

Lenten Prayers



2025

Dedicated to the Culmore United Methodist

Church Family,

With much thanksgiving to God

for the gift of His Son,

through whom new life is possible.

In His service

Joy Savage

Ash Wednesday,

March 5, 2025



God said to Adam and Eve:

“By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you will return to the ground from which you were made.

For you were made from dust and to dust you will return.”

- *Genesis 3:19 (NLT)*

Jesus answered, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

The only way to the Father is through me.

- *John 14:6 (EXP)*

LORD Jesus, this is the beginning of the Lenten season, which helps us realize that we have triumphed over death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a time to repent of our sins and seek renewal in our lives as Christians.

We come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be through Your presence in our lives. What was lost through the sins of Adam and Eve has been restored to us because of Your great love for all of God’s people, if we ask You for it. *Amen*

March 6, 2025



Do what is right; do what is good in God's sight
so you'll live a good life and be able to march in
and take this pleasant land that God
so solemnly promised through your ancestors,
throwing out your enemies left and right—
exactly as God said.

-Deuteronomy 6:18 (Message)

Then the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

While he was there, the Devil came to him. He tried to cause Jesus
to do wrong things. Jesus did not eat anything for 40 days and 40 nights.

At the end of this time, he was very hungry.

- Matthew 4:1-2 (Easy)

LORD Jesus, You showed the way to overcome the temptations that
regularly cross our paths. There are so many ways for us to go astray coming
in our direction, and it is so difficult sometimes to to continue to make the
right and wise choices that keep us safe and prosperous. Your people spent 40
years in the wilderness coming into the land they were promised because of
unwise choices.

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

March 7, 2025



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, “Follow me! I will teach you how

to bring in 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 personally, to draw us into Your Kingdom.

The way You used different means to draw your disciples to You gives reminders of the ways others can be reached for You. Some are invited by others, Some find out about You through reading Your Word. Some hear about You through the testimony of others who share their life experiences. Some are brought by family members.

We pray for opportunities to share our faith with any of those we encounter.

Amen

March 8, 2025



God blessed them. God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, for God blessed them. He said to them, ‘Give birth to children. Grow in number.

Fill the earth and rule over it. ...

Have dominion over ... every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- *Genesis 1:28 (Easy)*

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)*

LORD Jesus, we are grateful to know that we are never on our own when it comes to serving Your Kingdom. There are so many needs around us that we might want to respond to, that it is hard to even chose which ones to pursue.

We can always count on Your direction, encouragement, and strength to do whenever we are called for Your service, as long as we stay connected to You through time spent with You, in prayer and studying Your Word. We want to be fruitful members of Your kingdom as we reach out to others in Your name.

Amen

March 9, 2025



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 honor to His name.

- Psalm 23:1, 3 (Easy)

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before Himself, sacrifices Himself if necessary.

- John 10:11 (Message)

The shepherds were the lowest 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 took on the role of being a humble Shepherd for Your people, to show how great God’s love was for His people and still is. You supply ALL of our needs, everything from helping to supply our basic needs for food, shelter and other basic needs to our personal safety.

LORD, we need You to come and find us when we go astray also. It is easy to take wrong paths, and we are grateful that You do not leave us alone when that happens! *Amen*

March 10, 2025



His love for his followers is as high above us as heaven is above the earth.

- Psalm 103:11 (ERV)

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.

When things become difficult, we sometimes forget that Your ways are much above ours, and our choices are much different than Yours at times. That is because You have a much clearer vision for what is needed to resolve those difficult situations in which we become enmeshed. You know all there is to know about us and always have our very best on Your mind, as You work things out the way they need to be done.

Help us to wait on You to see what You are going to do instead of rushing down our own paths, when You are at work in ways we don't understand.

Amen

March 11, 2025



But with your own eyes you saw my body being formed.
Even before I was born, you had written in your book everything about me.

- *Psalm 139:16 (CEV)*

God planned for us to do good things and to live as He has always wanted us
to live. This is why He sent Christ to make us what we are.

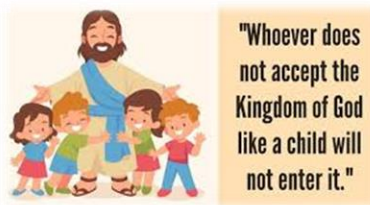
- *Ephesians 2:10 (CEV)*

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.

As our Creator, You know so much more about who we are, and what we
need and can do. We ask for the grace to let You do Your part in planning our
lives while we do ours—working under Your direction to do our best in
whatever we have been called to do.

Waiting on You can be hard when things are difficult, and You don't seem
to be taking any actions. That is when we start thinking about making our own
plans, if we are not wise enough to let You do what You know is best! *Amen*

March 12, 2025



At the time of those rulers the God of heaven will establish a kingdom that will never end. It will never be conquered, but will completely destroy all those empires and then last forever.

- *Daniel 2:44 (Good News)*

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive and accept and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child positively shall not enter it at all.

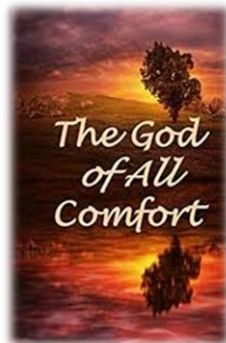
- *Mark 10:15 (AMPC)*

LORD Jesus, You wanted us to know that in order to enter Your Kingdom, we have to be willing to accepted it as it is, and to receive You whole heartedly into our lives, to rule and reign. We also need to learn how to depend on You for everything, and stop doing things our own way.

Doing things our own way and making our own choices are hard habits to break. We may find it easy to give some areas of our lives to be under Your control, while others are much harder to give up. It seems like it might take an entire lifetime to learn some of those lessons.

LORD, help us always to make the wise choices that lead to full and productive lives in You. *Amen*

March 13, 2025



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's the one who comforts us in all our trouble so that we can
comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble.

We offer the same comfort that we ourselves received from God.

- *2 Corinthians 1:4 (CEB)*

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! Each experience also prepares us for what is to come, although we may not understand that at the time. *Amen*

March 14, 2025



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, Martha! You worry and fuss
about a lot of things. There’s only one thing you need.

Mary has made the right choice, and that one thing
will not be taken away from her.”

- Luke 10:41-42 (GW)

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. It is a matter
of making choices about what is most important among things that all seem to
be important at the time. Sometimes it is planning specific times to be in Your
presence when we know it can be put aside to be with You. *Amen*

March 15, 2025



The Lord will open the heavens, His rich storehouse, for you.

He will send rain on your land at the right time
and bless everything you do.

- *Deuteronomy 28:12a (God's Word)*

Jesus said, "I came so everyone would have life, and have it fully."

- *John 10:10b (CEB)*

LORD Jesus, You reminded us in the prayer You gave to Your disciples to bring all of our needs and concerns of 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 You have different blessings for each of us—we are not all the same, and each of us wants and needs different things. We need to pay attention to our own blessings with gratitude for what You have specifically planned for each of us. *Amen*

March 16, 2025



Nonetheless, the Lord is waiting to be merciful to you,
and will rise up to show you compassion.

The Lord is a God of justice; happy are all who wait for him.

- *Isaiah 30:18 (CEB)*

Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind.

And love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

- *Luke 10:27 (NOG)*

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! Sometimes that makes us indifferent to the needs around us that it is easy to overlook, to which we might be able to respond. *Amen*

March 17, 2025



With all your heart you must trust the Lord
and not your own judgment.

Always let Him lead you, and He will clear the road for you to follow.

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

My sheep recognize my voice. I know them and they follow me.

- *John 10:27 (EASY)*

LORD Jesus, we love to see that lamb bounding towards You when You call, and wish we could be more like that. We ask Your forgiveness for when we drag our feet or show reluctance, when You have something You want us to do that we think we might not enjoy doing or might be too hard.

Forgive us also for the times when it is more convenient for us to ignore Your calls for service by saying we are not really sure what You said or meant. Give us the willingness and ability to hear Your voice clearly, which means spending more time with You to get familiar with hearing You.

Most of all we need the willingness to put aside our own choices and plans in favor of what You want us to do. Your way is ALWAYS best! *Amen*

March 18, 2025



I pray that the Lord God of Israel will reward you for what you have done.

And now that you have come to Him for protection,

I pray that He will bless you.”

-Ruth 2:12 (CEV)

[Jesus] said to him, “Have you trusted because you have seen me?

How blessed are those who do not see, but trust anyway!”

– John 20:29 (CJB)

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. We should not have to have proof of Your love for us in order to follow You, and do as You want us to do. We have much evidence of who You are and how much You love us in our faith journeys, when we stop to count our blessings. *Amen*

March 19, 2025



God, You give true peace to people who depend on You,
to those who trust in You.

- *Isaiah 26:3 (ERV)*

Then Jesus said again, “Peace be with you.

It was the Father who sent me, and I am now sending you in the same way.”

- *John 20:21 (ERV)*

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*

March 20, 2025



The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom should I fear?
The Lord is a fortress protecting my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1 (NIV)

Jesus said to them, ‘You should not be so afraid.

You should trust me more than you do!’

Then he stood up and he spoke strongly to the wind and the water.

‘Stop!’ he said. Then the wind and the water became quiet again.

- Matthew 8:26 (Easy)

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—nothing is too difficult for You. *Amen*

March 21, 2025



But people who trust the Lord for help will live safely in the land
that He has given to them.

Psalm 37:9b (Easy)

Therefore, when Jesus knew that they were about to come and take Him
by force to make Him king, He withdrew again to the mountain by Himself.

- *John 6:15 (HCSB)*

God's people wandered around in the wilderness for forty years before they
got it right, in order to be prepared to move into their new promised home.
When Jesus walked on this earth and people wanted Him to be their king, he
knew that then was not the right time and place, and He went away into the
mountains where He would not be found.

God's time for everything is perfect, and He won't allow people to overcome
His important plans with plans of their own. Sometimes things take forty
years, some take much less time, but it is always best to wait on the LORD, to
see what He is going to do and when. *Amen*

March 22, 2025



The Spirit of the Lord God is on Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners.

- *Isaiah 61:1 (CSB)*

I have gained perfect freedom by following your teachings.

- *Psalms 119:45 (CEV)*

We may not have suffered from popular addictions such as drugs gambling, alcohol, or a particular favorite, shopping. We most likely have not been either slaves or in prison.

But it is entirely possible that we have something in our lives which we have said on more than one occasion that we would get rid of it if we could. Examples include bad attitudes, problems with forgiving, anger at someone or something, and the list goes on.

LORD Jesus, we give You all thanks and praise that You died so that we could be free of whatever entangles us and keeps us from living our lives fully in line with God's plans for us. We too want to be free. *Amen*

March 23, 2025



‘Call to me and I will answer you. I’ll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.’

- *Jeremiah 33: 3b (Message)*

So he went off to return to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.- *Luke 15:20 (NIV)*

We love this picture of the father running out to greet his wayward returning child. He was 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. Like the father of the Prodigal son, He is always ready when we are ready to repent and return. He never turns away and has so many more blessings to give us.

Amen

March 24, 2025



“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 (CSB)*

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good Deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

LORD Jesus, we have a story to tell to the nations about Your love and grace. We have personally experienced God’s grace and mercy in our lives, and would like to have more opportunities to share our stories with others.

We may not ever go into other countries, but we encounter people from other nations on a regular basis, in our neighborhoods, stores, even our families. Thank You for the privilege of sharing our stories with them! *Amen*

March 25, 2025



Just be determined, be confident; and make sure that you obey
the whole Law that my servant Moses gave you.

Do not neglect any part of it and you will succeed wherever you go.

- *Joshua 1:7 (Good News)*

So I tell you, continue to ask, and God will give to you.

Continue to search, and you will find.

Continue to knock, and the door will
open for you. *Luke 11:9 (ERV)*

LORD Jesus, You told us You wanted us to be persistent when seeking the things we need and want to have from You, but You were clear that first we needed to seek to do Your will and follow all You taught us about how to live our lives.

You want us to have all that we need, and give us even more than that, without us even asking. The key to prosperity is to put together everything You have told us to do so that we can prosper. Following bits and pieces of Your instructions but not everything is the surest way to encounter difficulties. So is looking around and seeing what is being given to everyone else a problem.

God has His best plans specifically for us. *Amen*

March 26, 2025



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, after You encountered a Samaritan woman at a well, her life was never the same—she had her heavy burden from past sins lifted forever, after You shared with her Your living water.

Imagine how she rejoiced with her community that had formerly shunned her, when she overcame the shame of her past when she was forgiven and wanted to share that gift with others.

LORD, thank You for the reminder that there is a place for everyone to serve in Your kingdom, no matter who they are or what they appear to be on the outside. *Amen*

March 27, 2025



But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself,
so he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

- *Luke 10: 29 (Good News)*

“Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor
to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

“The one who showed mercy to him,” he said.

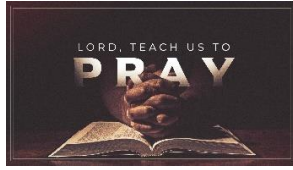
Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

- *Luke 10: 36-37 (CEV)*

LORD Jesus, the characters in this story are all very different from each other. Your intention was to demonstrate how to define the word “neighbor” to clarify Your expectations that we should love all of our neighbors as ourselves. There should be no exclusions of any groups, different from ourselves or not, when it comes to showing God’s love and grace to others.

Sometimes we would rather stick to “our own kind” of people rather than dealing with the difficulties of interactions with people with different languages, cultures, attitudes, etc. No one is excluded from Your definition of “others” who are deserving of hearing and seeing about God’s love and grace from us. *Amen*

March 28, 2025



Song of Miriam: “The Lord is my strength and song,

and He has become my salvation;

He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.”

- *Exodus 15:2*

After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

- *Matthew 14:23 (AMP)*

LORD Jesus, we learned so much from You about how to pray. So often You went away on Your own to be with Your Father. You prayed when You had decisions to make, when You needed to have a peaceful time to talk to God, or to get away from crowds and to think over what You needed to do. You prayed in times of Your own desperate need, too, as in Gethsemane, when You faced a terrible death on the cross.

During Your ministry, You prayed for many people who were in great need, because of illness or other difficult situations, sometimes because they asked for prayer, and sometimes when You recognized the needs. You taught us to be persistent in prayer, and when it was time to put aside our own desires to wait on the Father to find out His will.

LORD, teach us to pray. *Amen*

March 29, 2025



“For I want the people of Israel to make me a sacred Temple
where I can live among them.

- *Exodus 25:8 (Living Bible)*

Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,
whom you have from God? You are not your own.

- *I Corinthians 6:19 (CSB)*

Jesus was so enraged when he found the moneychangers selling animals for sacrifices to people who came to the temple to worship God at exorbitant prices, because they were desecrating God's holy place of worship, His temple.

God's Holy of Holies was there, where the priests went to meet Him face-to-face in behalf of His people. It is no wonder that Jesus became so angry that He overturned their tables and threw them out.

When you think about your body being a temple that is home to the Holy Spirit, is there anything in your life that you think might be distressing to the LORD, because it is allowed to stay? Would today be a good day to think about that, and maybe even start taking steps to make it go away? *Amen*

March 30, 2025



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)

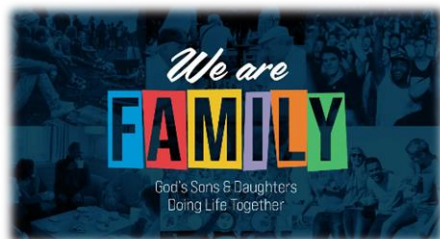
For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life.

- 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! So many precious promises come with that Covenant. *Amen*

March 31, 2025



The LORD will not abandon His people, because of His great name
and because He has determined to make you His own people.

- *I Samuel 12:22 (CSB)*

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, no matter who we are or what we look like. *Amen*

April 1, 2025



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 it will be finished by the end of our lives here on earth. And everything thing that happens will always be for our best, in line with Your will, if we let You handle it. *Amen*

April 2, 2025



Pray to the Lord, and He will hear you. He will save you from all your troubles.

-Psalm 34:17 (ERV)

“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.

- Matthew 11:28 (CEB)

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*

April 3, 2025



You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalm 23: 5 (NIV)

He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven,
blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them
to his disciples to set before the people.

He also divided the two fish among them all.

Everyone ate until they were full.

- Mark 6:41-42 (CEB)

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 regularly 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. *Amen*

April 4, 2025



Lord,” he told Him, “I’m ready to go with You both to prison
and to death!”

“I tell you, Peter,” He said, “the rooster will not crow today
until you deny three times that you know Me!”

- *Luke 22:33-34 (HCSB)*

He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?”
Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

He said, “Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You.”

“Feed My sheep,” Jesus said.

- *John 21:17 (HCSB)*

Peter was always someone who bounded ahead without much thought, and said and did things he later regretted. Such was the case when he said he would never deny Jesus, but did so immediately.

But Jesus had wonderful plans for Peter to head up His church, but first Peter needed to repent and be forgiven for what he said—the three times he denied Jesus.

Peter needed to accept Jesus’ instructions to feed his sheep three times, and then he could be the strong church leader he became. We too can always be forgiven of anything, and then used by God. *Amen*

April 5, 2025



“Here is my servant, whom I support, my chosen one, in whom I delight.
I’ve placed my Spirit upon him; and He’ll deliver His justice
throughout the world.”

- *ISAIAH 42:1 (ISV)*

The woman said, “I know that the Messiah will come.
He is the one we call Christ.

When He comes, he will explain everything to us.”

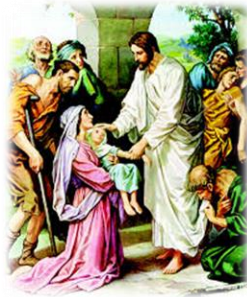
- *John 4:25 (CEV)*

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 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 for the ability to seek to serve rather than always be in charge. When we do become leaders, help us to remember that leaders are called to be servants. *Amen*

April 6, 2025



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

- *Isaiah 53:5 (CEV)*

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 all those around us. *Amen*

April 7, 2025



And while they were discussing and arguing, Jesus himself came near
and began to walk along with them.

But they were prevented from recognizing Him.

- *Luke 24: 15-16 (CSB)*

It was as He reclined at the table with them that He took the bread,
blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him,
but He disappeared from their sight.

- *Luke 24:30-31*

On the road to Emmaus, when two of His followers walked with Jesus, they did not recognize Him at first. Not until He did the familiar act of breaking bread and blessing it did they know it was Him.

LORD, there is a lesson for us in this. We may not always recognize when it is You speaking to us. We need to continue to listen carefully until we get the confirmation that there is something You want us to know, and that it is from You. Only then is it the time for us to act accordingly. And You will never disappear on us completely. *Amen*

April 8, 2025



All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

- *Psalm 119:160 (NIV)*

Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching,
for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character,

- *II Timothy 3:16 (CEB)*

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 have profoundly affected our lives when we choose to apply them to our everyday activities.

We live in a culture where some people think there is "your truth" and "my truth" and they are all equally valid, which is not the way it works. There is so much "misinformation in play these days, it is hard to sort out the truth. Like the Bereans, it helps to compare what we hear with what is in God's Word, to keep us going straight. *Amen*

April 9, 2025



For my friendship they were my adversaries,
but I gave myself to prayer.

- *Psalm 109: 4 (Good News)*

Jesus said, 'Father, these people do not know what they are doing.

So please forgive them.'- *Luke 23:34a (Easy)*

One of the more difficult requirements in the scriptures is 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.

That is sometimes hard to do, when we are very hurt and angry and would rather seek revenge by making them hurt also. That is not what You want us to do, because anger and unforgiveness may harm us more than they hurt the other person.

It may help to try and talk things out, to find out why the other person did what they did—there may be a genuine misunderstanding of each other's perspective and intentions, and no harm was intended—on either side. *Amen*

April 10, 2025



But those who trust the Lord will find new strength.
They will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings;
they will walk and run without getting tired..

- *Isaiah 40:31 (CEV)*

So we, too, should run the race that is before us and never quit.
We should remove from our lives anything that would slow us down
and the sin that so often makes us fall.

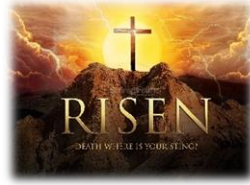
- *Hebrews 12:1 (ERV)*

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 for 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.

Then we need to run, run, run! *Amen*

April 11, 2025



He will soon make us strong again. After three days, we will have new lives.

Then we can live together with him.

- *Hosea 6:2 (Easy)*

Jesus then said, "I am the one who raises the dead to life!

Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die.

- *John 11:25 (CEV)*

Anyone who has lost someone they care deeply about know how great the sting of death can be. All we know is that we will never again be together here on earth, to enjoy the many things we had together.

LORD Jesus, how grateful we are that because You died and rose again, and had the final victory over death, the death of our loved ones does not represent the end of our being together.

We will be joined together again in heaven, where our loved ones are part of the extraordinary celebration of life after death, joined with many others who preceded them. Death here on earth is never the end, because Jesus rose again after He died, praise God. *Amen*

April 12, 2025



This will happen when the special child is born. God will give us a son who will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be “Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.”

- *Isaiah 9:6 (ERV)*

After Jesus had greeted them again, He said, “I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.””

- *John 20:21 (CEV)*

LORD, You were sent to bring peace and justice on earth, and to send out Your followers to continue Your work here on earth, after You were gone. The needs around us are immense, and so many workers are needed to meet all of them.

We just need to remember that You never sent Your disciples out alone--they were always in groups. It helps us to have to others to work with on any activities relating to Your kingdom, and You knew that.

Help us to find ways to work effectively with others, taking their thoughts and concerns into account, so that we can draw on each other’s gifts, strengths, and skills to accomplish any tasks. Together we can do much more than any of us can on our own. *Amen*

April 13, 2025



On the first day you will take good fruit from fruit trees.
And you will take branches from palm trees, poplar trees,
and willow trees by the brook.
You will celebrate before the Lord your God for seven days.

- *Leviticus 23:40 (ERV)*

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying,
“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
even the King of Israel!”

- *John 12:13 (RSV)*

LORD Jesus, although the people who came to worship and praise You that day did not really understand Your earthly mission, they did recognize that You were worthy of their praise and worship, and wanted to be part of the celebration.

They also recognized that they needed Your help, and that You could do what no one else could do in their lives—save them. They just did not know how that was going to happen. They wanted a king to overcome their oppressors, not a Savior who was going to die for their sins, so they could have eternal life.

Help us to recognize in our own lives the true way You rule and reign, in our hearts. *Amen*

April 14, 2025



The servant led the men into Joseph's house.
He gave them water, and they washed their feet.

- *Genesis 43:24 (ERV)*

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 too 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 we should not overlook the many things that are less noticeable to others, but touch the lives of others in significant ways.

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, and they are meaningful to those receiving the blessings. *Amen*

April 15, 2025



Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine

—he was priest of The High God—

and blessed him:

Blessed be Abram by The High God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

- *Genesis 14:18-23 (Message)*

Jesus replied: I am the bread that gives life! No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty.

- *.John 6:35 (ERV)*

LORD Jesus, as we celebrate Your last supper, help us to remember all that it represents. 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. He even provided quail when they complained about the lack of variety in what He gave them to eat.

Sharing with others in taking communion reminds us of Your being the bread of life, and the wine represents Your blood in death for our sins, providing for all of our needs. Your sacrifices gave us new life, in this world and the next. Praise to God for His love for us. *Amen*

April 16, 2025



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)

Let love be your guide.

Christ loved us and offered His life for us as a sacrifice that pleases God.

- *Ephesians 5:2 (CEV)*

LORD Jesus, how You suffered on the cross to give us the possibility of eternal life. This was never a gift that You intended for us to keep to ourselves. Help us to find ways to share it with others, not judging them by what we see as the outward appearances, but reaching out with Your love to touch their lives in the same way ours have been.

As You suffered on the cross, it did not take away Your ability to reach out to those who were beside You, also suffering with You. You brought one of them into eternal life with You, sharing the good news with him as You both suffered and died. *Amen*

April 17, 2025



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.

LORD Jesus, how grateful we are that we now have the privilege of coming to God's throne of grace and being in His holy presence. That was a great gift given to us by Your sacrifice of Your own life. What a difference this makes in our lives, when we can talk to Him about our concerns and needs of others. Help us never to forget the price that was paid to give us that privilege. *Amen*

EASTER SUNDAY



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. We were in darkness ourselves until we came to see the need for You in our lives.

Our lives have been blessed in so many ways by what we have learned from You, and the model You gave us through both Your words and example. Once we asked You to come and live in our hearts, our lives were changed forever. Help us we share our life stories with others, so that they too can find their way into Your kingdom.

Because You live, we too shall live in Your kingdom, now and forever.

Amen.