



The
SEASON
OF
LENT

The title is rendered in a mix of fonts: 'The' is in a simple sans-serif, 'SEASON' is in a decorative, rounded serif, 'OF' is in a simple sans-serif, and 'LENT' is in a tall, narrow, blocky sans-serif. The text is framed by a crown of thorns at the top and bottom. Thick, black, horizontal brushstrokes are placed behind the words 'SEASON' and 'LENT'.

**Daily Devotional
For 2020**

May you take time to daily connect with God, to ponder scripture and pray. You might do this alone, with a friend, or a group. The questions and prayer prompts are suggestions for ways to stretch your thinking and your prayers. Thanksgiving is part of prayer that is not prompted here; you are invited to give thanks along with these prompts. May God bless you on your journey through this Lenten season.

- **Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020**
- **Thursday, February 27, 2020:** “⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.” ~ Jonah 3: 5
 - When can you say your belief in God has helped you?
 - When did your faith change your behavior?
 - Pray for your faith to be called on and active today.
- **Friday, February 28, 2020:** “¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?” ~Jonah 4: 10-11
 - When did you have a concern about something which was not your concern?
 - What people do you not value as God does?
 - Pray for your concerns to be aligned with God’s love for all creation.
- **Saturday, February 29, 2020:**” ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the

naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.” Isaiah 58: 6-9

- What disciplines do you strive to practice?
- Have you ever known yourself to “answer God’s call” to you? What might that be like?
- Pray that you might notice a place and be empowered to share God’s love in new ways.

- **Sunday, March 1, 2020: First Sunday in Lent**

- **Monday, March 2, 2020:** “¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.” ~Hebrews 2: 18

- What do you think Jesus’ suffering was like?
- Have you ever felt tested in your faith?
- Pray that you might be faithful through any suffering you might undergo.

- **Tuesday, March 3, 2020:** “⁶The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Genesis 4: 6-7

- Faithfulness is difficult, particularly when our emotions become strong. Think of a time when you were passionate. Could you be said to have been faithful in those moments?
- Do you ever feel judged? What is your response to your perception?

- Pray for the wisdom to let go of your fears and sense of inadequacy.
- **Wednesday, March 4, 2020:** “Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.” ~Matthew 14: 10
 - Whom do you despise?
 - Do you believe in angels?
 - Pray that you have the insight to see God in every person.
- **Thursday, March 5, 2020:** “⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1: 7
 - Is it difficult for you to be bold in sharing your faith?
 - How do “power, love, and self-discipline” fit into your life of faith?
 - Pray for the ability to be bold in sharing God’s love.
- **Friday, March 6, 2020** “¹⁸Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. ¹⁹He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰You will show faithfulness” Micah 7: 18-20a
 - Do you truly believe that God pardons your iniquity and passes over your transgressions?
 - What does God’s faithfulness mean to you?
 - Pray for the ability to truly forgive yourself as God has forgiven you.

- **Saturday, March 7, 2020:** “¹I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121: 1
 - When are you feel like you need to look to God?
 - What does it mean to you that God comes to give you help?
 - Pray for the humility to ask God for help and the quiet to receive God’s help.
- **Sunday, March 8, 2020: Second Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 9, 2020:** “⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.” Numbers 21: 7
 - When have you spoken against the Lord?
 - What prayer do you say when you repent?
 - Pray for the ability to know when you have not practiced faithfulness and the ability to talk to God about it.
- **Tuesday, March 10, 2020:** “²⁴Before (the people) call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear, (says the Lord).” Isaiah 65: 24
 - God is so great, God knows your need before you ask. Why, then, do we ask God for anything?
 - What does it mean to you that God knows your need, even before you ask?
 - Pray for the ability to trust and believe that God will provide for you.
- **Wednesday, March 11, 2020:**” Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a

stone at her.”⁸ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.⁹ When they heard it, they went away, one by one.” John 7: 6b-9a

- Have you ever put someone down and realized that you, then, are guilty of a similar transgression?
- Do you ever pause before passing judgement?
- Pray for the ability to pause and consider before you take a stance.
- **Thursday, March 12, 2020:**²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith” Colossians 1: 21-23
 - What does the phrase, “die daily to sin” mean to you?
 - How do you understand Jesus presenting you “holy and blameless and irreproachable before God?”
 - Pray for the hope of living as a person who lives in resurrection knowledge.
- **Friday, March 13, 2020** “¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.” ~Ephesians 2: 15-16
 - Jesus’ “one new humanity” is understood to be the law of love alone. How difficult is it for you to live the law of love?
 - What hostility do you have to death and dying to your sinful ways?

- Pray for God to open you to seeing the world through a lens of love.
- **Saturday, March 14, 2020:** “⁶O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!” ~Psalm 95
 - What does “worship” mean to you?
 - Why do we need to “kneel” before the Lord?
 - Pray for awareness of places to be humble and open to seeing God in your daily life.
- **Sunday, March 15, 2020: Third Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 16, 2020:** “let us love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment just as you have heard it from the beginning—you must walk in it.” 2 John 1: 5b-6
 - What does “love” mean to you?
 - How do rules and guidelines fit into your idea of love?
 - Pray for the ability to love in healthy ways.
- **Tuesday, March 17, 2020:** “I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.” 1Corinthians 10:1-4
 - Where in your journey have you traveled with a group of people?
 - Do you see any relationship between this passage and worship?

- Pray for the insight to be grounded in the Rock, Jesus Christ.
- **Wednesday, March 18, 2020:** "Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:37-38
 - What does it mean for you to be spiritually thirsty or hungry?
 - How do you understand "living water"?
 - Pray for God to continue to provide you daily bread.
- **Thursday, March 19, 2020** "²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God" Ephesians 4: 29-30
 - Luther's explanation of the 8th commandment echoes verse 29. How difficult is it to always "interpret everything they do in the best possible light"?
 - What does it mean to "grieve the Holy Spirit"?
 - Pray for the awareness to speak words of creation and love.
- **Friday, March 20, 2020:** "⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true." Ephesians 5: 8-9
 - Does being "light" mean you can never see the darkness?
 - What is the "fruit of the light"?
 - Pray that the light of Christ might shine through you today.

- **Saturday, March 21, 2020:** “⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.” John 1: 6-8
 - Replace the name “John” with your name. Read the passage again. What response do you have to this version of the passage?
 - How do you testify to the light?
 - Pray for words to speak the light of God’s love in your daily interactions.
- **Sunday, March 22, 2020: Fourth Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 23, 2020:** “¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”” Acts 8: 15-16
 - How are you an instrument for God?
 - What does it mean to suffer for Jesus’ name?
 - Pray for God to use you to honor and glorify God.
- **Tuesday, March 24, 2020:** “¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1: 13-14
 - When have you felt you were in darkness?
 - In what way have you known redemption and forgiveness?
 - Pray that you might share the redemption and forgiveness you have received.
- **Wednesday, March 25, 2020:** “The Angel came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of

greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Luke 1: 28-30

- When has the Word of God perplexed you? Is there a specific example?
- "Do not be afraid" is a frequent command of angels. How do you recall this in times of fear and uncertainty?
- Pray for the clarity and peace that comes from God alone.
- **Wednesday, March 25, 2020:** "²⁸When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." ²⁹Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you." ~Matthew 9: 28-29
 - What do you struggle to believe God can do?
 - Our faith comes from God. How do you understand that you participate in your faith?
 - Pray for faith that empowers you to grow by the Holy Spirit.
- **Thursday, March 26, 2020:** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? ⁴But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. ⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope." Psalm 130: 3-5
 - What iniquities do you feel most likely to want to hide from God?
 - How do you experience forgiveness from God?
 - Pray that you might know, as well as possible, God's forgiveness in your day.
- **Friday, March 27, 2020:** "Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but

that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways” ~Ezekiel 33: 11

- Why would God have no pleasure in the death of the wicked?
- What evil ways do you need to “turn back” from?
- Pray that you become aware of the sins to which you are blind.
- **Saturday, March 28, 2020:** “⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.” ~Luke 24: 45-48
 - Think of an experience where your mind has been opened to new understandings about God.
 - How do you connect Jesus’ suffering and resurrection to your sharing of repentance and forgiveness?
 - Pray that you might know how to witness in all situations.
- **Sunday, March 29, 2020: Fifth Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 30, 2020:** “⁸Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.” Psalm 143: 8
 - What is your morning practice for devotion and centering in God?
 - How easy or difficult is it for you to trust in God?
 - Pray for the wisdom to begin each day with intentional focus on God.

- **Tuesday, March 31, 2020:** ⁸“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2: 8-9
 - How do you understand that you are saved through faith?
 - If works of faith do not save us, why do them?
 - Pray for the wisdom to grow in your response to God’s love in your life.

- **Wednesday, April 1, 2020:** ³⁸They shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me for all time, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰I will make an everlasting covenant with them, never to draw back from doing good to them; and I will put the fear of me in their hearts, so that they may not turn from me.” ~Jeremiah 32: 38-40
 - How do you connect “one heart and one way” with the work of the Holy Spirit?
 - What do you fear about God that makes you want to remain faithful?
 - Pray that you might become empowered never wander from the faith.

- **Thursday, April 2, 2020:** ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” ~Philippians 1: 6
 - Who would you name as the “one who began a good work among you”?
 - What might it mean to have your work completed by the day of Jesus Christ?
 - Pray that all you do might be done in God’s name, to God’s honor and glory.

- **Friday, April 3, 2020:** ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, And this is God’s doing. ²⁹For

he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—”
Philippians 1:27a, 28b-29

- What makes your life “worthy of the gospel of Christ”?
- Do you ever think of suffering as a privilege?
- Pray that God will grant you insight and wisdom in all situations.
- **Saturday, April 4, 2020:** “⁵⁷You came near when I called on you; you said, “Do not fear!” ⁵⁸You have taken up my cause, O Lord, you have redeemed my life.” ~Lamentations 3: 57-58
 - Do you ever experience God as nearer or further away from you?
 - How does fear factor into your experiences of God’s nearness?
 - Pray that you may not fear God ever leaving or forsaking you.
- **Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020**
- **Monday of Holy Week: April 6, 2020:** “¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!” Hebrews 9:13-14
 - Jesus is our salvation. What does this mean to you?
 - What is your daily worship habit?
 - Pray for the insight to know a moment of reverence and grace and to respond to God with thanksgiving.

- **Tuesday of Holy Week: April 7, 2020:** “³⁴The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.” After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.”
 - “Walk while you have the light” means what to you?
 - What does it mean to believe in the light?
 - Pray for light to shine in you and through you.

- **Wednesday of Holy Week: April 8, 2020:** “²¹After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²⁶Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” John 13: 21, 26-27
 - When do you believe you “trouble” Jesus?
 - God has given us free will, even to do harm or evil. Do you rely on God to assist your choices? Your words?
 - Pray that God would empower you to always act in love and grace.

Readings are taken from the daily lectionary, found here, <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=A>
 This booklet was put together by Pastor Amy Truhe.