

# REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers  
March 11-16



## MONDAY, MARCH 11, MARK 13:1-2

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

## PRAYER

The grass withers. The flowers fade. But your word endures forever. Steeples tumble. Doors shudder. But your love abides eternally. Beauty vanishes. Bodies perish. But your grace is unending. Help us, O God, to put our trust and our very selves into the things of eternity. Grant that in this season of lent we may move our minds away from the things that fade and towards your perpetual mercy and calling. Amen.

## AT A GLANCE

### THEMES

- Impermanence
- God's love
- Calling

### SCRIPTURE

- Mark
- Joel
- Isaiah
- Psalms

## What's so good about lent?

“Honesty is key to any relationship. Our relationship with God is no different.”

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, MARK 13:9-13**

“As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**PRAYER**

Jesus asked his disciples to travel a difficult path, and they faced difficult situations. I offer you my thanks, O God, for all of those who offered testimony to you and your vision even in the midst of animosity and persecution. I thank you for those who spoke of love when the world called out for hatred. I thank you for those who cried out for justice when the world demanded segregation. I thank you for those who called for peace when the world sought vengeance. I thank you for those today who ask for sustainability in an ocean of consumption, mutuality in a field of individualism, and understanding in a world of talking heads. Though it may be challenging, help me to offer testimony to you and your kingdom of love and service. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, JOEL 2:12-14**

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

**PRAYER**

It is a fact that I cannot escape. I have sinned. I do sin. I shall sin. I have ignored your commands. And I can guarantee that at some point I will be uncharitable in my thoughts and deeds. I have not lived up to the standards set by your son. I have not earned your grace, and I will not earn your grace. But still, I will do my best to return to you after every misstep, after every moment when I move away from your heart. Have mercy, O God. Relent and grant your grace once more. Amen.



### THURSDAY, MARCH 14, ISAIAH 56:6-9

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

### PRAYER

You, O God, have placed a calling upon my heart. You have asked me to be your ambassador. You have asked me to help, as best as I am able, to bring about faith, hope, and love in the world. During this season of lent, help me to find ways to bring about justice, mercy, and kindness. Help me to join in the holy fast that brings redemption to the lives of others. Dust that I am, let me reflect your holiness in the world. Amen.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15, MARK 13:21-23

And if anyone says to you at that time, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'Look! There he is!' —do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be alert; I have already told you everything.

### PRAYER

A lot of people and a lot of things pretend to be my savior. But really they just want attention. All they really want is for me to tell them how great they are. They want the crowds. They want the cheers. They want the power. Help me always to remember that your son proclaimed repentance, not prosperity; humility, not pride; and self-sacrifice, not self-aggrandizement. Give me eyes to see and ears to hear those who proclaim and live by such truths. Amen.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16, PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

## PRAYER

I am parched, O God. Give me living water. I am lonely, dear Lord. Give me your presence. I am lost. Come and find me. I am adrift. Give me direction. I am overwhelmed. Calm the storms. I am afraid. Hold me in your arms. I have fallen. Lift me. I am your child. Grant me love. Amen.