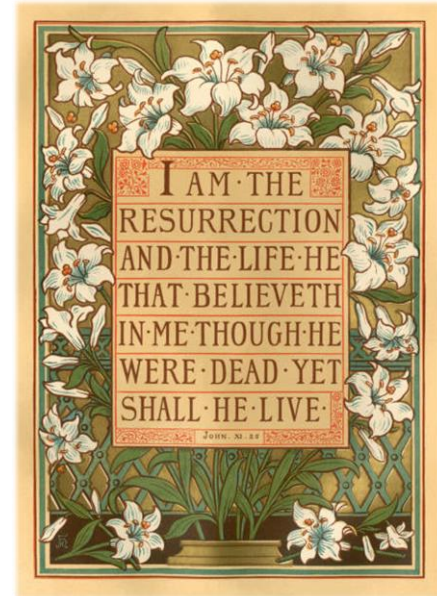


Lenten Prayers



2024

Dedicated to
the Culmore United Methodist
Church Family,
With much thanksgiving to God
for His many gifts!

In His service
Joy Savage

EASTER SUNDAY

DAY 1



Now you've got my feet on the life path, all radiant from the shining of your face. Ever since you took my hand, I'm on the right way.

- *Psalm 16:11 (Message)*

Then Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

- *John 10:10 (NLT)*

How blessed we are, LORD Jesus, to have the light of Your life to show us the way in so many ways. We live in such a darkened world, and we were in darkness ourselves until we came to see the need for You in our lives.

You gave up so much so that we could be forgiven and accepted into Your kingdom. Now, it is time for us to go back out into that darkness and bring God's love and grace into the lives of others. We can help them find that path, too.

Because You live, we too shall live in Your kingdom, now and forever! *Amen*



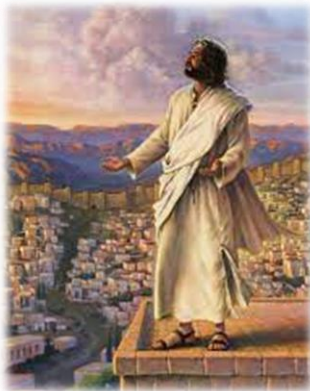
So this is what the Almighty LORD says: "I myself will go and look for my sheep to bring them back."

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

- *John 10:11 (EHV)*

LORD Jesus, You came into this darkened world to bring the light of Your love and God's grace into our lives, praise God! You chose to give up all that You had in Heaven to sacrifice Your life for all sinful men and women. Now You are the Great Shepherd who watches out for us and provides all we need.

Whenever a sheep is lost, the Shepherd always goes to find and return it to the fold with the others. So too, You are always watching out for us, making sure we are safe and have all that we need. Our lives are so blessed because You gave up Your life for us, to give us abundant and eternal life. *Amen*



You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the LORD swore to your fathers.

- *Deuteronomy 6:18 (MEV)*

Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, to be tempted there by Satan. For forty days and forty nights he ate nothing and became very hungry.

- *Matthew 4:1-2 (TLB)*

LORD Jesus, when You were tempted by Satan, You responded each time with the truth of God's Word. In spite of a weakened physical state because of being in the wilderness without any sustenance, You recognized the challenges to God's grace in what was being offered to You

We can follow Your example, choosing to do what is good and right in each challenge in our lives. The scriptures show us the way to live also! *Amen*



So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women.

- *Genesis 1:27 (CEV)*

God knew them before He made the world. And he decided that they would be like his Son.

Then Jesus would be the firstborn of many brothers and sisters.

- *Romans 8:29 (ERV)*

How amazing it is that God decided that He wanted to give life to humankind as a way to bring glory to Himself. People were created to worship and praise Him, along with the rest of His world.

When we tend to feel insecure about ourselves, when things are not going the way we want them to, we can gratefully remember that God made us to be like You, LORD Jesus, for specific purposes. It does not get any more amazing than that! *Amen*

DAY 38



This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

- *John 3:16 (CSV)*

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- *Ephesians 5:2 (ESV)*

LORD Jesus, how You suffered on the cross to give us the possibility of eternal life. But You still remembered to focus on the Kingdom and the needs of others.

What an example it was that You reached out to the thief dying with you, whom others considered undeserving. You made sure he could join Your kingdom—what an example that is for us!

Help us to stop judging others by outward appearances and see them as Your children, the same as ourselves. *Amen*

DAY 3



At that time long ago, the LORD showed himself to His people. He said, “I have always loved you and I always will love you. My faithful love for you continues forever.”

- *Jeremiah 31:3 (Easy)*

Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me! I will teach you how to catch people instead of fish.”

- *Matthew 4:19 (God’s Word)*

LORD Jesus, we have all had experiences where someone served as a “fisherman” for us, to draw us into Your Kingdom.

We thank You for giving us the privilege of paying that forward. You have called us to be among those fishermen, and share what we were given so freely. So many people around us need to be “caught” for You!

Help us always be on the lookout for those opportunities and know the right way to reach out to each one in need of Your love and grace. *Amen*



As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is His love for those who honor Him.

- *Psalm 103:11 (Good News)*

I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another.

- *John 13:34 (AMPC)*

LORD Jesus, we cannot really comprehend how great God's love is for His children. The love that involved You coming to earth to live and die among us. The love that is there constantly for us, no matter who we are or what we have done.

As we go about our daily lives, we keep finding the need to share that kind of love with others, and how hard it can be. Please help us to recall all that we have been given, when the need for us to forgive arrives. That is where others see Your grace at work in our lives, and what a difference it can make. *Amen*



And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.

- *Exodus 26:33 (ESV)*

But Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit. Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

- *Matthew 27:50-51a (CSB)*

The veil in the temple of Old Testament times was intended to keep people away from God's holy presence. People were all sinful and unworthy to come into His presence.

LORD Jesus, we give You thanks and praise for the way You sacrificed Your life, so that now we can come before our Holy God the Father as His forgiven children. We can experience the precious experience of bringing Him all our concerns, and finding all the help we need for everything happening in our lives. *Amen*



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government is *placed* upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called The Wonderful *One*, The Counsellor, The God, The Mighty *One*, The Eternal Father, The Prince of Peace.

- *Isaiah 9:6 (JUB)*

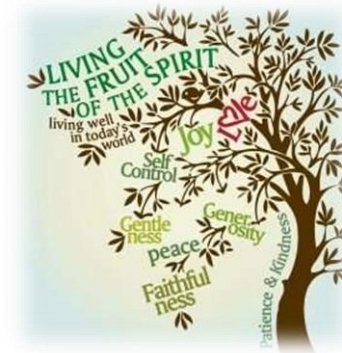
Jesus said: "I give you the gift of peace.

In the same way the Father sent Me,
I am now sending you."

- *John 20:21 (Voice)*

LORD, let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

But LORD Jesus, being at peace always begins with You. We find we can have the "peace that passes all understanding" in times of great distress because we can draw near to You, and find the help and direction we need to cope. That is the best way that others can see what a difference it makes in our lives, when we demonstrate our faith and trust in You! *Amen*



God blessed them. God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over . . . every living thing that moves on the earth."

- *Genesis 1:28 (WEB)*

I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me.

- *John 15:5 (CEV)*

So it is that fruitfulness begins with God Himself, who created land with the capacity to produce plants and trees that bear fruit, who called on human beings created in His image to "be fruitful and increase in number." He loved us so much!

Send us forth, LORD, with the fruit of the Spirit. We want to share that love and grace with everyone around us, so they see Your love in us and find it for themselves. *Amen*



The LORD takes care of me, like a shepherd with His sheep. I have everything that I need. He gives me new strength in my life. He is my guide to the right paths. He does this to give honour to his name.

- *Psalm 23:1, 3 (Easy)*

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are no poor relation— For from your people will come a Ruler who will be the shepherd of My people Israel.

– *Matthew 2:6 (Voice)*

The shepherds were the lowliest and loneliest of people in Old Testament times. And yet, when You arrived on earth, they were honored to be the first recipients of the birth message from angelic choirs.

LORD Jesus, You too took on the role of being a humble Shepherd of Your people, to show how great God's love was for His people, and still is-- He supplies ALL of our needs! *Amen*



Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded: Take two quarts of manna to be kept for your descendants. This way they will see the food that I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.”

- *Exodus 16: 32 (God's Word)*

Then Jesus said, “I am the bread that gives life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who believes in me will ever be thirsty.

- *John 6:35 (ERV)*

LORD Jesus, throughout all of history, Father God has taken care of the most basic needs of His children. The manna from Heaven kept them from starving in the wilderness after leaving Egypt.

You promised to be the bread that keeps us from ever going hungry. That is not just provision for our physical needs, but for the hunger in our spirits and souls for the closeness of a relationship with God the Father, which cannot be filled in any other way. *Amen*



In the beginning was that Word, and that Word was with God, and that Word was God. This same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by [Him], and without [Him] was made nothing that was made.

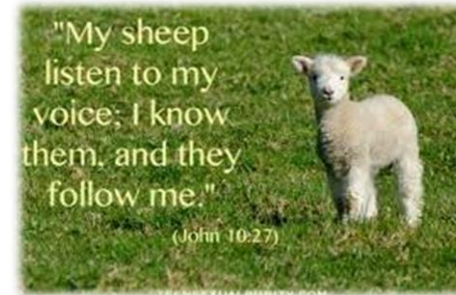
- *John 1:1 (Geneva Bible)*

“I pray not only for these followers but also for those who will believe in me because of their teaching.

- *John 17:20 (ERV)*

How grateful we are, LORD Jesus, for Your promise to be praying constantly for those who trust in You. When we are going through difficult experiences and can't see our own way through, we can recall this promise.

You know all there is to know about us, much more than we even know about ourselves, and this promise helps to sustain us in those times. *Amen*



Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.

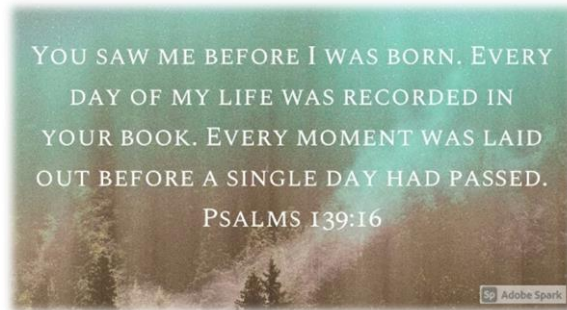
- *Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)*

The sheep that are My own hear *and* are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.

- *John 10:27 (AMPC)*

LORD Jesus, we are so grateful that we are Your sheep. We just need to do a better job paying attention to the fact that we need to listen to You more than anyone or anything else.

So many voices in our environments are trying to draw us in and away from what You know is best for us. Help to be able to recognize Your voice above the din. Yours is the soft and loving voice that directs us on the path God has established for us from before we were born. *Amen*



David said: “You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!”
 - *Psalm 139:16 (Living Bible)*

God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus He has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do.
 - *Ephesians 2:10 (Good News)*

LORD Jesus, in times of challenge and adversity, we are most grateful to remember that God has always had a plan for our lives. He wants to work with us to keep us moving forward on the path set in motion before we were born.

We are never alone unless we choose to turn away. God has so many blessings for us when we choose to do all that He wants us to do. He always does His best for us! Those plans are for good things for others as well as ourselves. *Amen*



“Rejoice greatly, O my people! Shout with joy! For look—your King is coming! He is the Righteous One, the Victor! Yet He is lowly, riding on a donkey’s colt!
 - *Zechariah 9:9 (Living Bible)*

So they brought the colt to Jesus, threw their coats on its back, and He took his seat upon it. The whole crowd, both those who were in front and those who were behind Jesus, shouted, “God save him! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”
 - *Mark 11: 7, 9 (Phillips)*

LORD Jesus, help us to remember how humble You stayed in the face of others seeking to give You glory, as You came into Jerusalem. You always remembered that You came “in the name of the LORD.” You never sought acclamation for Yourself, no matter what others said or did. *Amen*



No, He has told you what he wants, and this is all it is: to be fair, just, merciful, and to walk humbly with your God.

- *Micah 6:8 (Living Bible)*

Jesus said: “If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

- *John 13:14 (MEV)*

LORD Jesus, there was never a task to lowly and humble for You to take on, and this is an example for us to follow. Sometimes we think that there are no opportunities around us to show God’s love and grace to others in a big way.

But there are many small ways to show others that God loves them too. Smiling and greeting others we know and those we don’t. Sending cards, making phone calls, and most of all, saying prayers when the LORD touches our hearts with specific needs. These things don’t bring us any glory, but they do glorify God when done with loving hearts and spirits! *Amen*



But those who wait for the LORD will receive new strength. They will lift up their wings and soar like eagles. They will run and not become weary. They will walk and not become tired.

- *Isaiah 40:31 (EHV)*

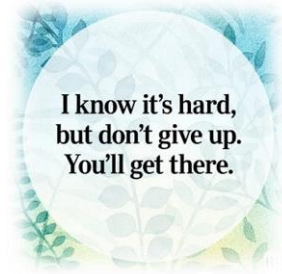
Let us put everything out of our lives that keeps us from doing what we should.

Let us keep running in the race that God has planned for us.

- *Hebrews 12:1 (NLV)*

LORD Jesus, we sometimes feel worn down with all the activities and challenges in our daily lives. So much to be done, and there might never be enough time to do everything.

Thank You for these promises and the strength we need to accomplish all we are called to do. We just need Your help in keeping our focus on the path set for us, putting aside the distractions that take away our attention from what is most important: what we are called to do for God’s sake! *Amen*



I've commanded you to be strong and brave.
Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am
the LORD your God, and I will be there to help
you wherever you go.
- *Joshua 1:9 (CEV)*

Paul said, “He encourages us in every trouble,
so that we may be able to encourage
those who are in any trouble,
through the very encouragement with which
we ourselves are encouraged by God.
– *2 Corinthians 1:4 (TLV)*

Do you ever wonder and even question God’s
goodness in times of great trial when it is hard to
understand what He is doing in our lives? We may
even ask Him if He is there and whether He still
loves us when things are hard enough.

LORD Jesus, help us to remember that each
experience is for our good. It may also be just
what is needed to help someone else in similar
circumstances. That makes us the best person to
offer encouragement to our fellow sufferers!
Amen

I loved them, but they were against me.
So I said a prayer.
- *Psalms 109: 4 (ERV)*

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them,
for they don’t know what they’re doing.”
- *Luke 23:34 (CEB)*

One of the more difficult requirements in the
scriptures is the need to forgive others, no matter
what they have done to hurt, anger, or abuse us.
LORD Jesus, You have given us the best way to
meet this challenge—pray for them!

It helps us to remember that nothing we are
going through will ever be any worse than You
experienced, from people You loved to Your
experience on the cross. Help us also to
remember how much we have received God’s
forgiveness for and from others as well. That does
not compare, either! *Amen*



The first thing to know about your word is that it is true and that all your righteous rules last forever.

- *Psalm 119:160 (CEB)*

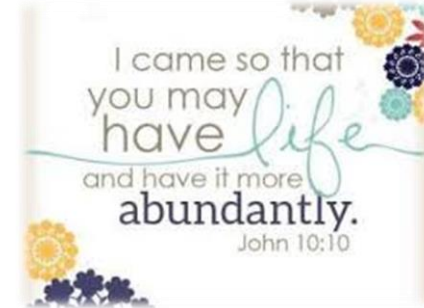
Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.

- *John 14:6 (ERV)*

LORD Jesus, how grateful we are that You chose to come and live on earth as God's Living Word. There were so many truths You shared with us through Your words and actions. Some of these things were so simple, but many have profoundly affected our lives when we choose to apply them to our everyday activities.

Most important is our choice to accept that God's forgiveness is given to us freely only when we choose to give our lives to You.

Be with us daily to remind us that our lives belong to You, and You will always guide us to God's truth with love and grace. *Amen*



The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.

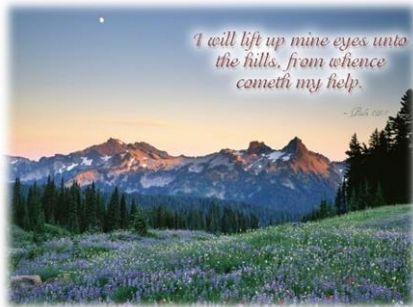
- *Deuteronomy 28:12a (NIV)*

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and have it in abundance."

- *John 10:10b (CSB)*

LORD Jesus, You reminded us in the prayer You gave to Your disciples to bring all of our needs and concerns for every kind to our Loving and Gracious Heavenly Father, on a daily basis. He wants us to bring Him all our concerns, great and small, in remembrance of who He is and our dependence on Him. There is nothing that concerns us that He does not care about!

Help us to remember that we can never out-give God. We need to keep a strong spirit of gratitude in our hearts for all that we have been given. We also need to remember that He is the source of all the gifts we have been given. *Amen*



I look to the hills! Where will I find help?
It will come from the LORD,
who created the heavens and the earth.
- *Psalm 121:1-2 (NKJV)*

I can do all these things because
Christ makes me strong.
- *Philippians 4:13 (Easy)*

LORD Jesus, You were there when the heavens and earth were created, and You and Father God together made all that was made, including the first man and woman. You were part of the plans made for all of our days, and now You promise to help as we live out those plans!

No one knows any better than You what we need. We are grateful for all of this when things become difficult and we can't see which way we might want to go next. Thank You that You have our lives in Your hands! *Amen*



Teach me, LORD, what You want me to do,
and I will obey You faithfully; teach me to
serve You with complete devotion.
Psalm 86:11 (Good News)

The Lord answered her, “Martha, my beloved Martha. Why are you upset and troubled, pulled away by all these many distractions? Are they really that important? Mary has discovered the one thing most important by choosing to sit at my feet. She is undistracted, and I won’t take this privilege from her.”
- *Luke 10:41-42 (TPT)*

LORD, we can relate to both Mary and Martha—Mary wanted to spend her time listening to You when she got the chance, and You were in her home. Martha wanted to put on a nice dinner in Your honor to provide for everyone’s physical needs. Does this sound like our daily activities?

Help us to make being in Your presence our greatest priority, instead of something that gets lost in all of the things we might like to do. *Amen*



He was wounded and crushed because of our sins; by taking our punishment, he made us completely well.

- *Isaiah 53:5 (CSV)*

Everyone was amazed at what they saw and heard. People who had never spoken could now speak. The lame were healed, the crippled could walk, and the blind were able to see.

Everyone was praising the God of Israel.

- *Matthew 15:31 (CEV)*

LORD Jesus, it was a major portion of Your earthly ministry to reach out and heal the lame, the sick, the injured, the “least of these.” We give You thanks and praise that whenever we have these needs, we can count on our Great Physician.

Healing can now take place in many ways, medical practices, therapy, counseling, medications, and so on. You, too, healed others in a number of different ways, so we know that healing can be accomplished in many ways, but all through Your loving care for us. We ask your healing touch now for the many needs we are experiencing, and those around us. *Amen*



And yet the LORD is waiting to be merciful to you. He is ready to take pity on you because He always does what is right. Happy are those who put their trust in the LORD.

- *Isaiah 30:18 (Good News)*

The man replied, It says that we must love the Lord our God with all our mind and with all our strength. We must love Him with all that we are and in all that we think. It also says that we must love other people as much as we love ourselves.’

- *Luke 10:27 (Easy)*

God of Grace, God of Mercy, You are just and ready and willing to take care of the needs of Your people. You always do what is right and call us to be part of that also.

We see all around us situations where we think wrongdoing is overcoming what is right. Help us to be willing to step forward when we see things like that happening when we can make a difference in someone else’s situation, for Your mercy and justice to prevail. Please help us give up being so comfortable all the time! *Amen*



As the priests were leaving the Temple, it was suddenly filled with a cloud shining with the dazzling light of the LORD's presence, and they could not continue the service of worship.

- *II Chronicles 5:14 (Good News)*

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. He was transfigured in front of them, and his face shone like the sun; his clothes became as white as the light.

- *Matthew 17: 1-2 (CSB)*

II Chronicles describes the “Shekinah glory” of God that was so great that the priests could not conduct worship in the temple because of God’s presence there. When Moses spent time talking to God on Mt. Sinai, he had to cover his face when he returned because of its brightness. In the same manner, LORD Jesus, when You were transfigured on the mountain and Moses and Elijah were there along with Peter, James, and John, You came back with the same kind of brilliance to show You were the Son of God! *Amen*



Here is my servant! I have made Him strong. He is my chosen one; I am pleased with Him. I have given Him my Spirit, and He will bring justice to the nations.

- *ISAIAH 42:1 (CEV)*

The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah will come, and when He comes, He will tell us everything.”

- *John 4:25 (Good News)*

Jesus, Messiah, after many years of silence from Heaven, You finally arrived on earth to be the King of Kings and LORD of Lords, God’s anointed one. However, Your people did not really know what that meant.

You were very different from what they expected. You came to die for our sins, not to take over and rule and reign as a political ruler. You will eventually rule over all the nations when You return, but not at first.

LORD Jesus, we ask You to rule and reign in our hearts forever! *Amen*



When you get to the rock at Mount Sinai, I will be there with you. Strike the rock with the stick, and water will pour out for the people to drink.”

Moses did this while the leaders watched.

- *Exodus 17:6 (CEV)*

... a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. Jesus asked her, “Would you please give me a drink of water?” But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life.”

- *John 4:6, 14a (CEV)*

LORD Jesus, water is something that no living creature can live without, something You have always known and have provided. Water both cleanses and sustains life.

We want to be in such a close relationship with You that we acknowledge that kind of presence in our lives as well. We need to know and rejoice that You are an integral part of our lives, without which life is impossible. *Amen*



“I am the LORD, your savior; I am the one who created you. I am the LORD, the Creator of all things. I alone stretched out the heavens; when I made the earth, no one helped me.

- *Isaiah 44: 24 (Good News)*

At about four o’clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared to death. “A ghost!” they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. “Courage, it’s me. Don’t be afraid.”

- *Matthew 14:25-27 (Message)*

LORD Jesus, You are the LORD over all of Creation. Your power over the wind and the waves on the Sea of Galilee was complete. But sometimes people became afraid when confronted with Your power as God’s Son.

The same may be true of us when we consider giving You full charge of our lives. We want to have the faith and trust in God’s goodness to allow You full power over our lives, LORD Jesus. *Amen*



The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- *Psalm 27:1 (KJV)*

But Jesus replied, “Why are you so afraid? You surely don’t have much faith.” Then he got up and ordered the wind and the waves to calm down. And everything was calm.

- *Matthew 8:26 (CEV)*

LORD Jesus, there are plenty of reasons for us to give in to being fearful if we look around us or listen to the media, other people, or even our own tendencies to be anxious. But that is not how our Gracious Father wants us to live.

You reminded Your disciples that it really is a matter of trusting in God’s goodness towards His children. He is the LORD of all creation and has everything relating to our welfare in His hands. Help us to keep our own hands off difficult situations, and keep our minds stayed on You!

Amen



You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch. You honor me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows.

- *Psalm 23: 5 (CEV)*

Then Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, gazed into heaven, and gave thanks to God.

He broke the bread and the two fish and distributed them to his disciples to serve the people—and the food was multiplied in front of their eyes. Everyone had plenty to eat and was fully satisfied.

- *Mark 6:41-42 (TPT)*

LORD Jesus, when You told us to ask our Father for daily bread, it may lead us to believe that He will dole out what we need just when we need it. However, nothing could be further than the truth. We keep finding out over and over again that He regular gives us much more than we need.

Help us to remember that there were twelve baskets of leftovers in this story, and that the needs of the people were all supplied by the generosity of one small boy who shared his lunch!



When His people pray for help, He listens and rescues them from their troubles.

- *Psalm 34:17 (CEV)*

If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest.

- *Matthew 11:28 (CEV)*

We all have burdens to carry, but some of us have heavier ones than others. However, Our Gracious LORD never intends for us to carry them by ourselves. Among other things, don't we regularly have friends and even strangers come alongside us when they see us struggling to offer assistance?

Help us to recall that even more than other people who care about us, You, Our Gracious LORD and Savior, told us in more than one way that You intend to be the one carrying the heavier portion of our loads. You are always available, always listening, always willing to take over entirely when necessary. We are never alone!
Amen



You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

- *Isaiah 26:3 (CSB)*

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

- *John 20:21 (NIV)*

Remember the story of Moses leading God's people across through the Red Sea to escape the Egyptians intending to kill them? Do you ever feel that you are in a similar dangerous or difficult situation, too hard for you to handle on your own?

LORD, help us to remember that when You call us to Your service, we have already been prepared to do what You want us to do. The situations in which we find ourselves may look like walls of water ready to crash down and drown us, but You have promised that will never happen!

You will keep us in perfect peace when we trust in You and keep coming to You for guidance and direction until our situation is resolved in the way You intend for it to be, praise God! *Amen*



The LORD will reward you for all the good things you have done. The LORD, the God of Israel, will pay you in full. You have come to Him for safety, and He will protect you.”

- *Ruth 2:12 (ERV)*

Jesus responded, “Thomas, now that you’ve seen Me, you believe. But there are those who have never seen Me with their eyes but have believed in Me with their hearts, and they will be blessed even more!”

- *John 20:29 (TPT)*

The story of Ruth in the Old Testament is one where, although she was not of the same faith tradition, she decided to leave her home with her mother-in-law, to find a safer and better situation. Because she trusted in the God she was told about, the women were greatly blessed in a new place.

Jesus reminded Thomas that he insisted on seeing Jesus’ scarred hands instead of trusting in Him without having proof of His resurrection. Help us to be like Ruth and go where You call us to go in faith. *Amen*



He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has put thoughts of the forever in man’s mind, yet man cannot understand the work God has done from the beginning to the end.

- *Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLV)*

God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that He won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns.

- *Philippians 1:6 (CEV)*

LORD Jesus, we have been reminded that our lives may be viewed as tapestries—beautiful on the right side and messy on the underside, where all the work is going on.

When we get engrossed in the messiness during the work, we may forget that God is creating a beautiful picture on the other side, where others watch and see what He is doing.

Help us to trust in You to complete the work You have started, as You have promised that will be finished by the end of our lives here on earth! *Amen*



GOD, simply because of who He is, is not going to walk off and leave His people. GOD took delight in making you into His very own people.

- *I Samuel 12:22 (Message)*

Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying "Abba, Father!"

- *Galatians 4:6 (CEB)*

Abba Father, some of Your children have families they are close to, but some of them have no families close by or no families at all. Others have families in which there are difficult relationships. But praise God, we all have new worldwide families, all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, once we are accepted into relationship with You, because we have accepted our LORD Jesus as our Savior. None of us is ever alone once we become Your children. Help us to show them the same kind of love we receive from You.

We are so grateful You are our Abba Father, who offers us the unconditional love and acceptance we all need so much to have! *Amen*



"Call out to me and I will answer you. I will tell you about great things. They are secret things that you do not yet know."

- *Jeremiah 33: 3 (Easy)*

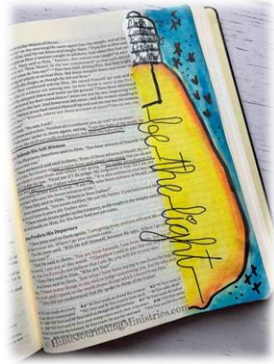
The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for him.

He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him.

- *Luke 15:20 (CEV)*

We love this picture of the father running to his wayward returning child. He is so ready to offer love, forgiveness, and acceptance that we haven't always experienced in our own lives when we have done something wrong.

Praise God that He is always, always, always waiting and watching for us to return to Him, seeking to re-establish ourselves in His good graces. He is ready when we are ready to repent and return. He never turns away and has so many more blessings to give us! *Amen*



“I am the LORD. I have called you for a righteous purpose, and I will hold you by your hand. I will watch over you, and I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations,
- *Isaiah 42:6 (CSV)*

You are the world’s light—a city on a hill,
glowing in the night for all to see.
Don’t hide your light! Let it shine for all; let
your good deeds glow for all to see, so that
they will praise your heavenly Father.
- *Matthew 5:14-16 (Living Bible)*

LORD Jesus, You came to be the light of the world, and then You left us in charge of spreading that light throughout the rest of the world. You left it to Your people to share the good news of the gospel with every nation in the world.

With the technology available to us today, that seems less impossible a task than it once was. Please give us the wisdom to use whatever means are available to us, whenever we can, to share the good news we have received. *Amen*



God said to Abraham: “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”
- *Genesis 17:7 (MEV)*

For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life.
- *John 3:16 (Voice)*

In the Old Testament, God promised Abraham many blessings because of His faithfulness. Those blessings have been fulfilled ever since then.

There was a new covenant established with Jesus’ death and resurrection in New Testament times. God’s part in this was to offer the life of His beloved son. Ours is simply to accept what was offered to us, eternal life in exchange for our faith. LORD, help us never forget the price paid for this precious gift! *Amen*