

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

April 2025

The season of Lent is not a lamentation with no answer;
it's a reflection on what could have been but isn't,
a sobering celebration of how tragic losses
are being redeemed.

There's a healthy balance. We don't want to dwell on the
painful side of redemption constantly;
the gospel places a heavy emphasis on
celebration and joy.

But we're always grateful for what the Messiah's sacrifice
saved us from and mindful of what it cost him.

Chris Tiegreen
The Promise of Lent



1	But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <i>Luke 18:16-17</i>
2	Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. <i>Isaiah 49:13</i>
3	Richard of Chichester, bishop (d.1256): Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day. <i>Richard of Chichester</i>
4	For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. <i>Psalms 22:24</i>
5	Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. <i>Hebrews 13:20</i>
6	Fifth Sunday in Lent: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. <i>Psalms 130:1-4</i>
7	The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. <i>Proverbs 34:18</i>
8	Georgiana Molloy, pioneer church leader and botanist from Western Australia (d.1843): I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. <i>Psalms 89:1</i>
9	William Law, priest and teacher (d. 1761); Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (d.1945): Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are. <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Discipleship</i>
10	Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come." <i>Genesis 17:9</i>
11	George Augustus Selwyn, first missionary bishop of New Zealand (d.1878): "At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." <i>Luke 21:27-28</i>
12	We are not called simply to believe the Cross but also to participate in it. No, we won't die as Jesus did, providing a sacrifice for all. But we will die; in fact, we are in the process now. But even more, we are in the process of experiencing new life that lasts forever. And that life will forever be full of the glory we were designed to share. <i>Chris Tiegreen</i>
13	Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday: ...but Palm Sunday tells us that it is the cross that is the true tree of life. <i>Pope Benedict XVI</i>
14	Monday in Holy Week: Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him) said "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"...Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." <i>John 12:3-5, 7-8</i>

15	Tuesday in Holy Week: Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <i>John 12:24-25</i>
16	Wednesday in Holy Week: Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. <i>Hebrews 12:3</i>
17	Maundy Thursday: Humility is constant forgetfulness of one's achievements. <i>John Climacus</i>
18	Good Friday: So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <i>John 19:17-20</i>
19	Saturday in Holy Week/Easter Eve: May the Easter Christ cast out all our timidities, our inclinations to nail things down too safely, too securely, too predictably. Let us rest and be content with mystery. And let God's risen Word be a liberating call to us all.
20	Easter Day: Lord, my words are not enough. My heart is speechless but full of truth, longing but full of joy, free but captivated by the power of your amazing love. May my soul bless your name today and forever. <i>Amen.</i>
21	Monday in Easter Week: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. <i>Psalms 16:11</i>
22	Tuesday in Easter Week: Hallelujah! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! When our faith stands at the grave, grieving for a stone that's rolled away, forgive us.
23	Wednesday in Easter Week: Spirit of Resurrection, be with us as we roll back the stones of fear, hatred, and indifference to welcome a world of peace. Help us to work for tolerance, justice, and solidarity.
24	Thursday in Easter Week: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth. <i>Psalms 8:9</i>
25	Friday in Easter Week: Hallelujah! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further than an empty tomb today, forgive us.
26	Saturday in Easter Week: Spirit of Life, be with us this morning with all that we carry...joys and sorrows, hopes and doubts, accomplishments and failures. Be with us as we open our hearts to the joy of Easter and to the hope that this season brings.
27	Second Sunday of Easter: Let everything breathe praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! <i>Psalms 150:6</i>
28	Mark, Evangelist and Martyr: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. <i>Psalms 139:23-24</i>
29	Catherine of Siena, spiritual teacher (d.1380): Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire. <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>
30	After a season of darkness and struggling, light broke and relief fell: my cramped existence all at once spread out to a plain without bounds, my powers heard a call from heaven to rise, gather their full strength, spread their wings and mount beyond ken. <i>Charlotte Brontë</i>

Weekly Prayers and Thoughts

- Sunday** Gracious God, we pray that you are working in the mind of the person you have chosen to be the Assistant Minister in our parish, so that Father Phil may have someone to share the burdens and joys of our parish ministries and activities. *Amen.*
- Monday** Why must people kneel down to pray? If I really wanted to pray, I'll tell you what I'd do. I'd go out into a great big field all alone or into the deep, deep woods, and I'd look up into the sky – up – up – up – into the lovely blue sky that looks as if there is no end. And then I'd just feel a prayer.
L. M. Montgomery
- Tuesday** Lord, strengthen us that we might persevere for Your Name's sake. Remind us to rest in Your presence when we become poor in spirit and needy in heart. In Your presence we find purpose in the trials and hope for tomorrow. When we are poor in spirit, grant us strength to endure. *Amen.*
- Wednesday** To be childlike is to allow our hearts to be moved by Christ's presence. It means trusting that He sees us, knows us, loves us, and calls us to Himself. Like children, we are invited to come as we are, secure in the love and the embrace of the One who calls us.
- Thursday** God of such unwavering love, how do I "celebrate" the passion and death of Jesus? I often want to look the other way and not watch, not stay with Him in His suffering. Give me the strength to see His love with honesty and compassion and to feel deeply your own forgiveness and mercy for me. Help me to understand how to "celebrate" this week. I want to be able to bring my weaknesses and imperfections with me as I journey with Jesus this Lent. *Amen.*
- Friday** God of righteousness, justice and grace, we praise You that although we fail, our Lord Jesus Christ has succeeded. And that he lived the perfect sinless life, for me. In His name I pray. *Amen.*
- Saturday** Lord, remind me of my frail condition during this season. Remind me even more of how You overcame is. May this be a time of deep repentance and even deeper gratitude. *Amen.*



Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection

for our *city on a hill*... and beyond.

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