

LENT.

WELCOME!

As we prepare our whole selves to remember Christ crucified, and celebrate the King resurrected we want to take time in this lent season to prepare our hearts for The New Way of Life that Jesus has to offer. The invitation for our church family in this season whether as an individual, in a small group or as a family to take time to pray, fast & spend time in the Word over these 40 days together.

First, before we get to the first day of Lent ... February 18, take time to ask Jesus what He is asking you to surrender, or *fast* from over this 40-day period. This most often looks like fasting from a meal a day, though you could fast from tech, specific habits, spending or food. Think about something that you'd be in everyday, something that in the midst of that time you'd usually spend in that you instead would fix your eyes on Jesus & the kingdom he's bringing upon.

Fasting over lent in particular serves a spiritual discipline to align oneself with Christ's sacrifice on the cross and for the Holy Spirit to form us for the new kind of life that Jesus is inviting us into in the resurrection.

As we've kicked off 2026 as a church family, we've been spending time each week in our Alliance Vision Prayer, the continued invitation is to take time each day praying this prayer.

“O God, with all our hearts, we long for you. Come, transform us to be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people, multiplying disciples everywhere.”

Over the next 40 days of lent through this devotional guide, you'll find passages of scripture & guiding questions as a means to help you slow down, to be present with God, and press into all that Jesus has. Again, though this is built in such a way that you could walk through it on your own. Our faith is meant to be lived out in community - engage with 2-3 others, engage with your Small Group community, engage with your family as we walk through Lent 2026.

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

(Ash Wednesday)

Prepared by: Pastor Josh

READ: Habakkuk 1:1-4

As I look to the world, my crying out to God has looked like that of Habakkuk's - a frustration by the darkness of our world. My heart quickly shifts to the opening words of our Alliance vision prayer: **"O God, with all my heart, I long for you. Come."** We continue to live in a world that feels dark - in this season of lent let's not rush past the darkness, but instead face it. Let's name the brokenness within ourselves and the world around us - while fixing our hope on the resurrection to come.

1. What are the spaces in your life or in the world that you are crying out for God to show up?
2. Today, take time to listen to how God might be responding to your hearts cry.

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Prepared by: Pastor Amanda

READ: Psalm 139:1-4

The Psalmist wrote these verses to praise God, the all-knowing one. I turn to these verses when I feel slighted or fearful. They are a comfort. They are also a conviction. I may be able to hide my sin from those around me, but I cannot hide it from God. I know that He already knows, but it still takes me time-sometimes far too much time, to bring my sin to Him and accept His forgiveness.

1. God wants to give us the gift of forgiveness, but we don't run full speed towards it. What obstacles keep you from coming to God for forgiveness?
2. Our sin is a burden we carry. How do you feel in your body when you're holding onto sin? How do you feel in your mind when you're holding onto sin? How do you feel in your spirit when you're holding onto sin?
3. The fact that God already knows everything about us is reason to praise! He sees our sinful nature and He still loves us! He gave us the most wonderful gift of forgiveness. As humans, we tend to make others earn our forgiveness. What can we let go of to be more Christ-like in our attitude towards forgiving others?

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Prepared by: Pastor Greg

READ Micah 6:6-8

Justice and mercy. On their own these two can become ditches. A focus on justice devoid of mercy reminds me of the saying ‘An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind.’ While a focus on mercy devoid of justice reminds me of all the misguided kids in Wonka’s Chocolate Factory. Jesus help us to act justly and love mercy and help us to walk humbly with you. O Jesus, with all our hearts, we long for you. Come.

1. Ask Jesus where you can partner with Him to act more justly in your space.
2. Ask Jesus where you can partner with Him to love mercy more in your space.

DAY 4 – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

From: A.W. Tozer (*God's Pursuit of Man*)

READ: Acts 9:17

We may be sure of one thing, that for our deep trouble there is no cure apart from a visitation, yes, an invasion of power from above.

Only the Spirit Himself can show us what is wrong with us and only the Spirit can prescribe the cure.

Only the Spirit can save us from the numbing unreality of Spiritless Christianity.

Only the Spirit can show us the Father and the Son.

Only the inworking of the Spirit's power can discover to us the solemn majesty and the heart-ravishing mystery of the Triune God.

1. Where has the Holy Spirit been showing up in your life in the opening days of lent?
2. What would it look like to further rely on the Holy Spirit in the midst of whatever you've decided to fast from?

DAY 5 – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Prepared by: Pastor Greg

READ: Isaiah 58:6-9

When I fast, I often think of the things I am giving up. A lunch, a dessert, some screen time; but I don't often think about what I am being invited into. Acts of justice, freedom, and provision for others. These things cost something; am I willing to give of what I have for others? I can quickly be distracted by so many things, including working through the paces of a fast, and I can forget that what God really wants is for His Kingdom to be manifested in and through me. The fast God chooses is one that brings His Kingdom to bear in this difficult world. O God, transform me to be ***Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, and Mission-focused*** so that I can bring your Kingdom to all the places where I live, learn, work, and play.

1. What is God inviting you into in this season?
2. Where can you bring justice, freedom, and provision for those around you today?

SELAH

Each Monday throughout Lent will be a **Selah Monday**.

In Scripture, *Selah* is a word most often found in the Psalms. While its exact meaning is debated, it consistently functions as an invitation to **pause**, to **slow down**, and to **linger**—to stop striving for a moment and allow what has been prayed or sung to sink deeper into the heart.

On Selah Mondays, we intentionally pause from the daily devotional reading. Not to disengage, but to create space. Space to breathe. Space to listen. Space to begin the week attentive to God rather than rushed by the demands ahead.

This pause reminds us that Lent is not about doing more, but about making room—room for God to meet us in our longing, our questions, and our hope for a new way of life.

On these Mondays, the invitation is simple: return to prayer. In particular, we encourage you to pray the Alliance Vision Prayer as you enter into the week, allowing it to shape your desires, direction, and posture before God:

***“O God, with all our hearts, we long for you.
Come, transform us to be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people, multiplying disciples everywhere.”***

As we pause together each Monday, may Selah moments help form us into people who live attentively—honest about the darkness we face, yet grounded in hope as we journey toward the resurrection life Jesus promises.

Prepared by: Pastor David

READ: Philippians 4:4-8

When we enter into a new way of living, everything changes. In his letter to the Church in Phillipi, Paul exhorts the believers to rejoice always, not be anxious about anything, and to think about praiseworthy things. As we walk in our faith journey, it can be difficult to embrace the ideas of always from the verse. We may be changed to rejoice often, and to not be anxious about most things. Paul's words affirm that we should not hold back any parts of our old life, and we should give ourselves completely to the transforming work of God. Rejoice Always!

1. Are there times or circumstances where you feel you can't fully embrace the behaviours of the new way of living?
2. The next time these circumstances or triggers come up, what might it look like to turn them over to Jesus?
3. How would your life look different if you could always live out a new way of living?

DAY 8 – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Prepared by: Pastor Amanda

READ: Jonah 4:1-4

As I'm reading the stories in the Bible where people really get it wrong, I start to feel pretty proud of myself. I am not perfect, but at least I'm not Jonah... except when I am! From Jonah's perspective the Ninevites did not deserve God's compassion and mercy. Jonah had to learn the hard way that his opinion of people had no bearing on God's love for them.

1. Be vulnerable in this moment and consider if there is a people group you feel are undeserving of God's mercy. You may say with your mouth that God loves everyone, but in your heart, you aren't sure about these specific people.
2. If question #1 brought people to mine, take a moment to confess this. Ask God to show you how He sees these specific people. Sit in the quiet uncomfortable for a moment. Really look at them through God's eyes.
3. How can you extend mercy and compassion to people who are living a different lifestyle than you?

Prepared by: Pastor Josh

READ: Malachi 3:1-4

The prophet Malachi opens his short book of Scripture challenging the people of God that they've grown apathetic. It's amazing how history repeats itself and in the midst of our own walks with Jesus how quick we can grow to become apathetic, to live in a devotional like this, a Bible reading plan or even prayer in the mornings that just seems like I'm going through the motions. Where apathy has dulled our expectation, God invites us to lift our eyes again. He is still preparing, still coming, still refining. God is mighty and can bring a shift towards anticipation in our hearts, because he is coming again. Some 400 years before the birth of Jesus, Malachi wrote of a messenger of the covenant that would come - that messenger is Jesus.

1. Where have you noticed apathy or spiritual numbness quietly replacing anticipation in your life with God?
2. Malachi reminds us that God comes to refine and restore His people. What would it look like for you to live today with anticipation that God is still at work in you?

Prepared by: Pastor Pam

READ Amos 5:24

*“Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice,
an endless river of righteous living.”*

During Lent, we are invited to reflect on how our lives align with God’s heart for justice and mercy. Amos 5:24 calls us to let justice flow like a mighty river and righteousness like an unending stream, reminding us that true worship is more than words or rituals—it’s a life transformed by God. As we are shaped to be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, and mission-focused, Lent becomes a season to examine our hearts, repent where we fall short, and act with compassion and fairness toward others. When our daily choices reflect God’s justice and mercy, we participate in His mission and bring light and hope to the world around us.

1. In what ways can your faith move beyond words or routines and be expressed through how we treat others in our everyday lives?
2. Is there a way you feel God asking you to stand up for someone or do the right thing in a situation around you?
3. What’s one small way you can show mercy or kindness to someone this week?

Prepared by: Pastor Bob

Read Romans 13:1

In today's scripture reading we see that all authority is established by God, calling believers to submit to governing authorities as an act of obedience to God's order. During Lent, this reminds us to surrender our desire for control, acknowledging God's sovereignty over earthly structures. Instead of fostering rebellion, we are called to show respect and trust God's plan, even when we disagree. Jesus' submission to the governing authorities showed his trust in his Father's ultimate authority and in his plan. This season, let this submission reflect a deeper inward repentance, turning away from our own selfish demands. By honoring established authority, we honor the ultimate Authority who sacrificed everything for us.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what area of my life am I struggling to submit to authority, and how can I surrender this to God during Lent?
2. How can my attitude toward leadership demonstrate my trust in God's sovereignty over human affairs?

*Our Prayer: "O God, with all our hearts, we long for You. Come, transform us to be **Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused** people, multiplying disciples everywhere."*

Prepared by: Pastor Pam

READ Psalm 51:10-12

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you.”

True change begins in the heart. As God renews us to be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, and mission-focused, our hearts are transformed to see others with compassion and act with fairness. Mercy flows naturally from a life shaped by His forgiveness, and justice becomes a reflection of His character in our daily choices. When we live renewed by God’s Spirit, our lives become living examples of His love, participating in His mission and bringing hope and healing to the world around us.

1. What does it look like in your life to be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, and mission-focused, especially in how you treat others?
2. How have you experienced God’s mercy in a way that helped you show justice and compassion to someone else?
3. This week, what is one way you can show justice or fairness to someone in your family, workplace, school or neighborhood?

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Prepared by: Sherry Martinez

READ: Mark 5:25-34

In the story of the woman with the issue of blood, we see Jesus accepting someone who was considered by Jewish law to be unclean. She would have been considered on the “outside” of the social world; shunned from society to the point that even her family members would not have been allowed to touch her. This woman who had been dealing with years of pain – physical, emotional and spiritual, reached for the “edge/hem” of Jesus’ cloak/garment. In her cultural context, the idea of someone unclean touching a holy Rabbi like Jesus would have been scandalous and risky

He did not reject the woman who reached out to him. He did not shame her for breaking the law and touching him. Jesus simply accepted her presence, turned to her, saw her and He said, “Take heart, daughter....your faith has healed you. Jesus calls us to come to him when we are weary, suffering, afraid or uncertain. We don’t have to sneak up on Jesus – we know He will receive us with open arms. All people are welcome to touch the hem of Christ’s garment.

1. Have you ever felt unaccepted because of what you have done in the past, because of some type of infirmity or because of some other reason?
2. What does this story reveal about the way God sees you?
3. In what area of your life do you need to hear God say, “Take heart, daughter/son?”
4. Ask God to help you see yourself and others through His eyes.

Prepared by: Pastor Bob

READ: Psalms 118:22-24

During Lent, Psalm 118:22-24 reminds us that the stone the builders rejected—Jesus Christ—has become our cornerstone, a marvelous work of the Lord. Though humanity may reject or overlook God's purpose, He turns that rejection into the foundation of our salvation. This realization allows us to rejoice, knowing that the Lord has accomplished this victory. When we fully understand this, it causes us to be glad and rejoice in this present, grace-filled day. Let this day be a time to embrace the Lord's work in your life.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life have you felt "rejected" or overlooked, and how can you allow God to turn those experiences into a foundation of faith, like the cornerstone in Psalm 118:22?
2. How can you practically choose to "rejoice and be glad" (v. 24) in the specific challenges of this Lent season rather than focusing solely on the sacrifice?

Our Prayer: *"O God, with all our hearts, we long for You. Come, transform us to be **Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused** people, multiplying disciples everywhere."*

Prepared by: Pastor Pam

READ Luke 23:34

“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.’ And the soldiers cast lots to divide up his clothes.”

During Lent, we are called to reflect deeply on Jesus’ sacrifice and the cost of mercy. On the cross, He prayed, *“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing,”* showing us that true justice is not only punishment but restoration and love. As God transforms us to be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, and mission-focused, Lent reminds us to examine our own hearts, repent of our failings, and extend mercy and forgiveness to others. In this season of reflection, our lives can mirror God’s heart—participating in His mission and bringing hope, healing, and grace to a hurting world.

1. During this Lenten season, what is one area in your heart where God might be calling you to repent, seek forgiveness, or extend mercy to someone?
2. Lent invites reflection on Jesus’ sacrifice—how does remembering His mercy on the cross inspire you to choose restoration over judgment in your daily interactions?
3. What practical step can you take this week to participate in God’s mission by bringing hope, healing, or grace to someone who needs it?

Prepared by: Robyn Flett

READ: John 8:1-11

Have you heard of the spiritual 3D glasses analogy? It is used to describe a shift in perspective that comes from being in relationship with Jesus. Moving from a superficial or limited view of life to seeing it with depth, purpose, and spiritual reality. Without these “glasses” life can appear flat, blurry and confusing. Without these glasses we can view things with more judgement and less fruits of the spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

With these glasses we can see the divine in other people, recognizing the “image of God” in everyone, and appreciating the unique, diverse aspects of God’s family. This analogy illustrates that a relationship with Jesus transforms perception, allowing for a deeper, more meaningful view of life, shifting from a limited, 2D perspective to a richer, 3D or even 4D experience.

As we seek His justice and mercy-both within our own hearts and in the midst of a hurting world-trusting that the cross exposes what is broken, and the resurrection makes all things new- and as you sit with Jesus in prayer today:

- Ask Jesus to fill in the blanks of verse 4 with what is broken:
“And (I) said to Jesus, “Teacher, this person/situation was/is _____.”
- Then ask Jesus to show you where you may be viewing things without your spiritual 3D glasses.
- Then view this area through Jesus’ response:
“Let anyone of you who is without sin be the first to throw the first stone.”
- And finally, ask Jesus to show you how to make all things new, and view this area in your life through the lens of the 3D spiritual glasses/layering it with the fruits of the spirit.
- Are there any actions Jesus wants you to take towards healing in this area of your life?

From: Paul David Tripp (*Journey to the Cross*)

READ: Isaiah 46:5-13

Surprise is a normal part of life for all of us. We are greeted with mystery again and again. We get caught up short, unprepared for what is coming down the line. The redemptive story confronts us with the fact that God is not like us. He saw our need, he planned how to meet that need, and everything happened just as he planned. In the vast expanse of time, the huge company of people, and the multitude of locations that were the setting for his plan of grace, he was never surprised, never unprepared, and always in control. Christ's march to the cross reinforces for us that our rest and hope are not in our knowing, but in his ruling. The God who knows no surprises will surprise us again. But it is okay, because what we don't know, he knows; what we can't control, he controls, and because he does, we can live with mystery and surprise and not be afraid.

1. When has life surprised you? When has God surprised you?
2. How can a perspective on God's sovereignty help you deal with the surprises of life? What are some things you can do to live with joy and hope amid the uncertainties of life?

DAY 19 - SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Prepared by: Aileen Rose

READ: Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is an ongoing journey.

Sometimes words spoken to you carve deep into your heart and mind. It can be a difficult journey to forgive the person who has hurt you.

Difficult but not impossible. Spend time with God, leaning into Him and hear His voice. Let go of the anger, instead of hanging on to those things the evil one wants to plant in your heart and mind.

- Do you have someone you need to forgive in your life?
- What is holding you back?
- Have you spent time with Jesus to hear his voice and follow up on his words?

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Prepared by: Pastor Amanda

READ: John 6:5-13

Considering the problems of the world and the needs of the people in it can leave me feeling like the disciples. There were so many hungry people present and all they had was a boy's small lunch. A small offering placed in the hands of our big God becomes way more than we need, every time. The challenge is to see beyond our lack to His provision.

1. It's easy to say we don't have the material possessions another person needs, but are there things you have that you just don't want to share? Or give away?
2. Think beyond material possessions for a moment. God knit you together with a unique combination of skills, gifts, and talents. Are you offering those to God to use for His glory?
3. There is a famous quote that says, 'To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.' Who has God placed in your sphere of influence that you can share the bread of life with so they can be satisfied? Who has God placed in your sphere of influence that you can share the living water with so they're never thirsty again?

Prepared by: Pastor Abbey

READ: Ephesians 4:22–24

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Lent gives us space to be honest with ourselves, to name the parts of our lives that no longer reflect the work Christ is doing in us. Paul reminds us that following Jesus always involves both letting go and learning to live differently. We're called to put off old patterns and habits, and at the same time, allow God to renew our hearts and minds. And the thing is, that renewal isn't something we can force through willpower alone. It's the quiet, faithful work of Holy Spirit within us. As we walk toward the cross this Lent, God is shaping us for resurrection life, a new way of living marked by righteousness, humility, and hope.

Reflection Questions:

- What "old self" habits or patterns might God be inviting you to lay down this Lent?
- How can you intentionally make space for renewal in your daily life?
- What might living into this "new self" look like in your relationships?

DAY 23 – THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Prepared by: Sherry Knoppers

READ: Ezekiel 36:26

A heart of stone is cold and unresponsive to God. When looking at the world around us, this seems accurate. A heart of flesh is tender, alive, and sensitive to God's will. As our vision prayer says, "O God, with all our hearts, we long for you. Come, transform us..." During this Lent season, may we experience transformation; letting go of what has accumulated and trusting God's love to make us new.

1. Where has your heart become cold and unresponsive to God?
2. Spend some time in prayer asking God to take what is cold and unresponsive and replace it with a heart that is tender and sensitive to His will.

Prepared by: Pastor Janelle

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:17

When the caterpillar leaves its little egg home, it has one job to do – eat! It chomps its way through life, from one leaf to another, growing bigger each day. When fully grown, the caterpillar forms itself into a chrysalis. And inside this chrysalis, something extraordinary happens – the caterpillar releases digestive juices which literally turn their body into soup. So gross! Then several days later, a miracle that takes place, the chrysalis splits open and a beautiful butterfly emerges. The caterpillar’s transformation is perfect picture of the New Creation we become when we choose to follow Jesus. We shed the old life, letting go of what we were to make way for the beautiful New Life that Jesus offers!

1. The caterpillar, once weighed down by gravity, can now fly as a butterfly! Are there any areas of your life that are weighing you down?
2. When Jesus looks at you, He sees a New Creation – He says you have great value and worth, you are His Masterpiece (Eph. 2:10). Do you see yourself the way Christ sees you?
3. Transforming to become more like Jesus is a process, take some time to sit with Jesus, give Him the things that are weighing you down, let Him speak words of affirmation over you, and ask Him to help you become more like Him every day.

From: A.B. Simpson (The Holy Spirit)

READ: Ephesians 5:9-18

“This is to be the habit of our daily life, and as we are thus filled with the Holy Ghost, our lives will be filled with goodness, righteousness, and reality.

We will not be shams and professions, but blessed expressions of the divine life within, and our whole being, inspired with a divine exhilaration, shall overflow in gladness, goodness, sweetness, unselfishness and blessing, to all with whom we come in contact”

1. Paul invites us to live as people filled with the Spirit, not simply marked by religious activity. Where in your life might God be inviting you to move from outward profession to an authentic expression of His life within you?
2. A.B. Simpson describes a life shaped by the Spirit as one marked by goodness, righteousness, and joy that overflows to others. When you reflect on your recent rhythms, what seems to be overflowing from your life—and what might that reveal about what is filling you?
3. As we continue through Lent, what would it look like to more fully surrender your daily habits, attitudes, or responses to the Holy Spirit, trusting Him to form in you the new way of life Jesus offers?

Prepared by: Pastor Andrew

Read: Colossians 3:1–4

Often, the moments when I find myself spiraling are rooted in the worries of this world—the horrifying things I see on the news or in politics, concerns about finances, children, health, or even moments when my faith feels strained or dry.

Paul’s message to us is simple, yet profoundly powerful: *“Set your sights on the realities of heaven.”*

Paul is not telling us to ignore the realities of this life. Rather, he invites us to understand them from a different perspective—an eternal one. He reminds us that this world is not our home, and that what is to come is something far greater than what we experience now. One day, when Jesus is revealed and every knee bows and every tongue confesses that He is Lord, we will share in His glory.

Until that day, Paul tells us, *“Your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* This is a profound reminder that we are not alone. We carry the presence of God wherever we go. The Holy Spirit lives in you and in me—present in our struggles, faithful to lead and guide us, to comfort us, to bring healing, to refine us, to sustain us, and to bear witness that we belong to Him.

As we enter this season of Lent and prepare for *The New Way of Life*, we are invited to lift our eyes and allow God to reorient our hearts.

Reflect:

1. What are you most fixated on right now—earthly realities or heavenly ones?
2. What are you carrying that feels too heavy to bear on your own?
3. What might it look like today to set your mind on the realities of heaven?

If you find it helpful to glimpse heaven more clearly, read Revelation 4; 5; and 7:9–17. There you will see both the majesty and power of Jesus our King, and the gentle shepherd’s heart that leads His people.

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Prepared by: Pastor Abbey

READ: James 1:22–25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Lent isn't just about thinking deeply or trying to be spiritual, it's about being shaped by Jesus. God's Word doesn't invite us only to listen, but to respond with lives marked by obedience. I've noticed how easy it is especially in a broken world, to hear the truth without letting it change how we live. Over time, that can quietly dull our sensitivity to the suffering around us. Jesus calls us into a different way of life, one where His truth takes root in our everyday choices, in how we love, and in how we serve. As we slow down this Lent, would you join me in praying that God would form us into people who more clearly reflect His justice and compassion, not just in what we believe, but in how we live together.

Reflection Questions:

- Where might God be calling you to move from hearing to action?
- What small, faithful step could you take today in response to God's Word?
- How can your obedience become a witness to others?

Prepared by: Pastor Janelle

READ: Matthew 25:35-40

I was recently reminded that one of the Hebrew names for God is “El Roi”, meaning “the God who sees.” He SEES and knows the least of these – the hungry, lonely, depressed, those who feel invisible, unworthy & unloved. And whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Jesus. When we serve them, we are serving Him. This parable challenges me every time I read it - are my eyes open to seeing others the way Jesus does?

Jesus, open my eyes to SEE the least of these, and help them experience the NEW LIFE that you bring!

1. Who are the vulnerable, sick, hurting, neglected, abused, broken, forgotten people in my school, workplace, neighborhood and city? Make a list as a family or small group.
2. Take some time to give this list to Jesus, asking Him how you could love the least of these.
3. Now get practical - what action steps can you take this week to serve someone on this list!

Prepared by: Pastor David

READ: 2 Samuel 9:1-11

I think all of us are a little bit like Mephibosheth. We have all experienced feelings of being broken or cast out, not necessarily for something that we've done, but just as a fact of life. Two things stun me in the story of Mephibosheth: the first is David's posture in protecting and uplifting someone who would be seen as a contender to his throne. The second is how clearly a gospel picture is presented. Mephibosheth is broken and cast out, and yet he is invited into a new life, to sit at the table of a king. In the same way, Jesus restores our brokenness and invites us to sit at his table.

1. Are there things in your life that you feel disqualify you from coming to God's table? What might it look like to turn those over to him?
2. Are there people around you, whom you can invite into a new way of living, to restore and invite to sit at your table?

DAY 31 – FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Prepared by: Pastor David

READ: Hebrews 6:13-20

As we reflect on the new way of life Jesus invites us into, we can rest in the assurance of God's promise. The author of Hebrews, using the language of the temple in the Old Testament, tells us that Jesus has gone into the inner sanctuary, behind the curtain, which points towards the most Holy Place, the dwelling place of God. We have assurance of our new way of living because Jesus has gone before us to intercede on our behalf, and the hope that this gives us can be an anchor for our lives so that we are not swayed by the changes and trials we face.

1. Are there times you struggle to be assured in the new way of life?
2. How might thinking of Jesus as an anchor be a source of comfort and hope in times of stress or in other trials?

From: Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*Life Together*)

READ: James 5:13-18

“He who is alone with his sin is utterly alone. It may be that Christians, notwithstanding corporate worship, common prayer, and all their fellowship in service, may still be left to their loneliness. The final breakthrough to fellowship does not occur, because, though they have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, as sinners. The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So, everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. We dare not be sinners. Many Christians are unthinkable horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So, we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy.

The fact is that we are sinners!”

1. Bonhoeffer suggests that we can participate in Christian community while still remaining deeply alone. Where might you be tempted to hide parts of yourself rather than bring them into the light of honest fellowship?
2. James invites us to confess and pray for one another so that healing may come. What fears—or assumptions—keep you from experiencing that kind of vulnerable, healing community?
3. As we move toward resurrection life, what would it look like for you to step out of isolation and into truthful, grace-filled fellowship this season?

DAY 33 – SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Prepared by: Pastor Andrew

Read: Colossians 3:10–11

In this season of Lent, we are given space to prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. When Paul speaks about "putting on the new self," he reminds us that new life in Christ often begins with letting go of what no longer reflects His way. Lent invites us into repentance—not as punishment, but as freedom—shedding attitudes, habits, and patterns that do not align with the life Jesus is forming in us. As we give ourselves to prayer, Scripture, and other healthy spiritual practices, we grow in our knowledge of Jesus and are gradually shaped to become more like Him.

Reflect:

1. What, if anything, might God be inviting you to release or lay aside in this season?
2. What qualities or ways of living do you sense God inviting you to "put on" instead?
3. What is one spiritual practice you could commit to that would help you know your Creator and become more like Him?

*“O God, with all our hearts, we long for you.
Come, transform us to be Christ-centered,
Spirit-empowered,
Mission-focused people,
multiplying disciples everywhere.”*

Prepared by: Pastor Abbey

READ: John 12:24–26

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Jesus is really honest about the cost of following Him. And Lent gives us space to actually sit with that truth, not rush past it or soften it. Letting go is uncomfortable and I know that's something many of us feel right now. But I'm learning that God often brings real fruit out of the very things we're afraid to release. The death Jesus speaks of is not about punishment, but about transformation. As we loosen our grip on control, comfort, or old ways of living, we make space for resurrection life to take root. This is the new way of life Jesus offers, one shaped by trust, obedience, and hope.

Reflection Questions:

- What might God be inviting you to release or surrender this Lent?
- Where have you seen God bring growth out of seasons of loss or letting go?
- How does following Jesus reshape what you believe "life" really is?

Prepared by: Pastor Janelle

READ: John 13:1-17

Throughout the gospels we see that Jesus often did the unexpected, He flipped the script on tradition, cultural norms, and religious expectations. It really shouldn't have surprised the disciples to see Jesus get up from the Passover meal, wrap a towel around His waist, pick up a basin of water and start washing His friends' stinky, dirty feet – but it was a total shock! This was a job normally reserved for the lowest servant of the household, not by their Rabbi! Jesus stooped down to demonstrate what it means to lift someone up - *that to love others well is to serve them* – Jesus flips the script.

1. What does it look like to “wash one another’s feet” at school, in the workplace, and in your neighborhood?
2. What gets in the way of us “stooping low” to lift someone up?
3. Spend some time brainstorming some practical ways as a family or small group, to love others well by serving them this Lenten season.

Prepared by: Pastor Bob

READ: Luke 23:42-43

In Luke 23:42-43, the penitent thief on the cross humbles himself to ask Jesus for remembrance, and Jesus immediately promises him paradise, showing us that it is never too late for grace. During Lent, we are reminded that salvation is not earned through righteousness, but through recognizing our need for a Savior. Even in his final, painful moments, Jesus extended radical forgiveness, offering hope to the broken and outcast. The cross acts as a bridge where our guilt meets God's mercy, turning a place of death into a gateway to eternal life. Let this promise strengthen your faith to trust in Jesus's mercy, regardless of your past actions.

Reflection Questions:

1. Like the thief on the cross, what areas of my life do I need to surrender to Jesus, trusting that his grace is enough to cover my past and present?
2. How does the immediate promise of "today" in paradise challenge me to live with more hope and urgency?

Our Prayer: *"O God, with all our hearts, we long for You. Come, transform us to be **Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused** people, multiplying disciples everywhere."*

Prepared by: Pastor Andrew

READ: Galatians 2:20

This passage has been life-changing for me. It reminds me of the transformation that occurs when Jesus becomes our Lord and Savior—the freedom it brings and the new life we now live in Him. Baptism confirmed this truth for me, a visible sign of the inward work God has done. Now, in every moment and situation, I have the privilege of trusting Jesus, not striving to earn His favor, but living in the life He has already given me—a life of holiness, blessing, and freedom.

Reflect:

1. What patterns or old ways might God be inviting you to release so you can live more fully in Him?
2. Where have you been striving to “make things right” in your life, and what would it look like to surrender that to Jesus?
3. In what area of your life do you hope to experience more of God’s freedom?

Prepared by: Pastor Greg

READ: Luke 4:18-19

Jesus had a perfect understanding of His mission. As we prepare for Easter, one of the things we might consider is how Jesus invites us into His mission. As we are praying for Jesus to transform us to be Mission-focused we must ask the question, 'what is the mission to which we are to be focused?' Certainly, our mission includes proclaiming and being the good news to our neighbors and beyond. Does it also include proclaiming freedom for prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, setting the oppressed free, and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor?

1. Pause for a moment to ponder how Jesus came to accomplish this mission for you.
2. What is one thing Jesus is asking you to do today in response to His mission here?
3. How might you reveal to others what Jesus has done for you, and what He might do for them?

DAY 40 – SUNDAY, MARCH 29

(Palm Sunday)

Prepared By: Josh Ginn

READ: Luke 19:28-38

PALM SUNDAY - on this day we are near the end of our time of lent. We remember on Palm Sunday Jesus' prophesied & triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Jesus knew the path ahead of him led to pain, suffering and ultimately death as he went to endure the cross and take on the sins of the world - yet in obedience to the Father, he moved closer to Jerusalem towards the cross. The Jewish believers who gathered though believed that revolution was coming, that a new way of life was about to begin. Though it's true that through the cross & the resurrection the world would have an opportunity to step into a new way of life, it wasn't the sort of life they were expecting. Jesus entered in to bring an everlasting peace - when kings entered into a city during times of war, it meant they were coming in peace.

1. When you consider *a new way of life*, what comes to mind? What are you longing for that life to look like?
2. Where do you think most people search for peace?
3. What are you doing to maintain peace with God? How can you help others find greater peace in Christ?

