

Candle Reflection & Devotional, Week 3: Mar 8, 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: *"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'" - John 19:26-27*

Observe a moment of silence.

Reader: As we extinguish this light, we remember the blessing of family, whether biological or otherwise, especially in times of distress or trouble.

A candle is extinguished.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, during this season of reflection, help us to be drawn into Biblical Community with others, seeking to both support and be supported by one another in Christ. Forgive us for the ways we keep people at a distance even when we know you've placed us in relationships to build up your kingdom here. Lord Jesus, as we lean into those near to us, unite us as your family that we might love and support one another as you would. Amen.*

Our Hope: *"Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God... If we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ." - Romans 8:14&17*

Our Response:

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

At-Home Devotional:

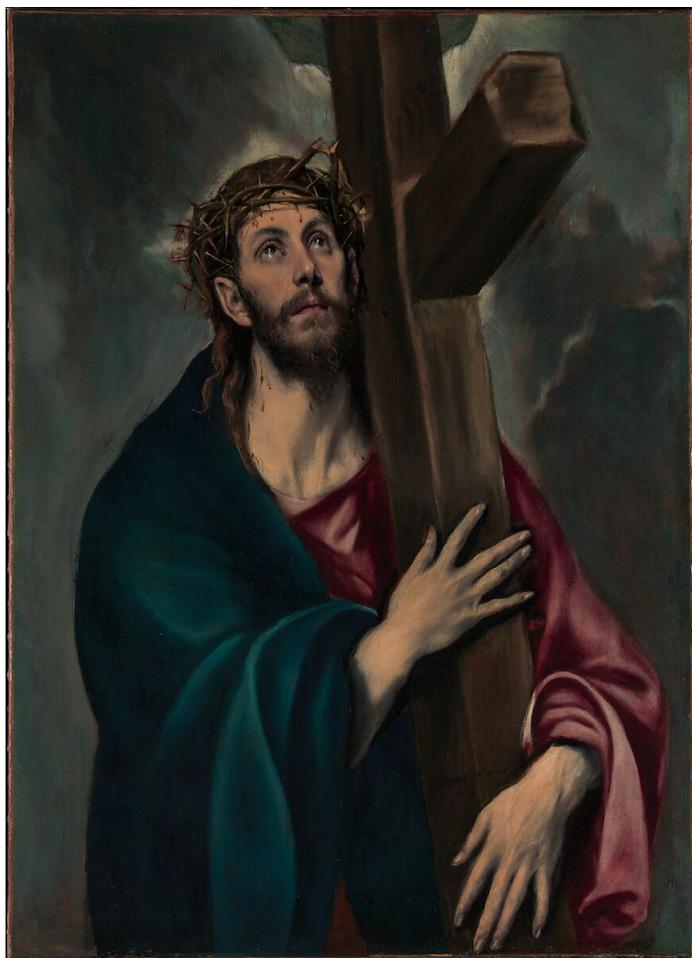
From the cross, Jesus invites His dear friend and His dear mother to come together as family. He invites us to participate in Biblical Community, family, as well.

Questions to consider:

Who are you doing life with?

Where has God brought Biblical Community to you and how are you pressing into this community?

This week, let's keep our eyes open for the community the Lord surrounds us with and lean into that community with intention and transparency.



Art to Accompany Your Devotion: **Christ Carrying the Cross**

El Greco
c. 1577-87
Oil on Canvas