

## Candle Reflection & Devotional, Week 7: April 5, 2026

### **Introduction:**

To complement our prayers and sacrifices this season, each Sunday we have recalled one of Jesus' final seven statements from the Cross as we extinguished a candle. It was a reminder of the darkness and weight of the cross. It was a way we recognized our waiting and anticipation of not Jesus' death, but of today... of His resurrection! So today we conclude our Lenten candle reflection with a celebration!

### **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:** The light which the world tried to extinguish cannot be put out. Today we light the candles again, proclaiming the transforming power of God. As the light returns, we give thanks that God's transforming love has been, is now, and will ever be at work within us. Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities. Christ is alive and living among us!

As we light the candles, we acknowledge that there is still pain and suffering in the world, but we place our trust in God and in the way shown by Jesus Christ. In the midst of darkness, there is light. In the pain of death, there is life. In the face of what appears to us to be overwhelming odds and brokenness, God is at work in us and in the world, working for justice and peace, compassion and love, and life abundant. Christ is risen; Christ is risen in us, for wherever we gather in his name, he is there.

### **All Seven Candles are Relit**

**Prayer:** Today our prayer is also our statement and assurance of hope and thanksgiving, right out of 1 Peter 1: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3-4)*

### **Our Response:**

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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

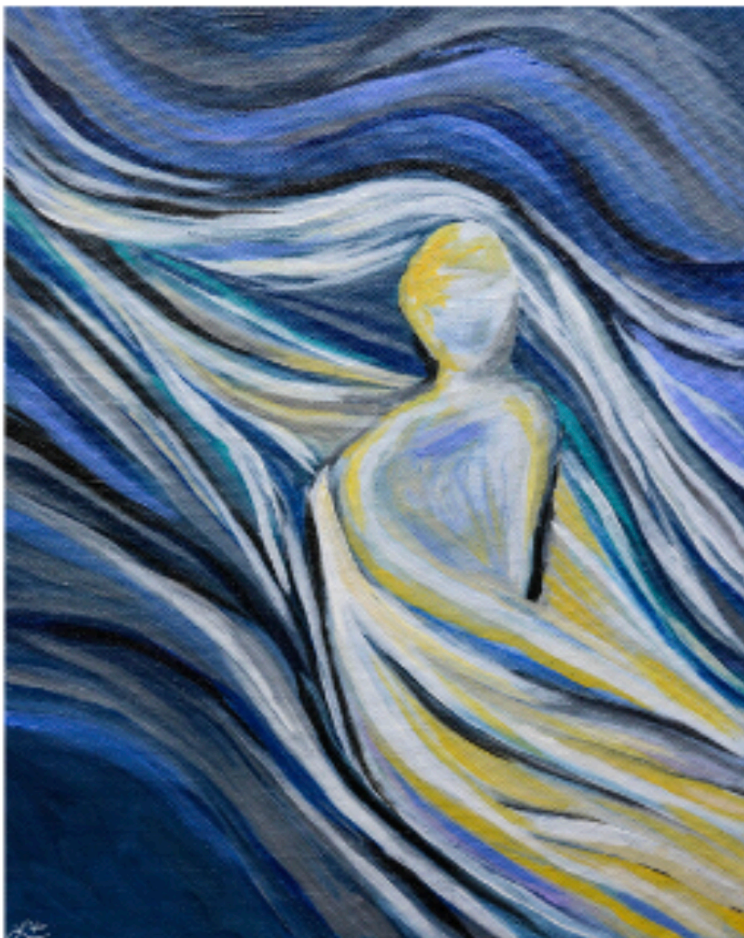
## ***At-Home Devotional:***

By his death and resurrection everything is changed. This is Good News! This is the gospel, Jesus reconciling us to the Father. By rising from the tomb, Jesus also gifted us the Holy Spirit who is now with us always. Today is a day for celebration because of this Good News!

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

What brings you hope and joy in Jesus?

How might you consider the gift of the Holy Spirit with you as you move forward in the Good News?



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

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c. 2018

Acyrllic on Canvas