATING GOOD THINGS AND HELPING THE POOR AND THE NEEDY, BEING KIND TO PEOPLE AND MUCH MORE. - JACOB WINTERS

Monday – March 14

Scripture – Mark 1: 14b-15: Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

Reflection – Lent confronts us with what we have become and prods us to do better. We open our hearts to God in the hope that, this time, we will hear, see and experience life anew with God’s vision as our guide. Jot down the possibilities of what humanity might become as a result of this resurrection invitation?

Prayer – Help us God, in this season of repentance and healing, may we we accept your invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world. Fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our foolish desires and the tempter's vain delights, that we may walk in obedience and righteousness, rejoicing in you with an upright heart. Amen.

Tuesday – March 15

Scripture – Matthew 16: 24-28: Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self? The promised One will come in the glory of Abba God accompanied by the angels, and will repay all according to their conduct. The trust is, some of you standing here will not taste death before you see the coming of the Promised One’s reign.”

Reflection – Lent might be a personal journey, but we also find ourselves in a long unending procession of those across time who have set out to walk to the Jerusalem of their own lives with the Jesus who shows us all how to go there. What do you think and feel about being a part of such a great sainthood of witnesses of the faithful throughout time?

Prayer - God of deliverance and freedom, you taught the people of Israel to acknowledge that all things come from your bountiful hand. Deepen our faith so that we may resist temptation and, in the midst of trial, proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, now and for ever. Amen.

