

# Candle Reflection & Devotional, Week 5: Mar 22, 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 knew that everything was not finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures he said, 'I am thirsty.'" - John 19:28*

## **Observe a moment of silence.**

**Reader:** As we extinguish this light, we pray for those in our world who thirst for basic needs like food or clean water, those longing for basic human rights, freedom, equality, inclusion, education, and acceptable living standards.

## **A candle is extinguished.**

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, we ask for the courage to do our part in providing for the needs of others as you lead, and to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need so that people's basic needs are met and their dignity restored. Forgive us for the ways we hang on too tightly to what you have blessed us with, open our hearts and our hands. In gratitude, we ask this prayer through Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

**Our Hope:** *"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."*  
- 1 Peter 5:10

## **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 basic needs. He calls out the things we often take for granted, like the ability to drink when we are thirsty. He recognizes that we all have needs, and we see in his life and ministry that he often cares for those around him by taking care of these basic needs like food and water and dignity.

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

What needs do you have or have had in the past that you felt desperate for?

What breaks your heart for the needy in our world?

This week, let's keep our hearts soft to those around us. What needs can we see? What gifts has God equipped us to show his love through to meet those needs? No gift of love is too small when done with a grateful and generous heart.



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

#### **The Entombment**

Moretto da Brescia

c. 1554

Oil on Canvas