

## Candle Reflection & Devotional, Week 4: Mar 15, 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:** *"At about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" - Matthew 27:46*

**Observe a moment of silence.**

**Reader:** As we extinguish this light, we remember those who feel alone or abandoned in our world.

**A candle is extinguished.**

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, we pray for those who are troubled by thoughts of fear, sickness, or anxiety. We pray for those living with depression, those who feel lonesome, and those who may feel distant from you. Awaken in us a spirit of love and support for them in their time of need. Help us not to turn a blind eye to those around us, but instead seek out our neighbors in compassion and care. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Our Hope:** *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." - Isaiah 41:10*

**Our Response:**

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## ***At-Home Devotional:***

From the cross, Jesus identifies with our loneliness, feeling abandoned by the Father. In His loneliness, Christ calls out to the Father. Though He experiences loneliness, He recognizes that He is not alone; His Father hears His plea.

### ***Questions to consider:***

Are you feeling lonely this season?

Do you know of others who may be feeling lonely as well?

This week, let's keep our eyes open for those who may be lonely and reach out, reminding them that they are not alone.



### ***Art to Accompany Your Devotion:***

#### **The Crucifixion**

Pietro Lorenzetti

c. 1340s

Tempra and gold leaf on wood