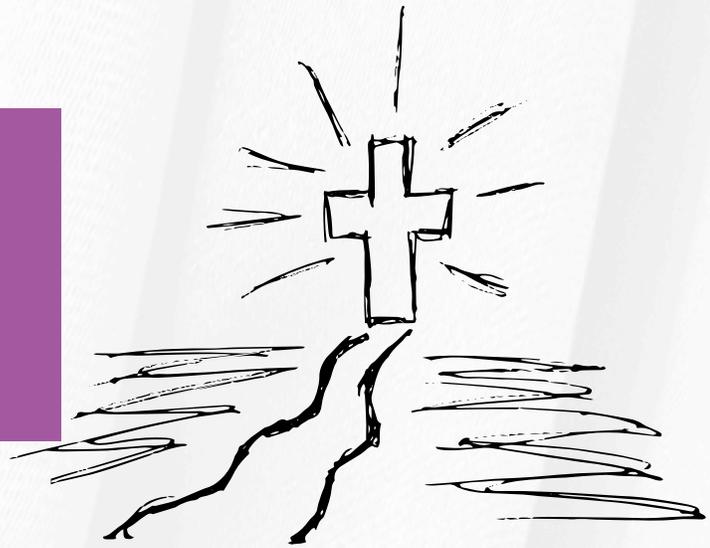


# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers  
March 1-7



## SUNDAY, MARCH 8, JOHN 18:12-18

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

## QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

*When do you follow Jesus? When do you struggle to follow his path?*

## PRAYER

Peter is an uncertain child on a diving board. He wants badly to take the leap and jump fully into the life of discipleship but he just can't bring himself to make the jump. Didn't he see a nice, safe ladder at the side of the shallow end earlier? Couldn't he just use that? After all, a lot less can go wrong when your feet can always touch the ground. Lord God, we want to follow Jesus but we can always get ourselves past the risk; the risk of looking foolish, the risk of saying the wrong things, the risk of losing friends or offending family. As Jesus makes his way to the cross, help us to set aside the things which keep us from jumping off the diving board and following him into the deep end of the pool. Amen.

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

## MONDAY, MARCH 9, PSALM 27:1-5

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:

to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of  
his tent;

he will set me high on a rock.

## QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

*What fear often covers your heart? What light can God shine upon it?*

## PRAYER

God of grace and courage. You know me. You know my fears and my worries. But let me name them nonetheless. For myself, I fear and worry about \_\_\_\_\_. For my family I fear and I worry about \_\_\_\_\_. For my friends and my communities I fear and worry about \_\_\_\_\_. For the past, for the future, for the world at large I fear and worry about \_\_\_\_\_. Comfort me, O God. Assure and remind me that the worst probably won't happen. And even if it does you will not abandon me. You will strengthen me. You will uphold me. Your light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. Amen.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 10, ISAIAH 45:14-17

Thus says the Lord:

The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Ethiopia,  
and the Sabeans, tall of stature,  
shall come over to you and be yours,  
they shall follow you;  
they shall come over in chains and bow down to you.

They will make supplication to you, saying,  
'God is with you alone, and there is no other;  
there is no god besides him.'

Truly, you are a God who hides himself,  
O God of Israel, the Saviour.

All of them are put to shame and confounded,  
the makers of idols go in confusion together.

But Israel is saved by the Lord  
with everlasting salvation;  
you shall not be put to shame or confounded  
to all eternity.

## QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

*What idol has left you feeling confounded or empty?*

## PRAYER

I can understand why the makers of idols would be confused. Because, no matter how convinced we are that the things of idolatry will satisfy us, will finally give us lives of meaning, purpose, and substance, they never truly do. Riches provide no guarantee of joy. Status brings with it no promise of love. Team, nation, power, security, family; none of them are you, O God. Pull us back, O God, to where our hearts truly belong. Pull us back to you, our true source of life, the true grounding of our being. Amen.

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, JOHN 14: 8-12

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

## QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

*Who reflects God to you?*

## PRAYER

Praise be to you, O God, for you are at hand. You are knowable. You are touchable. You can be heard and seen. Through the life, teachings, and actions of Jesus, we see you. Through the words of the prophets we hear your cry for justice. Through the deeds of kindness, words of peace, and open-hearted welcome of our siblings in faith, we come to know your very heart. You are not some vague mystery. You do not reside in a heaven light years away. You are here now, living and breathing in our churches, our communities, and our world. If we look, we will see you. Amen.

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

## THURSDAY, MARCH 12, JOHN 14: 13-17

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

## QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

*What truths has God shown you over the years?*

## PRAYER

This journey to the cross is often difficult. It is filled with moments of desolation, harsh truth, and confounding doubt. Of course these things are true of our lives as well. We often encounter such moments of darkness and despair and in the midst of such lengthening shadows we find ourselves needing a guide, a host, an advocate to help us find a way through the chaos of the world and our lives. We thank you, O God, for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who keeps us in fellowship with you and one another. In this season of Lent may this advocate help us to discover the light of your grace once more. Amen.

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

## FRIDAY, MARCH 13, JOHN 14: 18-21

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

## QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

*What kind of living is Jesus expecting of his followers?*

## PRAYER

Grant, O God, that we may not waste our living, letting it run out in pursuit of frivolities and trivialities. Strengthen us so that, inspired by Jesus, we may live in ways that are holy, distinct, and demonstrable of the love and kindness of Jesus. As he lived let us live. Encourage us to feed the hungry, welcome the outcast, and care for the vulnerable. Free us to weep with those who weep and to dance with those who dance. As his spirit is shared with us, help us to share it with others. Amen.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 14, JOHN 14: 23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

## QUESTIONS FOR DAILY REFLECTION

*How does God sustain you in moments of challenge?*

## PRAYER

The Advocate is on the way. The love will be demonstrated in the future. But the peace which Jesus offers is given for the moment at hand. In the midst of an overwhelming world and in the middle of overflowing lives grant us peace; a sense of the divine working in and through and beyond all things. Our hearts will be troubled. Sometimes they need to be. In such moments give us peace. Our lives will be made topsy-turvy. When we find ourselves upside down, give us peace. Peace, O God—an abiding sense of your fundamental presence is the thing which will carry us through our frustration, anger, confusion, and exhaustion. Grant us the peace which will carry us through.