

Candle Reflection & Devotional, Week 2: Mar 1, 2026

Introduction:

To complement our prayers and sacrifices this season, each Sunday we are recalling one of Jesus' final seven statements from the Cross as we extinguish a candle that then remains unlit for the rest of the season until we celebrate the resurrection on Easter. The dimming of the light is a reminder of the darkness and weight of the cross, and our need to confess, repent and be renewed because of what Jesus did for us.

Instructions:

Each week we will do a candle reflection during service. We will include that practice here for reference or if you want to recreate your own candle practice at home. There is also an at-home devotional piece for you to use to continue this reflection each Sunday.

Candle Reflection

(done during service, or for you to recreate at home):

Reader: *"Jesus spoke to the thief on the Cross saying, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise.'" -Luke 23:43*

Observe a moment of silence.

Reader: As we extinguish this light, we recognize those who are weary with the heartaches and hopelessness of this world.

A candle is extinguished.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, this world can feel horrible and hopeless, but we know this world is not all that there is. Remind us, in our darker days, that a world is coming beyond anything we could ever imagine; in fact, we can experience this world now if we focus on You. Help us to repent for the ways our focus has been misplaced and guide us back to you. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Our Hope: *"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."*
-Psalm 34:18

Our Response:

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

At-Home Devotional:

From the cross, Jesus invites the thief to be with Him in paradise, even though we do not see a lifetime of faithful obedience, reminding us that it is not our works that save us, but Christ's work.

Questions to consider:

In what ways do you need to forgive yourself?

In what ways do you need to embrace your forgiveness

This week, let's remember how quick Jesus is to forgive us- before we even ask, and let's be quick to confess our sin, to ask forgiveness, and to embrace the forgiveness offered to us in Christ Jesus.



Art to Accompany Your Devotion:

The Crucifixion

Ra Angelico (Guido di Pietro)

c. 1420-23

Tempera on wood