



*Walk as  
Jesus  
Walked*

**2022 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

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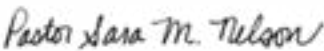
# Greetings

For Lent this year we are going to be journeying through Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*, which is all about growing in spiritual practices that will help us grow closer to God and grow in our love of neighbor. It is a wonderful book that we also study in our new member's class. We encourage you to take part in one of our many Lenten studies and come to worship as we go through this book together.

In tandem with this, we have created this Lenten Devotional based on themes and ideas from *The Walk*. We are calling it "Walk as Jesus Walked." Think of it as a companion to the book. Each day there is a short Scripture reading, an action/reflection time, and a prayer. Additionally, there is a song listed that may be good to listen to before, during, or after your devotion time. All these songs are readily available online, and we will be posting the devotional daily on our Facebook page with links to the songs. Please let us know if you need help finding them.

Lent is a journey, as is the Christian life. This Lent we are cultivating spiritual practices. As we grow these practices, we become even more a sanctuary of Christian hope, love, and encouragement in the heart of Sioux Falls.

*In Ministry Together,*



Pastor Sara M. Nelson



Pastor Jordan Louks



Pastor Andrea Johnson

## Walking with Jesus

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 – ASH WEDNESDAY

*“Teach me your way, Lord, so that I can walk in your truth”  
(Psalm 86:11 CEB)*

**SONG:** “Be Thou My Vision” UMH 451

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** How are you striving to walk with Jesus in your life? Name some ways. How are they helping you grow in your faith as a disciple of Jesus?

**PRAYER:** Loving Christ, help me to walk with you this Lent. Help me to grow and experience your truth more and more. Amen.

## Walking with Jesus

### THURSDAY, MARCH 3

*“He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8 CEB)*

**SONG:** “I Refuse” by Josh Wilson

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** What are some ways you can or are walking humbly with God this Lent? How can you serve others and, in turn, walk with God in the next few weeks?

**PRAYER:** Loving God, come into my heart and help me to serve you humbly in all that I say and do. Amen.

## Walking with Jesus

### FRIDAY, MARCH 4

*"So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight"*

*(2 Corinthians 5:6-7 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Walk by Faith" by Jeremy Camp

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Is there a time where you have, on reflection, noticed God's presence in your life? What was that moment like for you? Can you share that with others?

**PRAYER:** Timely God, I give thanks that you are always on the move in my life even when I cannot see. Help me to walk by faith each day. Amen.

## Walking with Jesus

### SATURDAY, MARCH 5

*"But I have this against you: you have let go of the love you had at first. So, remember the high point from which you have fallen. Change your hearts and lives and do the things you did at first" (Revelation 2:4-5b CEB)*

**SONG:** "Your Grace Is Enough" by Matt Maher

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** What are tangible steps you can take to help grow closer to God and your neighbors? Name a few ways that are helpful for you.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, help me come back to your path and walk as one who loves you wholly and knows that I am redeemed and sustained through your grace. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

# Worship and Prayer

## SUNDAY, MARCH 6

*"O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise" (Psalm 95:1-2 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "The House of the Lord" by Phil Wickham

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** How are you connecting in worship this week? Perhaps it is in-person Sundays @ 8:30 or 9:45, or Wednesdays @ 6:30. Perhaps it is online. Make time to connect with God and others in worship.

**PRAYER:** Praiseworthy God, I give praise and thanks to you. I rejoice in your name. Help me to live out my love for you in the world. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

# Worship and Prayer

## MONDAY, MARCH 7

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "What a Friend" by Matt Maher

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** What does your prayer practice look like? What are five things or five people that you are praying for right now? Take time now to write those things/people down and pray for them.

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, I give thanks that you hear my prayers and are ever with me. Help me to open my heart to you and let me talk with you about everything. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## Worship and Prayer

### TUESDAY, MARCH 8

*"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "God of Wonders" by Third Day

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Take time to praise God through prayer and action. Perhaps you go and take a walk, giving thanks for the beauty of the earth. Maybe you take a picture of God's creation. Take time to give God praise. Reflect here.

**PRAYER:** God of Rainbow and God of Beauty, I give praise to you for all the ways in which you are made known throughout our world. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## Worship and Prayer

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

*"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.'" (Luke 1:46-48 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Give Thanks" FWS 2036

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Take time to give thanks to God for the ways God has shown up in your life. Perhaps simply reflect on blessings in the space below.

**PRAYER:** God of Blessings, you have moved in so many ways throughout all our lives. I give thanks and praise to you who are with us always. Amen.

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# Worship and Prayer

## THURSDAY, MARCH 10

*"Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me! Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me. Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:10-12 CEB)*

**SONG:** "Lord, I Need You" by Matt Maher

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Confession is meant to be a time of transformation and forgiveness. Think about where you may have hurt someone. Perhaps this is the time to ask God to help you make that phone call or send that card.

**PRAYER:** God of Forgiveness, please forgive me when I have hurt others and transgressed against your love. Help me to make amends and reconcile wherever possible. Amen.

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# Worship and Prayer

## FRIDAY, MARCH 11

*"I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" (Psalm 18:1-2 NIV)*

**SONG:** "Spirit Song" UMH 347

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** What are the things in your life for which you need prayer? Take time now to pray to God for those things and perhaps also talk to someone else about it, too, if you have not yet.

**PRAYER:** Listening God, I know that you hear my prayers and are moving for good. Help me to always be able to talk to you and to find people that I can confide in, too. Amen.

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# Worship and Prayer

## SATURDAY, MARCH 12

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "This Little Light of Mine" UMH 585

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Is there something that you feel God is calling you to do? Perhaps it is reaching out in a small way to someone in need. How will you let God use you for goodness in the world?

**PRAYER:** Light of the World, send me into the world, my community, and into my family, to be an agent of change. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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## Study

## SUNDAY, MARCH 13

*"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Thy Word is a Lamp" UMH 601

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** What is the importance of Scripture and study in your life? Do you read the Bible regularly or is worship the only time you hear Scripture? What would you help you incorporate Scripture more into your life?

**PRAYER:** Word of Life, you offer to us words that teach and give us life. Help us to hear them anew each time they are read, spoken, or discussed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



## MONDAY, MARCH 14

*"I 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 121:1-2 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Shoulders" by for King and Country

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Lectio Divina is Latin for "divine reading." Follow these 4 steps: (1) Read Psalm 121:1-2, and listen for a word, idea, or phrase that speaks to you; (2) Take time for prayer and then read the Psalm aloud, (3) Read the Psalm a third time and ask, "How do these words relate to my life?" (4) Prayer—talk with God about what this means for your life.

**PRAYER:** Ever-Present God, thank you for speaking through these words of Scripture. Open my heart to hear your presence the rest of this day. Amen.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 15

*Read 1 John 1*

**SONG:** "Way Maker" by Michael W. Smith

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** For the next five days we are going to be reading a chapter a day from First John. Take this time to reflect on what God may be speaking to you. In the first chapter, the author of First John talks about how God is light. What else is sticking out in this chapter?

**PRAYER:** God of Light, shine into the darkness of a weary world. Give me a star to follow. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

*Read 1 John 2*

**SONG:** "Confidence" by Sanctus Real

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** The second chapter of First John talks about the commandment to love one another. Moreover, it talks about to not get distracted by false teaching. Stay fixed on the love of God and neighbor. What is standing out to you today as you read chapter 2?

**PRAYER:** God, give me the confidence to go out into the world with love. Amen.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 17

*Read 1 John 3*

**SONG:** "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** God's love for us through Christ makes us adopted children of God. As you read this chapter, what else is standing out to you? Reflect on that in the space below. Perhaps it will move you to make a change in a relationship of yours as you remember God's love for you.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, you adopt us as your children. You lead us to live loving lives. Help us, God. Amen.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 18

*Read 1 John 4*

**SONG:** "The Gift of Love" UMH 408

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** The fourth chapter of First John is a beloved passage by many. God is love and so we must love, too. Take some time to really reflect on these words. What do they mean for your life?

**PRAYER:** Amazing Love, you are a wonderful God who loves us so. Help me to love as much as you. Amen.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 19

*Read 1 John 5*

**SONG:** "You Are My King (Amazing Love)" by Newsboys

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** We have made it to the end of First John! What surprised you about this week's readings? What gave you hope? What is your plan for continuing reading the Bible? Perhaps it is five verses a day. Perhaps a chapter a day like we have been doing. Perhaps make a commitment today.

**PRAYER:** Word of God, help me to continue to dive into these words of the Bible. Help me to continue to hear you speaking and giving me light for the journey. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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## SUNDAY, MARCH 20

*"Just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"*  
(Matthew 20:28 NRSV)

**SONG:** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" FWS 2223

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** In what ways have you been involved with service projects or serving? What were those experiences like for you? Reflect on those experiences.

**PRAYER:** God who serves, I ask that I may have the heart of a servant. Remake me and mold me, Jesus. Amen.

## MONDAY, MARCH 21

*"Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here'"* (Mark 10:48-49a NRSV)

**SONG:** "With Every Act of Love" by Jason Gray

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Have you ever been interrupted and you had really wish you had not? Have you ever thought about those moments being 'divine interruptions,' as Hamilton calls them? In what ways can we prepare ourselves for God to enter our lives in inconvenient times?

**PRAYER:** God of Interruption, enter our lives and draw us out of our complacency. Help us to see those who call out to us for your mercy. Amen.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 22

*"And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you"*

*(John 13:12-15 NLT)*

**SONG:** "Days of Elijah"

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** For the rest of this week, engage in one act of kindness each day toward someone in your life or a stranger. Pray for God's guidance to help you to surprise the world with an act of kindness. Write your reflections here.

**PRAYER:** God of Hope, help me go into the world, transforming it one act of kindness at a time. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

*"He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty"* (Luke 1:52-53 NRSV)

**SONG:** "The Canticle of the Turning" by Rory Cooney

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Adam Hamilton writes in *The Walk*: "When God sees pain and brokenness, poverty and injustice in our world, he is moved with compassion" (68). What is a small way you can let God move through you to counter these forces in the world?

**PRAYER:** God of Justice, help us move with kindness and compassion in a world that is often lacking in both. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 24

*"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me'" (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Build Your Kingdom Here" by Rend Collective

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Simple acts of kindness are simple but hard. Perhaps you have found yourself struggling how to be kind to a world full of people who hurt others. How will you share kindness and love today?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, your kingdom is built through heaven coming to earth in your Son. May we learn from his ways to love as he loves us. Amen.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 25

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." (Luke 4:18 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "We Are Called" FWS 2172

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he quoted this Scripture from the prophet Isaiah. As disciples of Jesus, how do we also have this mission? How will we reach out in kindness today?

**PRAYER:** Loving God, help us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 26

*"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"*  
(Matthew 22:37-39 NRSV)

**SONG:** "Start Right Here" by Casting Crowns

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** The double love commandment is Christian 101. But it is on this cornerstone that we must remember who we are. How will you love God? How will you love neighbor?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, start right here in my heart. Give me the hands to share your love. Amen.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 27

*"Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be"* (Matthew 6:21 NLT)

**SONG:** "Freely, Freely" UMH 389

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Adam Hamilton writes: "What we do with our money tells us something about the condition of our heart" (90). What is your view of money? How do you use money? Take a moment to write down your reflections.

**PRAYER:** Generous God, help me in my relationship with possessions and wealth. Help me break free from its control on my life. Amen.

## MONDAY, MARCH 28

*"And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions'" (Luke 12:15 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Big Love, Small Moments" by JJ Heller

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** We are cultivating a spiritual practice of giving, but it begins with overcoming the desire for more. What are you happy and thankful for in your life? Write those things down here.

**PRAYER:** God, help me see everything all around me and give thanks for what I have. Amen.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 29

*"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full — pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back"*  
(Luke 6:38 NLT)

**SONG:** "Through Heaven's Eyes" from The Prince of Egypt

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Through the next five days we are going to do one act of generosity each day. Perhaps it is a big tip at a restaurant. Perhaps you pay it forward by giving a tip to the barista serving you. Write down what you do and reflect on how it made you feel.

**PRAYER:** God, come into my heart that I may give as generously as you have. Amen.



## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

*"Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.'" (Luke 19:8 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Hands and Feet" by Audio Adrenaline

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Income inequality is a problem today. A few have much and many have little. Today, perhaps think about a way your generosity could be used to promote change in the world.

**PRAYER:** Abundant God, help us overcome poverty in our world as we advocate and give toward a better world. Amen.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 31

*"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life" (Timothy 6:18-19 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "American Dream" by Casting Crowns

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Think about a way you can be counter cultural and give something away today. How does generosity become a sustained practice for you?

**PRAYER:** God, we live in a culture with extreme wealth. Help us not become consumed by it, and let us instead model generosity. Amen.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 1

*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Take My Life, and Let it Be" UMH 399

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Hopefully throughout this week you have been able to give cheerfully, but sometimes that is hard. How have you approached your acts of generosity this week?

**PRAYER:** Take my life, Lord, and let it be, consecrated for you. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 2

*"So, God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation" (Genesis 2:3 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Beautiful Things" by Gungor

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Throughout Lent, we have been talking about growing spiritual practices. Today, we recognize Sabbath, taking time to rest. Perhaps take some time today to rest as an act of generosity toward yourself and others. What do you find restful?

**PRAYER:** God of Rest, help me to take time to simply rest. Restore me and renew me. Amen.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 3

*"Then he said to his disciples, 'The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers.'"*  
(Matthew 9:37 CEB)

**SONG:** "Pass It On" UMH 572

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** There are thousands of people who do not know who God is. Yet they are still searching for purpose, belonging, and community. How could sharing your faith story with others help them find community?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, help me pass my faith onto others so that they come to know they belong, and they are loved. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## MONDAY, APRIL 4

*"This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life"*  
(Titus 3:6-7 NRSV)

**SONG:** "Shifting Sand" by Caedmon's Call

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Sometimes faith is hard. There are moments in life that are difficult. Yet God's grace stands in even when our faith shakes. Where have you felt the grace of God sustaining you?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, you are a foundation of grace that keeps us standing above the waves. Amen.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 5

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34-35 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Do Something" by Matthew West

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** What is First Church known for in Sioux Falls? Are we known by our love? Who do you say that First Church is?

**PRAYER:** Gracious and Loving God, may our actions and our words meet as we become a living witness to you in the community of Sioux Falls and beyond. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

*"If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way." (1 Peter 3:15 NLT)*

**SONG:** "Goodness of God"

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** What is your faith story? How did you come to faith? Perhaps think about how you could share your faith story on social media or with others.

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, you have been faithful in my life. Help me share your love with others. Amen.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 7

*"As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' he said, 'and I'll show you how to fish for people.' Right away, they left their nets and followed him" (Mark 1:16-18 CEB)*

**SONG:** "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" UMH 344

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** In what ways in your life can you follow Jesus to 'fish for people'? What might you need to let go of to follow Jesus?

**PRAYER:** Jesus, you come asking us to drop our nets and follow you. May we be ready to go where you call us. Amen.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 8

*"But they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken" (Micah 4:4 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "A Place at the Table" by Shirley Erena Murray

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** My faith story begins with belonging. Regardless of who I had been or who I was, God loved me for me. What is your faith story? What made God's love for you real? Share it with someone you love.

**PRAYER:** God of Justice and Joy, remind us of who we are and help us welcome everyone to your table of hope and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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## SATURDAY, APRIL 9

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19 NRSV)*

**SONG:** “Here I Am, Lord” UMH 593

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Write down a few ideas of people with whom you may be able to share your faith. Maybe you have already done so. What was that experience like for you?

**PRAYER:** God of All People, help me to share your story with others, giving me the courage to give words to the ways you have moved wonderfully in my life. Amen.

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## From the Cross

## SUNDAY, APRIL 10 — PALM SUNDAY

*“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28 NIV)*

**SONG:** “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” by Matt Redman

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** From welcomed king to crucified criminal, Easter is a story of reversal. Fortunately, we know the end. What does Holy Week mean for you?

**PRAYER:** Loving God, you came in Jesus to save us. Your world-turned-upside-down kingdom has come. Amen.

## Worship from the Cross

### MONDAY, APRIL 11

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*  
(Psalm 22:1 NRSV)

**SONG:** "Holy Darkness" by Dan Schutte

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Jesus prayed much throughout his life often going to secluded places to pray even in times when people wanted him to stay. Jesus prayed from the cross. When have you prayed in hard times? What was that like?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, in good and hard times, we give thanks that you are who you are. Amen.

## Studying from the Cross

### TUESDAY, APRIL 12

*"Into your hands I commit my spirit"*  
(Psalm 31:5 NIV)

**SONG:** "The Summons" FWS 2130

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Throughout the Gospels Jesus quotes Scripture. He is well-versed in it. So, it comes as no surprise that on the cross he quotes Scripture often. Scripture has become a part of who he is. How are the words of Scripture part of your life? What verses help you and which inspire you to go?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, into your hands, I commit my spirit. Be with me and help me see. Amen.

## Serving from the Cross

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

*"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home" (John 19:26-27 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Now It Is Evening" FWS 2187

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Even from the cross Jesus has a heart for service. When we look out at our city, where are there people and places that are wounded and in need of healing?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, help us to see your vision, for how we are called to serve. Amen.

## Giving from the Cross

### THURSDAY, APRIL 14 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

*"When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8 NLT)*

**SONG:** "What Wondrous Love Is This" UMH 292

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** In Jesus, God laid down his power to relate to God's creation on a human level. How do we take the power we have in our lives and use it for good?

**PRAYER:** Generous God, help me learn from your self-emptying that I may give also to help others. Amen.



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## Sharing from the Cross

### FRIDAY, APRIL 15 — GOOD FRIDAY

*"Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise'" (Luke 23:42-43 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Were You There" UMH 288

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Jesus reaches out in love, telling a person who has been killed by the state that they will be in Paradise. What a subversive statement telling someone they are loved. Who will you tell today that God loves them? How might you do that?

**PRAYER:** Jesus, even on the cross you shared the love of God with a stranger. Help me do the same. Amen.

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## Waiting

### SATURDAY, APRIL 16 — HOLY SATURDAY

*"It is finished" (John 19:30 NRSV)*

**SONG:** "Come Alive (Dry Bones)" by Lauren Daigle

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Jesus has died. We now wait with anticipation of the completion of the story. In this time of holy waiting, what are you waiting for? Take a moment to pause and reflect on what you are waiting for in this season. Perhaps take a picture of a place with potential; write a few words down on paper. What needs resurrection? What needs transformation?

**PRAYER:** Your time, O God, is different than ours. Help us to see the process and see how we fit into it. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

# — Transforming the World

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 17 — EASTER SUNDAY**

*“The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, ‘Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee’” (Luke 24:5-6 NLT)*

**SONG:** “Because He Lives (Amen)” by Matt Maher

**ACTION/REFLECTION TIME:** Jesus has risen! God has triumphed over evil and its allies. Love wins. But the story isn’t over! Because Jesus lives, how does that change your life not only eternally, but today? How does the transformation of the world continue through you as you grow as Jesus’ living disciple?



**PRAYER:** God of Resurrection, as you raised Jesus from the dead and conquered the grave you also raise me to new life. Help me to live as a child of the living God, loving and spreading your grace to everyone I meet. Amen.





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