

Lent 2018 Devotions

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Ash Wednesday, February 14: Psalm 51

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you did not disdain the company of sinners but welcomed them with love. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. Our sins are more than we can bear; our pasts enslave us; our misdeeds are beyond correcting. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot change; heal what we can no longer fix. Grace our lives with your love and turn the tears of our past into the joys of new life with you. Amen.

Thursday, February 15: Psalm 25, 1 John 1:3-10

Lord, our God, you are full of compassion. As we enter this season of Lent, send your Spirit so that we may grow more and more aware of our need for a Savior, turn away from our sinful habits regularly and genuinely, resist temptations great and small, and remember with confidence that our Lord Jesus conquered sin and death. **Amen.**

Friday, February 16: 2 Timothy 3:14-16

Covenant God of love and mercy, we come to you at the beginning of these forty days, remembering how Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days in the wilderness. We remember how he steadfastly set his face toward Jerusalem, obedient in living and dying, even through death on a cross. We too would walk these next forty days in humble obedience, following our Savior, Jesus Christ, in our everyday lives at home, at work, and in your world. Prepare us anew, we pray, to keep our hearts and minds fixed on Jesus, ready and willing from now on to live for him. **Amen.**

Saturday, February 17: Matthew 9:2-13

Genuine repentance involves two things: the dying-away of the old self and the coming-to-life of the new. The dying-away of the old self is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it. The coming-to-life of the new self is wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to. Together, as Christ's body, we now confess our sin and express our longing to live in joyful obedience to God.

—based on Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 88-90

Monday, February 19: Psalm 77, Ephesians 2:1-10

O God, in creation you fashion us in your image, in Christ you reveal to us your love, through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers; we bow in gratitude before you. We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it. We daily betray your love, but still you extend it. We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it. Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned, and our fellowship in Christ renewed. **Amen.**

Tuesday, February 20: 1 Peter 3:8-18a

Journey with us, O holy God, as we continue our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

Wednesday, February 21: Matthew 4:1-11

Grand O Lord, that by the observance of this Lent we may advance in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ and show forth his mind in conduct worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Gelasian Sacramentary)

Thursday, February 22: Romans 3:21-31

O God, by Thy mercy strengthen us who lie exposed to the rough storms of troubles and temptations. Help us against our own negligence and cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of our unfaithful hearts. Succur us, we beseech Thee, and bring us to thy safe haven of peace and felicity. Amen. (St. Augustine)

Friday, February 23: Romans 4:1-12

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Saturday, February 24: Psalm 22:23-31

And still, O Lord, to me impart an innocent and grateful heart. Amen. (Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

Monday, February 26: Psalm 105:1-11, Hebrews 1:8-12

God of exodus and wilderness, God of refuge and help, hear us now as we make our confession to you. In times of temptation we forget what you have done for us. You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied; you trust us to care for creation, yet we often abuse that trust and spoil what we have been given. You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue on the path of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray. [*Silence*]
We ask for your direction, your patience, your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, who, in spite of his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word. Amen.

Tuesday, February 27: Genesis 22:1-19

God who delivers, God who protects, God who sustains, God who heals: we claim our promises. In these trying times, we remember your goodness and ask that your Holy Spirit will work among all peoples of this world to bring about healing and hope. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Wednesday, February 28: John 12:36-43

Almighty and loving God, the highest heavens and the depths of the oceans convey the wonders of your splendor and majesty. Open our eyes to see your glory also revealed in the places of despair and brokenness, and in times of grief and fear. Truly our hope is in you. Amen.

Thursday, March 1: Psalm 19

I pray thee, merciful Jesus, that as Thou has graciously granted me to drink down sweetly from the Word which tells of thee, so wilt Thou kindly grant that I may come at length to thee, the fount of all wisdom, and stand before Thy face forever. Amen. (The Venerable Bede)

Friday, March 2: Acts 7:30-40

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, look upon us and have mercy upon us; thou who art thyself both victim and Priest, thyself both Reward and Redeemer, keep safe from all evil those whom thou hast redeemed, O Savior of the world. Amen. (St. Irenaeus.)

Saturday, March 3: Exodus 19:16-25

O Christ, the ocean of forgiveness, allow me to wash off in you the dirt I am clothed in, so that I may become resplendent in the raiment of your holy light. Amen. (John the Elder of Dalyatha)

Monday, March 5: Psalm 84, 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

May it come soon to the hungry, to the weeping, to those who thirst for your justice, to those who have waited centuries for a truly human life. Grant us the patience to smooth the way on which your Kingdom comes to us. Grant us hope that we may not weary in proclaiming and working for it, despite so many conflicts, threats, and shortcomings. Grant us a clear vision that in the hour of our history we may see the horizon, and know the way on which your Kingdom comes to us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.
(Nicaraguan Prayer)

Tuesday, March 6: Hebrews 9:23-28

God of all hope, we are so deeply aware of the world's grief and pain—and of our own as well. Comfort us, we pray, with the sure knowledge that our Lenten journey culminates in Easter joy. Amen.

Wednesday, March 7: Ezra 6:1-16

God of the covenant, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving flood of baptism we are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, unseal within us the wellspring of your grace. Cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy. Cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. One God. Forever and ever. Amen.

Thursday, March 8: Ephesians 1:3-6

O God, fountain of love, pour your love into our souls that we may love those whom you love with the love you give us, and think and speak about them tenderly, meekly, lovingly; and so loving our brothers and sisters for your sake, may grow in your love, and live in love, and living in love may live in you; for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen (Edward Bouverie Pusey)

Friday, March 9: Ephesians 1:3-6

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Saturday, March 10: John 3:1-13

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature and to suffer death upon the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Monday, March 12: Psalm 107:1-16, Hebrews 3:1-6

Christ our Lord, you invite us to bear your yoke so that sharing in your work we may find our real selves in relationship with you and with those we would bring to your friendship. Amen. (Myra Birdsall)

Tuesday, March 13: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice, *God forgive us*. For the self-righteousness that denies guilt, and the self-interest that strangles compassion, *God forgive us*. For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry "Peace, peace," when there is no peace, *We ask your mercy*. For our failings in the community, our lack of understanding, *We ask your mercy*. For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity, God forgive us. For the times we were too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love, *God forgive us*. (South African Prayer)

Wednesday, March 14: John 8:12-20

Come, Lord. Millions do not know you. And to us who do, what is the difference? What is the point of your presence if our lives do not alter? Change our lives. Shatter our complacency. Make your word our life's purpose. Take away the quietness of a clear conscience. Press us uncomfortably. For only this that other peace is made. Your peace. Through Christ our Lord, Amen. (Variation of Dom Helder Camara, Brazil)

Thursday, March 15: Isaiah 30:15-18

O God, in creation you fashion us in your image, in Christ you reveal to us your love, through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers; we bow in gratitude before you. We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it. We daily betray your love, but still you extend it. We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it. Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned, and our fellowship in Christ renewed. **Amen.**

Friday, March 16: Hebrews 4:1-13

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Saturday, March 17: John 12:1-11

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace. You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you. **Save us, Lord.** O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins. On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities. **Save us, Lord.** O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation: **Save us, Lord.** O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you, and joy of all the saints: **Save us, Lord.** Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.** Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.** Jesus, redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.** **Amen.**

Monday, March 19: Psalm 119:9-16, 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Most Gracious and Holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you, and a life to proclaim you, though the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Frank Topping)

Tuesday, March 20: Isaiah 44:1-18

God who wrestled with chaos to create matter, and overcame death to bring us to eternal life, allow us to draw forth beauty from our surroundings. Reveal to us some glimpses of your eternity where you are enthroned, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker, alive forever and ever. Amen. (adapted from Michael John Radford Counsell)

Wednesday, March 21: John 12:34-50

Lord, you know me. I am so set in my ways at times. I am stubborn, self-centered and so sure I know it all. I must make you angry at times. Yet you love me, you are sorry for me, you want to give me so much. Give me the grace to admit when I am wrong, to turn from myself and accept your love, your way, your will. Amen. (Margaret Cundiff)

Thursday, March 22: Philippians 2:1-11

Stir us up to offer to Thee, O Lord, our bodies, our souls, our spirits. In all we love and all we learn, in all we plan and all we do, help us to offer our labors, our pleasures, our sorrows, to Thee; to work for Thy kingdom through them, to live as those who are not their own, but bought with Thy blood, fed with Thy body...Thine from our birth-hour, Thine now and Thine forever. Amen. (Charles Kingsley)

Friday, March 23: Jeremiah 33:1-9

Thorns and cross and nails and lance,
Wounds, our rich inheritance...
May these all our spirits fill,
And with love's devotion thrill...
Christ, by coward hands betrayed,
Christ, for us a captive made,
Christ upon the bitter tree,
Slain for humanity—all praise to thee. (Bonaventure)

Saturday, March 24: Jeremiah 33:10-16

Lord, give us weak eyes for things of little worth and clear-sighted eyes in all of your truth. Amen. (Soren Kierkegaard).

Monday, March 26: John 12:1-11

Great God, your love has called us here as we, by love, for love were made. Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed. We come with all our heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find. Amen.

Tuesday, March 27: John 12:20-36

We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong, half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along, by powers and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for humankind.

Wednesday, March 28: John 13:21-32

Great God, in Christ you call our name and then receive us as your own, not through some merit, right or claim, but by your gracious love alone. We strain to glimpse your mercy seat and find your kneeling at our feet.

Thursday, March 29: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Faithful God, Jesus gave us the gift of his own Body and Blood that we might have food to sustain us. As we share the Eucharist of Jesus Christ, let us become Eucharist for one another. May our lives be blessed, broken and given that your people may live. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our living Bread. Amen. (From Sisters of Mercy)

Friday, March 30: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, John 18:1-19:42

Christ Jesus, your love is made visible through the mystery of your death and resurrection. Make us one in you. Transform us into people of mercy who reach out to embrace you in the suffering ones in our midst. We ask this, as a people reconciled to God through the blood of your cross. Amen. (From Sisters of Mercy)

Saturday, March 31: John 19:38-42

Saving God, all creation waits with groaning and longing for the salvation promised to our ancestors and revealed in the resurrection of your Son Jesus. Teach us how to wait for the bursting forth of your saving power when all will be reconciled to you in Christ Jesus. We wait in hope, O God. We wait in the company of all the angels and saints of heaven. Through their intercession may we have the power to say: Holy, Holy, Holy is our God. Amen. (From Sisters of Mercy)