

REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers
March 18-23

MONDAY, MARCH 18, MARK 13:28-31

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

PRAYER

As green shoots emerge from winter slumber, as birds and bugs begin to reappear, let us find signs of your presence with us. May new possibilities remind us of your unfolding grace. May warm smiles and hearty laughs reveal your eternal love. May comforting words embrace us in your welcoming arms. Signs, little glimpses; let us see in them your presence. Amen.



AT A GLANCE

THEMES

- Signs
- Alertness
- Preparation

SCRIPTURE

- Mark
- 1 Thessalonians
- Romans

What's so good about lent?

“Lent is an intentional preparation of our hearts and minds for holy week.”

Greg Allen-Pickett

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, MARK 13:32-37

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

PRAYER

You know, I do love sleep. I get all wrapped up and bundled up, and I drift off to dream world. It just feels so safe, so warm, so insular. And yet if I sleep too much, I know I'll miss it. I'll miss my neighbors when they need a meal. I'll miss a child when they have a question. I'll miss seeing the rainbow after the rain. I'll miss the bulbs as they begin to bloom. I'll miss your love when it arrives. Keep me awake to the beauty of you and of this world. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1 THESS 5:6-11

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

PRAYER

Help me, O God, be prepared for the day ahead. Grant me that which I will need to be gracious to all I meet and charitable in all my thoughts. Give me courage to face ambiguous situations. Give me resilience to navigate valleys of sorrow. Give me patience as I encounter difficult people and places. Give me the garments of love that I will need on this day. After all, there is no bad weather, only bad gear. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1 THES 5:14-18

And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

PRAYER

I watch, O God, as time and time again Jesus offers grace and empathy to those whom he encounters. He stops. He listens. He lifts, feeds, and heals. So often, he gives to those along his way true presence and the sort of things called for here. Help me to live by his example; offering good to those along my way. Help me to live by your will revealed through his example. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, ROMANS 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

PRAYER

Why do I quarrel? Why am I jealous? Because such things often make me feel important and powerful. And because I often forget that you didn't call me to be powerful. You didn't ask me to be influential. You don't need me to be right all the time. You've asked me to love you, to serve others, and be humble. Such works are the things of Christ. Such works are my calling. Amen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, MARK 14:1-2

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

PRAYER

The shadows of chaos are always nearby, and they can be revealed at any moment. When Jesus and the disciples entered Jerusalem, it was to shouts of praise and acclamation. But things change. And in the midst of our own triumphs, we know that things can change in a moment. We are fleeting creatures, and so are our joys. We are temporal, and so is our understanding. Chaos is always nearby, and it can be revealed at any moment. Be with us, O God, as we muddle through shifting, quite often, from joy to devastation. In the middle of it all, grant us your peace. Amen.