

ENTRANCE INTO GREAT LENT
MIRACLE OF CANA IN GALILEE

SUNDAY

Romans 14:14-23 **Consideration for the Weak Conscience**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus
that nothing is unclean in itself;

but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat,
you are no longer walking in love.

Do not let what you eat

cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died.

So do not let your good be spoken of as evil.

For the kingdom of God is not food and drink

but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The one who thus serves Christ

is acceptable to God and has human approval.

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.

Everything is indeed clean,

but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat;

it is good not to eat meat or drink wine

or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble.

The faith that you have,

have as your own conviction before God.
Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves
because of what they approve.
But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat,
because they do not act from faith;
for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Praise be to God always!



FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT
ASH MONDAY

2Corinthians 5:20-6:7 **The Ministry of Reconciliation/
The Experience of the Ministry**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Romans 15:1-13 **Patience and Self-Denial/
God's Fidelity and Mercy**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Romans 15:14-21 **Apostle to the Gentiles**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I myself feel confident about you, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. Nevertheless on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the good news of Christ. Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand."

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

1 Timothy 6:6-12 False Teaching and True Wealth/ Exhortations to Timothy

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Thessalonians 3:6-14 **Neglect of Work**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We command you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. Take note of those who do not obey what we say in this letter; have nothing to do with them, so that they may be ashamed.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Hebrews 3:14-4:4 **Israel's Infidelity a Warning/
The Sabbath Rest**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

We have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." Now who were they who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? But with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "As in my anger I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows, "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."

Praise be to God always!

SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT
CLEANSING OF THE LEPER

SUNDAY

Romans 6:12-23 Freedom from Sin; Life in God

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies,
to make you obey their passions.

No longer present your members to sin
as instruments of wickedness,

but present yourselves to God

as those who have been brought from death to life,

and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

For sin will have no dominion over you,

since you are not under law but under grace.

What then?

Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace?

By no means!

Do you not know

that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves,

you are slaves of the one whom you obey,

either of sin, which leads to death,

or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

But thanks be to God that you,

having once been slaves of sin,

have become obedient from the heart
to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted,
and that you, having been set free from sin,
have become slaves of righteousness.
I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations.
For just as you once presented your members
as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity,
so now present your members
as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.
When you were slaves of sin,
you were free in regard to righteousness.
So what advantage did you then get
from the things of which you now are ashamed?
The end of those things is death.
But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God,
the advantage you get is sanctification.
The end is eternal life.
For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Paul's Recent Travel Plans/ Concluding Thanksgiving and Prayer

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Timothy has just now come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love. He has told us also that you always remember us kindly and long to see us — just as we long to see you. For this reason, brothers and sisters, during all our distress and persecution we have been encouraged about you through your faith. For we now live, if you continue to stand firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Galatians 2:11-17 **Peter's inconsistency at Antioch/ Faith and Works**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not!

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Romans 3:19-27 **Universal Bondage to Sin/
Justification apart from the Law**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Philippians 4:4-10 Joy and Peace (Gratitude for the
Philippians' Generosity)

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Romans 1:18-25 **Punishment of Idolators**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Hebrews 12:28-13:9 **Penalties of Disobedience**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire. Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them.

Praise be to God always!

THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT
HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

SUNDAY

2Corinthians 7:4-11 **Call to Holiness/Paul's Joy in Macedonia**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I often boast about you;

I have great pride in you;

I am filled with consolation;

I am overjoyed in all our affliction.

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way — disputes without and fears within.

But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming,

but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.

For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it

(though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly).

Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved,

but because your grief led to repentance;
for you felt a godly grief,
so that you were not harmed in any way by us.
For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation
and brings no regret,
but worldly grief produces death.
For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you,
what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation,
what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment!
At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

1 Timothy 4:9-16 **Counsel to Timothy**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Corinthians 8:1-9 Generosity in Giving

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We want you to know about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints — and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Galatians 2:1-7 **The Council of Jerusalem**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

After fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up in response to a revelation. Then I laid before them (though only in a private meeting with the acknowledged leaders) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure that I was not running, or had not run, in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. But because of false believers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us — we did not submit to them even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might always remain with you. And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) — those leaders contributed nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Galatians 1:1-10 **Greeting (Loyalty to the Gospel)**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul an apostle — sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead — and all the members of God's family who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Romans 3:1-7 **Answers to Objections**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

What advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much, in every way. For in the first place the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Will their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Although everyone is a liar, let God be proved true, as it is written, “So that you may be justified in your words, and prevail in your judging.” But if our injustice serves to confirm the justice of God, what should we say? That God is unjust to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my falsehood God’s truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Timothy 3:1-9 **Jesus, Superior to Moses**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boast-ers, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them! For among them are those who make their way into households and captivate silly women, overwhelmed by their sins and swayed by all kinds of desires, who are always being instructed and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth. As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people, of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith, also oppose the truth. But they will not make much progress, because, as in the case of those two men, their folly will become plain to everyone.

Praise be to God always!

FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT
THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

SUNDAY

2Corinthians 13:5-13 **Final Warnings and Appeals**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith.

Test yourselves.

Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?

— unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test!

I hope you will find out that we have not failed.

But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong —

not that we may appear to have met the test,

but that you may do what is right,

though we may seem to have failed.

For we cannot do anything against the truth,

but only for the truth.

For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong.

This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect.

So I write these things while I am away from you,

so that when I come,

I may not have to be severe in using the authority

that the Lord has given me for building up

and not for tearing down.

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell.

Put things in order, listen to my appeal,
agree with one another, live in peace;
and the God of love and peace will be with you.
Greet one another with a holy kiss.
All the saints greet you.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Corinthians 9:1a, 5-15 **The Offering for the Saints**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

It is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion. The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

1Corinthians 16:15-24 **Directions and Greetings**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You know that members of the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to put yourselves at the service of such people, and of everyone who works and toils with them. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. So give recognition to such persons. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, greet you warmly in the Lord. All the brothers and sisters send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Let anyone be accursed who has no love for the Lord. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Romans 14:1-13 **To Live and Die for Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Corinthians 1:23-2:5 **Paul's Sincerity**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I call on God as witness against me: it was to spare you that I did not come again to Corinth. I do not mean to imply that we lord it over your faith; rather, we are workers with you for your joy, because you stand firm in the faith. So I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came, I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice; for I am confident about all of you, that my joy would be the joy of all of you. For I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you. But if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but to some extent — not to exaggerate it — to all of you.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Corinthians 12:21-13:5 **Final Warnings and Appeals**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I fear that when I come again, my God may humble me before you, and that I may have to mourn over many who previously sinned and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and licentiousness that they have practiced. This is the third time I am coming to you. “Any charge must be sustained by the evidence of two or three witnesses.” I warned those who sinned previously and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again, I will not be lenient — since you desire proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful in you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test!

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Timothy 4:9-19 **Paul's Loneliness**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

Praise be to God always!

FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT
HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

SUNDAY

1 Timothy 5:24-6:5 **Rules for Widows**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

The sins of some people are conspicuous
and precede them to judgment,
while the sins of others follow them there.

So also good works are conspicuous;
and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden.

Let all who are under the yoke of slavery
regard their masters as worthy of all honor,
so that the name of God

and the teaching may not be blasphemed.

Those who have believing masters
must not be disrespectful to them

on the ground that they are members of the church;
rather they must serve them all the more,

since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved.

Teach and urge these duties.

Whoever teaches otherwise

and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness, is conceited,
understanding nothing,

and has a morbid craving for controversy
and for disputes about words.

From these come envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions,
and wrangling among those who are depraved in mind
and bereft of the truth,
imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Ephesians 5:3-13 **Vices to Be Avoided/
Duty to Live in the Light**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be associated with them. For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

1 Timothy 1:1-8 **On Holding Fast to Sound Doctrine**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my loyal child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith. But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Ephesians 6:1-9 **Children and Parents/
Slaves and Masters**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” — this is the first commandment with a promise: “so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free. And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

2Timothy 1:6-14 Exhortation to Faithfulness

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Philippians 2:12-19 **The Spreading Gospel**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you — and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me. I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Colossians 3:23-4:7 **Slaves and Masters/
Prayer and Apostolic Spirit**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality. Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, for you know that you also have a Master in heaven. Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. Tychicus will tell you all the news about me; he is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow servant in the Lord.

Praise be to God always!

SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT
HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN / HOSANNA WEEK

SUNDAY

2Corinthians 10:1-7 **Paul Defends His Ministry**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I myself, Paul, appeal to you

by the meekness and gentleness of Christ

— I who am humble when face to face with you,

but bold toward you when I am away! —

I ask that when I am present

I need not show boldness

by daring to oppose those who think we are acting
according to human standards.

Indeed, we live as human beings,

but we do not wage war according to human standards;

for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human,

but they have divine power to destroy strongholds.

We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle

raised up against the knowledge of God,

and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

We are ready to punish every disobedience

when your obedience is complete.

Look at what is before your eyes.

If you are confident that you belong to Christ,

remind yourself of this,
that just as you belong to Christ, so also do we.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: HOSANNA WEEK

Romans 15:25-33 **Paul's Plans: Need for Prayers**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. They were pleased to do this, and indeed they owe it to them; for if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material things. So, when I have completed this, and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain; and I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: HOSANNA WEEK

Romans 8:12-18 **The Flesh and the Spirit**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: HOSANNA WEEK

1 Thessalonians 4:1-9 **Chastity and Charity**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Finally, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one wrong or exploit a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you. Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: HOSANNA WEEK

Titus 2:1-8 **Various Counsels**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Titus. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

As for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: HOSANNA WEEK

2Thessalonians 3:6-18 **Neglect of Work**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We command you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. Take note of those who do not obey what we say in this letter; have nothing to do with them, so that they may be ashamed. Do not regard them as enemies, but warn them as believers. Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the mark in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: HOSANNA WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY

1Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 Partnership in Suffering/
Mission of Timothy

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

As for us, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you — in person, not in heart — we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face. For we wanted to come to you — certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again — but Satan blocked our way. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? Yes, you are our glory and joy! Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we decided to be left alone in Athens; and we sent Timothy, our brother and co-worker for God in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your faith, so that no one would be shaken by these persecutions. Indeed, you yourselves know that this is what we are destined for. In fact, when we were with you, we told you beforehand that we were to suffer persecution; so it turned out, as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith; I was afraid that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labor had been in vain.

Praise be to God always!

HOSANNA SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK

HOSANNA SUNDAY

Philippians 1:1-13 **Greeting/Gratitude and Hope**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy
in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
I am confident of this,
that the one who began a good work among you
will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.
It is right for me to think this way about all of you,
because you hold me in your heart,
for all of you share in God's grace with me,
both in my imprisonment and in the defense
and confirmation of the gospel.
For God is my witness,
how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.
And this is my prayer,
that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge

and full insight to help you to determine what is best,
so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,
having produced the harvest of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ
for the glory and praise of God.
I want you to know, beloved,
that what has happened to me
has actually helped to spread the gospel,
so that it has become known
throughout the whole imperial guard
and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: HOLY WEEK

Hebrews 6:1-9 Exhortation to Spiritual Renewal

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ, and not laying again the foundation: repentance from dead works and faith toward God, instruction about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And we will do this, if God permits. For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, since on their own they are crucifying again the Son of God and are holding him up to contempt. Ground that drinks up the rain falling on it repeatedly, and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless and on the verge of being cursed; its end is to be burned over. Even though we speak in this way, beloved, we are confident of better things in your case, things that belong to salvation.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: HOLY WEEK

1Thessalonians 2:13-17 Partnership in Suffering

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you suffered the same things from your own compatriots as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out; they displease God and oppose everyone by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. Thus they have constantly been filling up the measure of their sins; but God's wrath has overtaken them at last. As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you — in person, not in heart — we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: HOLY WEEK

Hebrews 2:5-12 **Exaltation through Abasement**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.” Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY OF MYSTERIES

1Corinthians 11:23-32 **The Lord's Supper**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves. For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Praise be to God always!

GREAT FRIDAY: SIGNING OF THE CHALICE

Hebrews 12:12-21 **God's Treatment of His Children/
Penalties of Disobedience**

The Reading today is proclaimed without introduction or conclusion.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears. You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.")

GREAT FRIDAY: ADORATION OF THE CROSS

Any, or all, of the following Readings may be proclaimed.

Isaiah 53:7-12 **Suffering and triumph of the
Servant of the Lord**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

And/Or

Hebrews 1:14-16 **Jesus, compassionate High Priest**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and Sisters:

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

And/Or

Galatians 2:17-3:14 **The trial before Pilate/
The crucifixion**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Brothers and Sisters:

If, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through

the law, then Christ died for nothing. You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing? — if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, “Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” — in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

At the conclusion of the last Reading, the Reader proclaims:

Praise be to God always!

GREAT SATURDAY OF THE LIGHT

Romans 5:1-11 Faith, Hope and Love

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Praise be to God always!

GREAT SATURDAY OF THE LIGHT
PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

All of the following Readings are usually proclaimed.

Jeremiah 31:31-35 **The New Covenant**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar — the LORD of hosts is his name.

GREAT SATURDAY OF THE LIGHT
PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Zechariah 1:1-6 **Necessity of conversion**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berechiah son of Iddo, saying: The LORD was very angry with your ancestors. Therefore say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.” But they did not hear or heed me, says the LORD. Your ancestors, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your ancestors? So they repented and said, “The LORD of hosts has dealt with us according to our ways and deeds, just as he planned to do.”

GREAT SATURDAY OF THE LIGHT
PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

2Corinthians 5:16-21 **Ministry of Reconciliation**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Praise be to God always!