

ASH WEDNESDAY



Turning Our Hearts

Loving God,
you call us to return to you
with our whole heart.
We stand before you now,
seeking your kindness,
and ask that you lead us to conversion,

and make holy our lives.
During this season of mercy,
guide us with your grace,
give us a clean heart,
and grant us your peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Even Now



Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18. Have you ever walked by someone with ashes on the head and said, “Happy Lent” or “Merry Ash Wednesday”? It’s likely you have not. Few associate happiness with Lent. But what do we hear in today’s readings? “Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart.” This Lent, once again, God calls us to return to unending forgiveness and unconditional love. God knows we have sinned, he knows that there have been times when we failed to live as disciples of his Son. And even now, at this moment in our lives, God wants us to turn our lives over to him and live

in the light of the love of his Son. What would be more joyful than basking in the goodness of God’s unending love and mercy?

When we pray, give alms, and fast, Jesus asks us not to look glum or make a display of our generosity. He invites us to live authentic lives and not be like the hypocrites. Today’s readings challenge us to be aware of our sinfulness, to know that when we say that we are sorry, forgiveness will be ours. Lenten practices offer an opportunity to ask God to create a clean heart within us, so that we can bring the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord to all people. Even now, especially now.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 28 Inheriting Eternal Life

Treasure in heaven is not measured in numbers, wealth, or possessions. God invites us over and over to turn toward Jesus and follow him. In these days leading up to Lent, set aside time to prepare for this season of repentance and baptismal renewal. What will you let go of, detach yourself from, and surrender to, in order to have a fruitful and meaningful Lent? *Today's readings: 1 Peter 1:3–9; Psalm 111:1–2, 5–6, 9 and 10c; Mark 10:17–27.*

Tuesday, March 1 For the Sake of the Gospel

Peter seems to express frustration with having given up everything to follow Jesus. Jesus' way is to rely solely on God. When our life is for the sake of the Gospel, we will receive more than we can imagine. Jesus' words contain a challenge, and this Lent can help us deepen our understanding that love, sacrifice, joy, and sorrow are all part of life. Decide today how to schedule prayer time for every day of Lent. *Today's readings: 1 Peter 1:10–16; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Mark 10:28–31.*

Wednesday, March 2 Our Whole Heart

Through the prophet Joel, God invites us to rend our hearts this day, and return to the everlasting love that has no bounds, no limits, no conditions. Our heavenly Father asks us to return with our whole heart, and not make a lukewarm response to this invitation. Fully embrace this holy season of Lent, which gives us a chance to refocus our priorities and redirect our energies, so that we can follow Jesus. *Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18.*

Thursday, March 3 A Life of Discipleship

Each of us makes hundreds of choices daily, from what to wear to how to regard the people who come into our lives. St. Katharine Drexel, whose feast day is today, treated people of every race with respect and cared for those whom society shunned. She chose discipleship over a life of privilege. Make an effort today to lose your life for the sake of the cross and, in so doing, choose life. This Lent can be a time to commit to a transformation in your life. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, and 6; Luke 9:22–25.*

Friday, March 4 Cleanse My Heart

The Church prays Psalm 51 often during Lent. The psalm is one of the great laments in the Book of Psalms, part of the wisdom literature in the Bible. While praying a lament, we join the psalmist in a plea for mercy and forgiveness. As you pray Psalm 51 today, notice how your heart responds to the moving words that believers have prayed for over two millennia. *Today's readings: Isaiah 58:1–9a; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 18–19; Matthew 9:14–15.*

Saturday, March 5 Teach Me Your Way

The prophet Isaiah says, “If you lavish your food on the hungry / and satisfy the afflicted; / Then your light shall rise in the darkness.” Who has shown you that “your light shall rise” by acting justly and removing oppressive words from speech? Who has given you courage to follow Jesus even when others may ignore their faith? Make an effort today to express your gratitude to those persons for the truth they have shared. Decide how you will share that truth with someone else today. *Today's readings: Isaiah 58:9b–14; Psalm 86:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Luke 5:27–32.*



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



An Answer to Our Cry

Merciful God,
you are always near
to those who call upon you.
You heard the cry of your chosen people
and led them out of Egypt.
You hear our cry when we are in trouble
and lead us away from temptation.
Fill us with your Spirit
and bring us closer to your Son, Jesus,
finding mercy, forgiveness,
and fullness of life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 6, 2022
Trusting in God



Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:4–10; Psalm 91:1–2, 10–11, 12–13, 4–15; Romans 10:8–13; Luke 4:1–13. Each year on the First Sunday of Lent, we hear the account of Jesus spending forty days in the desert. From the Gospel we learn that our Lord didn't just wander into this desolate land but was led by the Spirit. Jesus trusted that the Spirit would help him through the difficult time ahead.

After long days and nights of fasting in the desert, Jesus was hungry when the devil appeared. The devil challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread, to worship him, and to test God's loving care. At every turn, Jesus knew the Spirit was within him, and that his Father was close.

Confident that he would receive strength to sustain him, he did not yield to temptation.

In the first reading, we hear the prayer that the Israelite said while offering the firstfruits of the harvest. This prayer told of trust in God, who heard the cry of the afflicted, brought the Israelites out of Egypt, and led his people to a land of milk and honey. During Lent, we learn again to place our trust in God, for as St. Paul says in the second reading, "Everyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved." When we cry out in distress, as our ancestors did, we will be heard. With such knowledge, we pray with the psalmist, "Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 7

Whatever You Did for the Least

Catholic social teaching is grounded in the parable of the sheep and goats we hear in today's Gospel. When Jesus comes in his glory, he will gather those who have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the imprisoned, and given drink to the thirsty. Do something this week that benefits those who are poor, hungry, or forgotten. Make sandwiches, donate to a food pantry, or schedule a time to serve a meal at a local dining hall that tends to those less fortunate. *Today's readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

Tuesday, March 8

Word and Will

When Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, he draws parallels to how we are to live. When we do the will of God in heaven, glory is given to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh. Every time the Our Father is prayed, we ask that God's will be done just as it is done in heaven. How can you help ensure that God's will is done on earth today? *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, March 9

Forgive Us Our Sins

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of an "evil generation." Our generation is another among many that could be labeled the same. Racism, sexism, and ageism lead to injustice. Life is not valued from conception to natural death. Pray to the God of all goodness and compassion, and ask that our collective offenses be washed clean, that we repent of our societal sins, and that we begin to create a new world and live with humble and contrite hearts. *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, March 10

Be Attentive

In the reading from Esther, the anguished queen cries out to the Lord to save her from enemies. The psalmist responds confidently in the Lord, proclaiming, "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." Daily, we hear pleas for help at home, work, and even during recreation. When tired or preoccupied, it is easy to tune out these cries for assistance. Be attentive to those who need help, knowing that your behavior is imitating the goodness of God. *Today's readings: Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; Matthew 7:7–12.*

Friday, March 11

Reconciliation

Jesus, in today's Gospel, tells his disciples that more is necessary than obedience to the commandments. The Lord expects us not only to refrain from harming another but to seek reconciliation when a relationship has fractured. After making peace with another, our worship to God can be authentic. Take time to examine your relationships and write a letter to someone to whom you need to apologize. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, March 12

Blessed Are They

The responsorial psalm proclaims, "Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord." The command that Jesus gives his followers is to love those who persecute them. Jesus instructs that even the pagans and the tax collectors love those who love them. God lets the sun rise on the good and the bad. Christians, who are called to "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect," are to love when it is difficult. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



The Glory of God

God of our ancestors,
your glory shines through
all generations,
and brings forth life.
You offer us salvation in your Son,
our Lord Jesus;
in you we shall not fear.
Strengthen our resolve to imitate
your Son,
speak of the power of your love,
and share the good news.
Help us stand firm
and shine your light and love
to all we encounter.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Deep and Real Prayer



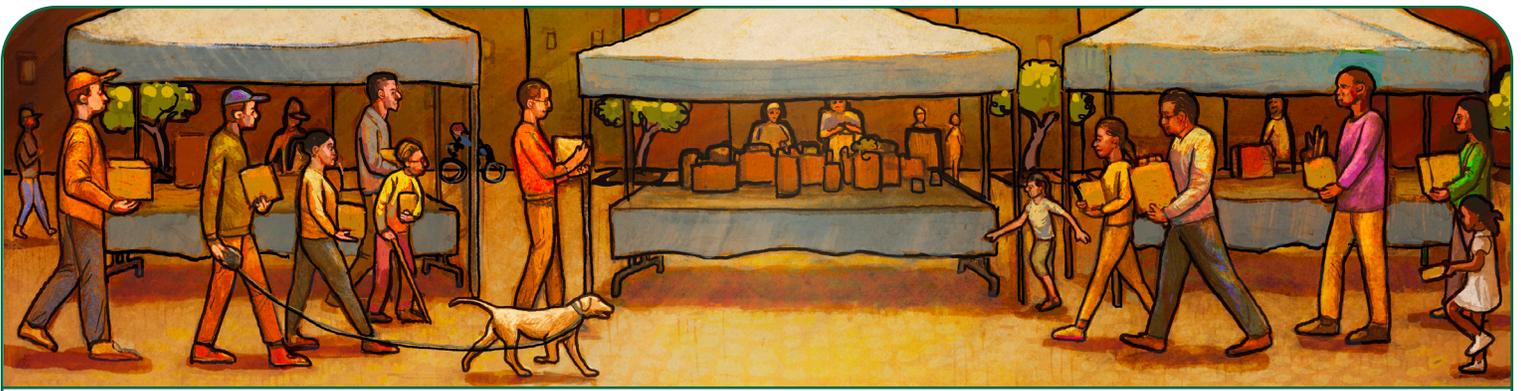
Today's readings: Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Psalm 27:1, 7–8, 8–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 9:28b–36. In Luke's account of the Transfiguration, we hear these words: "Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray." The sole focus of the climb of the mountain was prayer.

What a stunning and revelatory moment it was for Peter, John, and James to experience Jesus praying deeply, changing in appearance, and even his clothes turning dazzling white. Seeing Jesus in his fullness, the apostles witnessed their friend's divinity. They were speechless when they heard God say, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

As we begin the second week of Lent, consider how Jesus prioritized prayer and the place it holds in your life.

Do you set aside time for prayer? Do you allow space to be silent before God? Examine your schedule to determine a time for prayer.

St. Paul tells us in the second reading that "our citizenship is in heaven." There, Christ will change our bodies to "conform with his glorified body." But he tells them first that they need to imitate the holy life that he has set before them, changing their focus from earthly things. Help yourself focus this week on heavenly things by praying the psalm from today and contemplating the refrain, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 14

Share Mercy

Today's Gospel calls us to "be merciful." Merciful actions beget mercy. "The measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you," Jesus tells the disciples. Act on one of the seven corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, give alms to the poor. *Today's readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, March 15

Truly Humble

People often tout their accomplishments and their status. Jesus' message today is contrary to such behavior. He tells us that the greatest among us must be a servant, and that those who are humble will be exalted. Seek to be conscious of whether you are boastful. When we act as the person God created us to be, there is no need to boast, for each one of us is made in God's image and likeness. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21, and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, March 16

Service

Jeremiah was a young prophet. When first called by God, he didn't want the job. He knew it would be tough to challenge people who were not following God's ways. Christians today can be wary of taking on their call as disciples. Jesus asks us to serve without seeking favor. For many of us such service is difficult. How will you follow Jesus today by serving others? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, March 17

Priorities

Lying at the rich man's door, Lazarus would have liked to receive any bit of food. The rich man did not heed the poor any more than he was attentive to Moses and the prophets. Many things vie for our attention. Where do you put your focus: on Christian teachings and Scripture or on more earthly things? Make a list today of your top ten priorities. Where does God fall on the list? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, and 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 18

Faith during Adversity

Jealousy, hatred, vengeful feelings are strong human emotions that can be at the root of poor choices. Cyril of Jerusalem, whose feast day is today, was treated unjustly by his contemporaries but remained faithful. He was the bishop of Jerusalem and later named a doctor of the church. He is known for his homilies that prepared catechumens for initiation into the Church. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary

As we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we hear in the Gospel that Joseph is "a righteous man" unwilling to expose Mary to shame. When an angel visited Joseph in a dream, he showed great trust and confidence in God's plan for him and Mary. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church. Pray through the intercession of St. Joseph today, mindful of his example of faith. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a.*



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Make Us Whole

God of our longing,
your love surpasses all understanding.
Humbly repentant,
we ask for your mercy in our
Lenten journey.
Though we have failed to love others,
and you above all,

we pray for a new heart.
Though we have fallen,
feel broken and lonely,
you call us to return to you,
and we desire to be made whole.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Another Chance



Today's readings: Exodus 3:1–8a, 13–15; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 7–8, 11; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10–12; Luke 13:1–9. Jesus often taught through parables, stories that illustrate truths and moral principles through everyday encounters, situations, and activities.

Today, the parable comes from the world of agriculture. A fig tree has not borne any fruit for several years. The owner wants to cut it down, but the gardener wants to give it another chance, providing especially good care to it for another year. If after receiving increased attention the tree does not bear fruit, it will be cut down. Just as the gardener is willing to spend more time cultivating the fig tree, God

will offer us many chances to change our lives. It is up to us to allow God's love to nourish us so that we can bear good fruit. Where do you need to be open to God's intervention in your life? Will you seek God to change your heart to mend a relationship or to help another person in need?

God graciously welcomes us when we repent and desire to be more of who we are called to be. Allowing Jesus to cultivate the soil of our hearts brings growth. As we give our hearts to the Lord, our compassion, generosity, and humility will increase. With changed hearts, we gain more clarity about the meaning and purpose of our lives, and will spread God's love to others.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 21

Attending to the Ordinary

The Gospel today notes how those with no status, such as an unknown widow, a leper, and a man from Nazareth, were overlooked. No one saw their greatness. The living God works in and through every part of creation, most notably through human beings. Pay attention to all the ways that God presents himself to you in ordinary ways—the sunrise, a budding plant, the person behind the counter when you get lunch, the laugh of a family member. *Today's readings:* 2 Kings 5:1–15ab; Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24–30.

Tuesday, March 22

How Many Times?

How many times should we forgive? Jesus says seventy-seven times. Furthermore, he doesn't mean an exact count either! If we are to expect God to forgive us, we must be willing to forgive others. Set aside time today for journaling, reflecting upon, and writing about any grudges you are holding or past grievances you have not released. Forgive in your heart, and vow to keep the grievance in the past. *Today's readings:* Daniel 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8 and 9; Matthew 18:21–35.

Wednesday, March 23

The Greatest

Greatness often is associated with accomplishments, athleticism, or scholarship. Jesus presents another vision in the Gospel. He tells us that to be the greatest in the kingdom, we need only to follow God's commandments and teach others to do the same. The best way to teach is by example. Be mindful that your actions and words show love for God and your neighbor. *Today's readings:* Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.

Thursday, March 24

Listen, and Listen Again

Jesus strongly tells us that a kingdom divided against itself cannot survive. If hearts are hardened against God's Word, we cannot be unified—as a community, a country, or a Church. Pray for unity today, that we will listen to the voice of God and open our hearts to God and one another. *Today's readings:* Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2; 6–7; 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.

Friday, March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

Today we hear the story of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel, when Mary said yes to God's will. Mary's courage, faithfulness, and humility are examples for all seeking to live as disciples. The annunciation is the first of the joyful mysteries. (The other mysteries are the visitation, the nativity, the presentation in the temple, and the finding in the temple.) Pray the Rosary, reflecting on each joyful mystery. *Today's readings:* Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.

Saturday, March 26

Steadfast Love

The Pharisee was sure of his worthiness, while the tax collector was just as sure of his sinfulness. Though the Pharisee fasted, paid tithes, and kept the law, it was the tax collector who went home justified. Our God of steadfast love and mercy welcomes back sinners who seek forgiveness. Do not be afraid to acknowledge your sins and receive God's mercy and forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation. Check neighboring parishes and your own for schedules for confession. God will heal and bind up the wounds of contrite sinners. *Today's readings:* Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Returning to You

Loving God,
you are compassionate and forgiving,
showing us mercy through all time.
We bless you, God of goodness,
for you hear our cry,
and reach out in our distress.
As your holy people,
we ask that you hear our prayer
for a clean heart and a renewed spirit,
so that we may turn back to you
and receive your everlasting peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 27, 2022
Lavish and Bountiful Mercy



Today's readings: Joshua 5:9a, 10–12; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32. A loving father with property and some wealth. A son who is steadfast but jealous. A son who is unsettled and wanders. In today's language, the family in the Gospel parable might be called “dysfunctional.”

This family is not very different from today's families whose members exhibit a mix of jealousy, misbehavior, and mercy. After the younger son squanders his inheritance, he returns to his home with humility. The father greets the son, pouring out his love and mercy, and the son's return is celebrated with much feasting. However, the older son, because of

his jealousy, is blinded to his father's goodness, and selfishly questions the father's decisions. This son who has worked hard for his father does not realize what has been right in front of him for his entire life. The father in the story wants to share his wealth and life and love with both of his children, but pride gets in the way for the older son. With humility, the younger son accepts his father's forgiveness.

At times in our lives any of us might act as the younger son, at other times as the older son, and sometimes like the father. God is consistent, always offering unending love and mercy. He always seeks to find the lost and offer life to those once dead to sin.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 28 Seek the Miracle

With faith, the royal official asked Jesus to heal his son. Upon the son's healing, the whole household came to believe. Do you have a request for God? Realize that God is awaiting your petition. Look for Jesus today, for God is creating new heavens and a new earth at every moment. Find a miracle that unfolds for you today, however small, and share that with someone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54. Optional for any day this week: Micah 7:7–9; Psalm 27:1, 7–8a, 8b–9abc, 13–14; John 9:1–41.*

Tuesday, March 29 You Are Near

“The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob,” we pray with the psalmist today. The psalm tells of the “astounding things” God has wrought on the earth. In the Gospel, the Lord certainly was with the sick man who had been unable to enter the pool. There we see the God of mercy who restores the man to wholeness. Trusting in God's presence, pray the refrain of today's psalm throughout the day. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6; 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

Wednesday, March 30 So Also the Son

In today's Gospel, Jesus states that “a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing.” Jesus, the Son, does not do anything except through the power of God. What Jesus knows and sees the Father doing, Jesus will do. Who has taught you how to live as a Christian? Write a letter or call the person to acknowledge and thank them for their example. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

Thursday, March 31 Whom Do You Believe?

Many words and images come at us daily. Social media, news outlets, conversations with colleagues and friends flood us with messages. Jesus describes the many witnesses to his identity and power, but his listeners still don't trust all that he has to offer. What helps you believe that Jesus is the Savior? What keeps you focused on his message of truth? Make a point to name and claim that this week. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

Friday, April 1 Ever Close

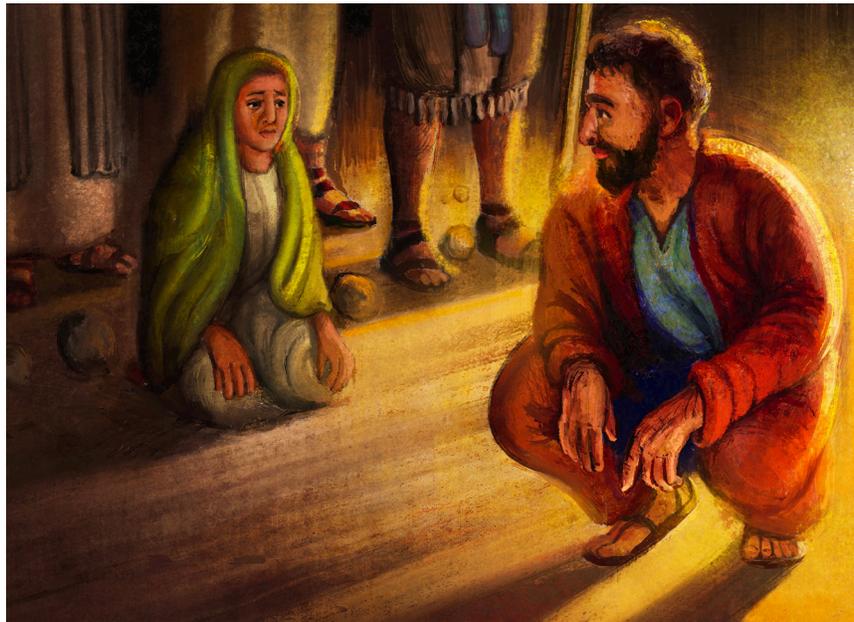
Have you ever felt brokenhearted? Do you know someone who is? Today's psalm reminds us that God is always close to those in need, to those struggling, and to anyone in distress. Be especially attentive to show kindness to people you meet. Many people are struggling silently. Your compassionate presence will be a sharing of your faith in our loving and merciful God. *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

Saturday, April 2 Unite in Christ

In today's Gospel, we hear of a division occurring as people argued over whether Jesus is the Christ. Today, many people hostilely debate matters of Christianity. A visible sign of the reign of God is unity, which can be sometimes hard to achieve even in a parish. Talk about unity with your family or a friend and make a commitment to help unite people as the people of God rather than create any further divisions. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



An Inward Gaze

Loving and merciful God,
you are steadfast and unwavering
in drawing us to yourself.
Hold us in mercy
as we look within
and discover how we need to change.

Give us the courage
to eliminate all judgment from our hearts.
Grant us the grace
to continue moving toward
what lies ahead, being one with you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 3, 2022

No Judgment, Know Jesus



Today's readings: Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philippians 3:8–14; John 8:1–11. Jesus' lesson to the crowd early in the morning changed when a woman was brought before him. Placing the woman in the middle of the crowd, the Pharisees tested Jesus by stating the charge of adultery and the punishment: "Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

The few words Jesus used, along with his actions, taught the crowd about withholding judgment and showing compassion. Challenging the Pharisees to look within themselves, Jesus responded: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." To the woman, he showed compassion and support, telling her, "Neither do I

condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." Those who tried to entrap the Lord left one by one. The woman was able to walk away with her dignity restored.

God may work in unexpected ways but always acts with justice and compassion. Even in the desert, in a difficult relationship, in the middle of struggle and distress, God can make a way for us that leads to joy and fulfillment. Jesus invites us to look within and make needed changes so that we grow in holiness and steadfast faith. As followers of Christ, we are to mirror his actions by withholding judgment and acting compassionately.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 4 I Know, Do You?

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "I know where I came from and where I am going." In the first reading, from Daniel, Susanna clearly knows who she is, and stands firm though she knows she will face serious consequences for her righteous decision. As you make your way through the week, notice how you claim your identity as a Christian in your words and actions. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a; 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:12-20.*

Tuesday, April 5 He Spoke

Many came to believe because of the way Jesus spoke. He taught with a new authority and he spoke with words rooted in the Father. His direct and assured manner of relating to others attracted followers looking for the truth and repelled those who wanted to remain in power. Does the way you speak attract people to Christianity? *Today's readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30.*

Wednesday, April 6 Be Set Free

All of us sin, and at some points in our lives, may become slaves to sin. Jesus shares his life with us, sets us free from sin, and invites us to live in the truth. The sacrament of reconciliation allows people to begin anew in freedom each time sins are confessed. Set a time for you and your family to receive this sacrament of healing. *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

Thursday, April 7 Life in the Covenant

Over and over again, Jesus is challenged by the authorities, and, repeatedly, he shares that he is who he says he is. He is the new covenant, and in him we receive eternal life. The Lord keeps his covenant forever. Journal today about how you keep your side of the covenant with the Lord. Do you attend Mass, pray regularly, offer service, work for justice? *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

Friday, April 8 The Lord Is with Us

Long before Jesus gets to Jerusalem and endures his passion, leaders try to trap him and find reasons to arrest him. Jeremiah deals with similar persecution. Even in the darkness of terror and wickedness, God is present with us. Pray the stations of the cross with your parish family, or in your home today. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

Saturday, April 9 Where Am I?

Holy Week begins tomorrow. The time has come for Jesus to move toward Jerusalem. Take stock of your Lent so far. Have you made any changes in your life? How is your prayer life as compared to the beginning of this season? Write down several spiritual goals as we step into the most holy of weeks in our tradition. Make plans to set aside time to participate in the services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Merciful Messiah

Almighty God,
look with mercy on your people,
and grant us forgiveness.
Increase our faith
as we honor Jesus, our messiah,
who brings us to new life in you.

May we praise you with our whole heart,
following the humble example of your Son.
Take away our sinfulness
and lead us to the joy of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 10, 2022

True Love



Today's readings: Luke 19:28–40; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Luke 22:14–23:56. In the celebration of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, the tenor of the readings begins with joyous acclaims of hosanna to later change to horrifying calls for Jesus' death. On this Sunday, the Gospel reading of the procession portrays crowds regarding Jesus as a king, but in the Gospel during the Liturgy of the Word, our Lord is mocked.

No matter how the people treated Jesus, he was true to himself and the mission God gave him. As St. Paul tells us in the Letter to the Philippians, "he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death." When Jesus was

about to be arrested, he healed the high priest's servant and called on his disciples to refrain from violence. And when asked if he is the Christ, Jesus only responded by saying, "You say so."

In his passion, Jesus teaches us that no matter the circumstance, we are to remain true to the person God has created us to be. Through such authentic living, we carry our cross, turn from our old way of living, and allow our heart to be open to God. Luke's account of the Gospel records that all of Jesus' "acquaintances stood at a distance." As we observe his passion and death today, we can stand by his cross, acclaiming in our hearts, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 11 Servant to All

Our first reading is a part of the servant songs in the Book of Isaiah. These are also known as the songs of the suffering servant; the others are found in Isaiah 49, 50, and 52–53. The prophecies within these songs point to Jesus, who brought justice and peace to all people and yet endured great suffering for us. Give thanks to Jesus today by serving another without counting the cost to you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 42:1–7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13–14; John 12:1–11.*

Tuesday, April 12 Chrism Mass

During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the Chrism Mass, at which the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick are blessed, and the sacred chrism is consecrated for use that year. Pray for all priests, who serve the people of God in parishes and diocese around the world through the administration of the sacraments and in countless other ways. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 71:1–2–4a, 5ab–6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21–33, 36–38.*

Wednesday, April 13 Betrayals

Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and later regretted his actions. Jesus knew that a close friend would turn him over to the authorities. All of us have made unkind comments or poor choices that have betrayed, hurt, or defamed another person. Take quiet prayer time today to pray for those you have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive yourself for what you said or did, and for his grace of unending mercy. *Today's readings: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 69:8–10, 21–22, 31 and 33–34; Matthew 26:14–25.*

Thursday, April 14 Servant Leadership

During the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Church celebrates Jesus' gift of the Eucharist but also the Lord's modeling of servant leadership. During the Passover meal, Jesus, "fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power," bent to wash the feet of his disciples. Enter into the Sacred Paschal Triduum tonight by participating at Mass in your parish. *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Exodus 12:1–8, 11–14; Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16bc, 17–18; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–15.*

Friday, April 15 All for You

Jesus died on the cross to raise us to new life in the Spirit. As Christians, we are called to commend our spirit to God, and fully surrender our lives to him. Pray with a sincere heart today, remembering all that Jesus has done for you. *Celebration of the Lord's Passion: Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12–13, 15–16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9; John 18:1–19:42.*

Saturday, April 16 Most Holy Night

At the Easter Vigil, the high point of the liturgical year, those who have been preparing for the initiation sacraments received baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist. Pray with and welcome these new members of the Church. *Today's readings: Genesis 1:1–2:2; Psalm 104:1–2, 5–6, 10, 12, 13–14, 24, 35 or Psalm 33:4–5, 6–7, 12–13, 20–22; Genesis 22:1–18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11; Exodus 14:15–15:1; Exodus 15:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 17–18; Isaiah 54:5–14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Isaiah 55:1–11; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Baruch 3:9–15, 32–4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezra 3:16–17a, 18–28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6 or Psalm 51:12–13, 14–15, 18–19; Romans 6:3–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Luke 24:1–12.*

