2022

Lent Devotion Guide

A Note from St. Luke's Pastors

Beloved,

As we move through the Gospel of Mark and head into the final chapters, we meet the season of Lent. From the beginning of Mark, Jesus has been headed toward the cross and suffering, but in chapters 10-16 Jesus begins to predict his death again and again. To understand the true identity of Jesus as Messiah, Son of God, Mark insists we must make the connection of a willingness to die and suffer for the fullness of life to be gained.

This idea was counterintuitive then, and certainly now. The idea of death first, then life seems paradoxical, even. And yet, this is the message of the Gospel of Mark and the person of Jesus – in order to fully live, we must first die.

We know the resurrection is coming at Easter, but the way we engage the journey not only to the cross, but our anticipation of the empty tomb is key to how we will fully experience resurrection life. What is it we need to let go of – to die to – to know the fullness of new life? How will we set aside our own egos, our need to control things, the masks we wear, our reliance on earthly authorities and people, or the idols we lift up a little too high, to follow Christ to the cross and beyond?

This Lent, you're invited to go on a journey of letting go, giving up, and giving away, so that when we celebrate the resurrected Jesus on Easter, we might discover ourselves resurrected as well.

As you move through this season, consider adding a spiritual discipline to your routine. Use this booklet to guide your daily readings, watch or listen to a devotion by one of our pastors on Saturdays at st.lukes.org/lent, and then join us for worship in-person or online on Sundays. Set aside a dollar a day or the cost of a meal for a special Lenten Offering. This Offering will support the pilot "Unlocking R Potentials" afterschool training with high school students who are living in poverty and experiencing homelessness. Students will learn to "identify, access, build, and apply resources for success in school, at work, and in life." Please mark donations as "Lenten Offering" or give online by visiting **st.lukes.org/give** and selecting "Lenten Offering" from the drop-down menu.

Grace and peace,
St. Luke's Pastors

Special thanks to all the St. Lukers who helped write these devotions:

Katie Brown
Melissa Cooper
Joe D'Ambrosi
Elizabeth Davis
Connie Denmark
Jad Denmark
Nicole Siscaretti Doyle
Jaylene Garau
Jeremy Green
Joline Krolicki
Michelle Nelson
Liz Vasquez

Wednesday, March 2
Ash Wednesday

Read

Mark 9: 1-13

Reflect

- What words jump out at you as you read this passage? What images come to mind?

- How does Peter react in the first scene? Why do you think he wants to make three shrines? Would it have been easier for the disciples to just keep Jesus in a shrine? In what "shrines" are we still trying to keep Jesus?

- Re-read verse 7. Notice how these words echo the ones spoken during Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:11). Compare the two passages: what are the differences between them and why do you think they matter?

- Where have you seen or heard Jesus lately? How have you been listening to his voice?

Pray

Lord, you have found favor not only in your son, Jesus, but also in me. Help me believe these words about myself as well as others. Open my ears so that I may hear your call to lead my life daily as Jesus would.

Thursday, March 3

Read

Mark 9:14-29

Reflect

- Which character are you in this passage? A member of the crowd? One of the disciples? The father? Why did you select that one?

- Jesus implies that the disciples were unsuccessful in healing the boy because of their lack of faith and expresses frustration with them, calling them an unbelieving generation. Why might he feel that way? Later he tells them about the power of prayer. How are these two things related?

- Jesus assures the father that anything is possible for the one who believes. How does the father respond? When has your faith been strong enough to ask God for something? Do you think your faith needs to be strengthened?

Pray

Lord, my faith in you rises and falls with the situation. Sometimes, it can move mountains, other times, it seems buried in the earth. Thank you, Lord, for your faith in me, for answered prayers, and for your eternal presence that sustains me, letting me know that all things are indeed possible.

Friday, March 4

Read

Mark 9:30-50

Reflect

- In verses 30-37 Jesus takes his disciples away from the crowds to teach them and even before they get to Capernaum the Disciples have created a teaching moment, "Who is the Greatest?" What does Jesus' teaching here say to us living in Orlando, Florida in 2022?

- How does Jesus' teaching speak to our current world/context?

- In verses, 38-50 Jesus is not concerned about doing good in his own name, but he warns everyone not to cause anyone to stumble. What good have you seen done in Jesus' name?

- What good do you do in Jesus' name?

- What do you think it looks like/means to cause someone to stumble?

Pray

Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness rather than the fruits of sin.
Let me use disappointments as material for patience;
Let me use success as material for thankfulness;
Let me use suspense as material for perseverance;
Let me use danger as material for courage;
Let me use reproach as material for long-suffering;
Let me use praise as material for humility;
Let me use pleasures as material for temperance;
Let me use pains as material for endurance.
– John Baillie (1886-1960)

Monday, March 7

Read

Mark 10:1-12

Reflect

- Why do you think the Pharisees used this question to test Jesus?

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said it was because of their “unyielding hearts” that Moses wrote the commandment?

- Notice the difference between verses 4 and 12. How does Jesus elevate the status of women by including them here?

- How is your heart? Do you typically yield to God’s will for your life or to your own desires? How does this help you lead your life like Jesus?

Pray

Creator God, you have made us in your image, to live in community with one another. Create in us pure hearts that yield to your will above our own so that we may remain faithful to you and to each other. Amen.

Tuesday, March 8

Read

Mark 10:13-16

Reflect

- Why do the disciples scold people who bring children to Jesus for a blessing?

- Jesus holds children to high importance. Examine your view of children. Can you learn from Jesus and adjust your views? Are there any other groups of people you can look at in a different light?

- Childlike wonder is a common phrase in our culture. How can you welcome God's kingdom like a child as Jesus says in verse 15?

- In verse 16 it says Jesus hugged the children and blessed them. Imagine yourself as a child receiving a hug from Jesus. Reflect on this peaceful, divine embrace and God's love for you and all of God's people.

Pray

God, bless me with an open mind to see your people as you see them. Please help me to view every person as a child of God, as Mark's gospel reveals, and to value them as they are.

Wednesday, March 9

Read

Mark 10:17-31

Reflect

- Think of the bravery it took for the man to ask Jesus directly how he might obtain eternal life. How have you exercised bravery in your faith recently?

- Notice the commandments Jesus gives to obtain eternal life are those that relate to one's fellow human—don't commit murder, don't steal, honor your father and mother, etc. Why do you think Jesus equates these commandments with eternal life and omits those that pertain to our relationship with God (i.e. You must have no other God's before me, do not make an idol for yourself, etc.)?

- Jesus gives the man a directive: "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor." Discipleship often requires sacrifices of finances, time, power, service, desire, and so on. How have you sacrificed in pursuit of relationship with God recently? How did it feel in the moment? How have you seen the fruits of this sacrifice?

Pray

Lord, you have taught us that to whom much is given, much is required. You have freely given me so much. Help me to be a better disciple and evangelist by finding contentment in the sacrifices you require of me. Allow me to see the fruits that come from our obedience and allow me to rest in the promise of your salvation.

Thursday, March 10

Read

Mark 10:32-45

Reflect

- At the beginning of this passage, we read that Jesus is leading the way and the disciples walking closest to him are feeling different from those following further behind. Why do you think the writer makes this distinction?

- Right after Jesus predicts his death and resurrection to the group, James and John make a request to Jesus. Why do you think their request angered the other disciples so much?

- Re-read Jesus' reply to their request in verses 38-40. What do you think Jesus is trying to teach in that passage?

- Like James and John, our pride can sometimes fuel a desire in us to be "the first and the greatest." Is there an area in your life where this is true for you? If so, how does Jesus' message in this passage speak to you?

Pray

Lord, forgive me for the times I have acted out of selfish pride. Help me to realize that I don't have to compete for "position" in your kingdom. I already have immediate and direct access to you through your death and resurrection, through baptism and prayer. All of that is more than enough. I am your beloved child. I pray that your love for me will flow through me and out to others. You, Lord, did not come to be served but rather to serve. Help me to follow your example.

Friday, March 11

Read

Mark 10:46-52

Reflect

- Think of a time when you chose (for whatever reason) to not quiet yourself?
- Why do you think they included verse 50? Do you think it's necessary?
- When have you "seen" Jesus?

Pray

Lord, help me continue my faith journey, though it may sometimes feel like blind faith as I cannot see all the steps. Let me accept with humility that not everything is known to us.

Monday, March 14

Read

Mark 11:1-11

Reflect

- Is there any significance to Jesus entering Jerusalem on a Colt? Why do you think it was important for the Colt to have never been ridden?

- Was Jesus asking the disciples to steal? Did the owners freely let the Colt go? What would you have done?

- Notice the reaction of the people who saw Jesus entering on a Colt. What did they do and say? Why do you think they did this and said those words?

Pray

Dear Lord, I am not worthy of your love, grace, or mercy, yet you give it all to me daily. You rode into Jerusalem knowing your fate and I thank you for loving me so much that you would be crucified for my sins so that I might have life. Help me, Lord, to become more aware of you and your love for me!

Tuesday, March 15

Read

Mark 11:12-14

Reflect

- Why do you think it was significant to mention that Jesus was hungry in the first sentence of this passage?
- Do you think this was an object lesson? If so, what do you think Jesus was trying to illustrate for those who witnessed it?
- Do you think Jesus was being harsh here?
- What, if anything, does this passage teach us about Jesus' humanity?

Pray

God of grace, you teach us what it means to live in this world while being ambassadors to your world and your kingdom. Help us now to be fruitful. Help us to recognize the parts of ourselves and our world that we must prune in order to most completely love you, our neighbors and ourselves. Amen.

Wednesday, March 16

Read

Mark 11:15-19

Reflect

- Can you imagine what the temple must have looked like for Jesus to be so angry about the selling that he overturned the tables?

- When Jesus says the temple has been made a “den of robbers,” what do you think he meant?

- The text says the chief priests began looking for a way to kill Jesus because they feared him. Do you think they were afraid because they knew he was right? Do you think they preferred the temple to be a profitable business instead of a house of prayer for all nations?

- Do you think the priests and teachers of the law knew who they were dealing with? Do you think that they had any idea Jesus was the son of God and, if so, do you think they would have looked for ways to kill him still or listened to Jesus and change their ways immediately?

Pray

God, open my eyes to things in my life that are not your will for my life and your kingdom. Give me what I need to do better. Amen

Thursday, March 17

Read

Mark 11:20-25 (Power, prayer, and forgiveness)

Reflect

- Do you think Peter was surprised to see the fig tree withered? Why or why not?

- Have you ever prayed and asked for something that you didn't imagine could actually happen? Why or why not? Do you dare ask God to perform miracles?

- Why do you think Jesus mentions forgiving others at the end of this passage? What is the relationship between forgiveness and prayer?

Pray

Lord, thank you for all the ways you have forgiven me. Help me to forgive others like you have modeled. Increase my faith so that, when moved by your Holy Spirit to pray for someone or something, I may do so with faith and confidence knowing that you can do much more than I could ever ask or imagine.

Friday, March 18

Read

Mark 11:27-33

Reflect

- What does the Word “authority” make you think of? Why do you think authority was such an important issue for the priests and scribes?

- Look at the series of questions and answers in this passage. What do you notice about how Jesus responds to the first question he is asked, and how the conversation continues from there?

- Reflect on ways in which Jesus’ teachings and your discipleship journey might put you at odds with earthly authorities. How does that impact how you lead your life?

Pray

God, open my eyes to see ways in which I am called to follow God’s authority in Jesus. Give me discernment to see how you are calling me to order my steps so I might be a disciple. Amen.

Monday, March 21

Read

Mark 12:1-12

Reflect

- Think about what the key elements in this parable might represent. What is the vineyard? Who are the owner, the tenants, the servants, and the son?

- What provisions does the owner make for the success of the vineyard?

- What motives would the tenants have for their treatment of the servants and the son?

- When have you not welcomed or heeded a messenger of truth?

- What is the purpose of a cornerstone? How is Jesus a cornerstone of our faith?

Pray

Lord God, help me to diligently care for your kingdom and to recognize your messages, regardless of the source. Give me the gift of discernment that I might not only hear but receive the messengers from your highest authority and become your servant as well.

Tuesday, March 22

Read

Mark 12:13-27

Reflect

- Jesus' opponents pose a question to him about paying taxes. Why do you think they used this particular question to attempt to trap Jesus?

- Why is Jesus' response to the question about taxes particularly clever?

- In the second part of today's reading, Sadducees, who don't believe in resurrection, refer to scripture to challenge Jesus regarding resurrection. What do you think Jesus is saying when he replies that God is not the king of the dead but of the living?

- In both parts, Jesus is being challenged by people who seem short-sighted. They don't see the big picture of what Jesus is teaching. In what ways do you feel we, as Christians, sometimes argue details while losing sight of the life-giving messages that Jesus came to teach us?

Pray

You, Lord, are the God of the living. Your desire for us, now and forever, is that we have life. You sent your son so we could have "life to the full." Help me to see the big picture and live into your life-giving message of love. When I get lost in the details or argue over them, help me to find my way back to you, Lord of all.

Wednesday, March 23

Read

Mark 12: 28-34

Reflect

- Which commandments does Jesus say are the most important of all? Why do you think he orders them this way?

- Why do you think Jesus was asked this question by the Scribe?

- What does it mean to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

- What does that look like in your own life? How are you loving God with all of you?

- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

- Who do you consider to be your neighbor(s)? How are you loving your neighbor(s)?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for your love and your teachings and commandments. Thank you for being my Lord and Savior and for your selfless sacrifice. As I continue to draw closer to you and thank you for your loving patience and kindness towards me, I also thank you for looking past my faults, seeing my needs, and loving me.

Thursday, March 24

Read

Mark 12:35-40

Reflect

- How is Jesus the Son of David?
- What enemies do you think he is referring to in verse 36?
- Why do you think the crowd was “listening with delight?”
- Re-read verse 38. When have you wanted to dress merely to impress others? How do we use clothing to shape and convey our identity? Is this offensive or merely self-expression?

Pray

Lord, help me as I continue my Christian journey. Guide me as I strive to be a better person. Help me find the balance between self-expression, sharing my life, and over-sharing.

Friday, March 25

Read

Mark 12:41-44

Reflect

- What is this giving comparison about?
- What are some ways you can give to the church and God's people? Consider financial contributions, your talents and gifts, and anything else you can give that can uplift and build God's kingdom.
- Reflect on ways you might be holding back when it comes to giving. How can you prioritize giving in your life so that it aligns with your values?
- Notice how Jesus recognizes the woman's smaller contribution as more valuable. Reflect on how Jesus values what every person is able to contribute, no matter how big or small.

Pray

Lord, please help me to prioritize, acknowledge my blessings, and see all that I have to give. I pray to joyfully give my money, time, and gifts with confidence. Amen.

Monday, March 28

Read

Mark 13:1-4

Reflect

- Imagine Jesus telling you that your church building would be demolished. How would this make you feel? How would you react? What questions would you want to ask?

- How have we made idols of our temples and buildings?

- In the age of a global pandemic, when we've discovered ways to worship that don't necessarily require a building, what might this mean for the future of the church? How might the church of the future differ from what we once knew?

Pray

Lord, if the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we do not need to be in a church building to be the church. Open our eyes and ears so that we may see and hear how your spirit is moving in the community that surrounds us. Show us how we might truly be your church. Amen.

Tuesday, March 29

Read

Mark 13:5-13

Reflect

- Of all the things Jesus says in this passage, what do you find to be the most difficult?
- Why do you think it is that way for you?
- Have you ever come across someone who you sensed was a "false prophet?" If so, how did they make you feel?
- What do you think Jesus' overall point is in this text?
- How can you be different because of this text?

Pray

O God, be all my love, all my hope, all my striving; let my thoughts and words flow from you, my daily life be in you, and every breath I take be for you. Amen.
John Cassian (360-435)

Wednesday, March 30

Read

Mark 13:14-23

Reflect

- What do you think the “disgusting and destructive thing” is?
- Do you think the writer of this text intended to report or project events in human history?
- What do you understand the setting and context of this passage to be?

Pray

God who is with us in all things, in the midst of the most difficult times, guide us. Lavish your grace and understanding upon us that we might be able to stand in the darkest and most turbulent days. Be for us a solid rock. Amen.

Thursday, March 31

Read

Mark 13:24-27

Reflect

- What images or metaphors stand out to you most in this passage? Why do you think the writer uses them?

- "Son of Man" is a deceiving term in our context – it connects Jesus to a divine moment - the eschaton, or the time when God will redeem humanity in totality. What is exciting or frightening about the idea of the "end times" for you?

- How does the idea that God's work could be made complete at some point in the future impact how you lead your life now?

- Reflect on the importance of the imagery you named before. How are those images helpful for you to remember God's power?

Pray

God, we don't get to see the whole picture of how you are choosing to redeem your children, but we are grateful for the image you offer us in Jesus. Help us to be faithful disciples that reveal your kingdom now, even when we don't understand everything you do. Amen.

Friday, April 1

Read

Mark 13:28-37

Reflect

- The scripture mentions tender shoots and leaves from the fig tree as indications that change is coming. “Summer is near,” it says. What are the tell-tale signs in your daily life that help you recognize change is coming? How do you respond to those changes? How do you prepare for change?

- Spend some time with verse 13:33. How does it make you feel? Why do you think you feel that way?

- If you knew Jesus was coming to visit you tomorrow, what would you do differently today? How would you prepare your heart?

- Similarly, if Jesus showed up at your house for dinner tonight, what parts of your day would you share with him in conversation? What parts would you not want to share? Why?

Prayer

God, our hearts long for you with every beat and yet sometimes our earthly minds forget. Forgive us when we are unprepared, when our minds are weak, and when our actions are not pleasing to you. Teach us to bend our lives to your will so that no matter when we see the glory of your face, our hearts will be ready. Amen.

Monday, April 4

Read

Mark 14:1-9

Reflect

- Jesus is quick to see things in a different light. What are some situations you can review through a lens of grace?

- Reflect on verse 7 and what Jesus says about the people's own actions and the timing of this moment.

- Jesus says the woman has 'done what she could.' What are some instances where you can give yourself grace because you 'did what you could' at the time?

- Reflect on ways you can appreciate the efforts of others and people trying to do good.

Pray

God, help me to see people doing their best and to go easy on myself as I do my best. Bless me with a heart that tries to understand and meets people where they are.

Tuesday, April 5

Read

Mark 14:10-26

Reflect

- This passage includes details of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. They've gathered for a Passover meal to celebrate God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery. It is customary to sacrifice a lamb for this meal accompanied with bread and wine. How does Jesus use the disciples' understanding and traditions of Passover to foretell his crucifixion, resurrection, and the New Covenant?

- During this intimate time of sharing a meal together with those closest to him, Jesus announces that one of his disciples will betray him. Jesus does not reveal who it is and he allows Judas to remain at the table to take part in this meal. How does this relate to the overall message that Jesus is relaying to them through this meal?

- After reading and reflecting on this passage, what parts jump out to you the most and why?

Pray

Lord, you meet us where we are. You teach me and you guide me. You allow me the opportunity to turn away from sin and you forgive me. Help me to remember your sacrifice. Cleanse my heart. At the table of communion, may I eat of the bread and drink the wine in remembrance of your love, grace, and forgiveness.

Wednesday, April 6

Read

Mark 14:27-31

Reflect

- In this passage, Peter is scandalized at the thought of betraying Jesus, though we know he does so (Mark 14-66-72). Think about a mentor in your life—someone you esteem, who has taught you and loved you. Now, imagine that person tells you that you will betray them. How would you feel? How might you respond?

- We know from scripture that Jesus had to die to ensure our salvation and that Jesus' journey to the cross required betrayal from those closest to Him. We all have a part to play in God's story. How in your life have you been a necessary piece of the greater good? How has God used you in uncomfortable ways to spread the gospel of Christ?

Pray

God, use me for your will, even if it hoists me out of my comfort zone. Equip me with strength needed for the undertaking. Allow me to be a willing servant to your Word and ministry, no matter the cost. Give me peace knowing that even though the shepherd has fallen and I have scattered, you rose to put my pieces back together.

Thursday, April 7

Read

Mark 14:32-42

Reflect

- Do you find comfort knowing that even Jesus has found himself in desperate prayer to God? Have you ever found yourself this way?

- Can you relate to Jesus' statement: "not my will but your will be done?" Have you ever said those words in prayer when you wanted something so badly but you knew you would rather God's will be done instead of yours?

- Jesus says to the sleeping disciples, "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." What do you think he meant by that? Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever wanted to pray, do better, be better but you were just too tired and gave up instead?

- How can God use our weaknesses?

- How are you praying? How are you supporting your friends in prayer?

Pray

Lord, thank you for the example Jesus showed me while he was here on earth. Please help me to be like Jesus and pray even when times are the toughest for me. Amen

Friday, April 8

Read

Mark 14:43-52

Reflect

- Of all things, why do you think Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss? And why, even in that moment, does he refer to him as "Rabbi" (teacher)?

- It is noted in verse 43 that the mob who came to arrest Jesus was carrying swords and clubs. Jesus calls them out for it in verse 48-49. Was this necessary? Do you think Jesus would have gone with them without the use of force?

- In the last few verses, we learn that all of Jesus' disciples "left him and ran away," and one even left his clothes behind! In what ways do we abandon Jesus and run away?

Pray

Lord, you predicted that your disciples would fall away, yet you kept them close and taught them until the end. Allow us to hold close to you, even when we want to run. Help us be faithful disciples that will stick with you during the challenging times. Remind us that you will always love and forgive us, even when we fall away, and help us do the same for others.

Monday, April 11

Read

Mark 14:53-65

Reflect

- Imagine the scene. Jesus is brought before a group of Sanhedrin (71 high ranking legal officials) and the high priest, Caiaphas. Off to the side, hidden among the guards, near the fire, sits Peter, watching but saying nothing. Where do you see yourself in this scene? Would you speak out?

- False accusations are brought against Jesus and his words regarding the temple are misquoted, but Jesus remains silent. What is the only question he answers? What is the response to his statement? What is the outcome?

- If placed on trial for your faith, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Would you confess your belief and face the results to come?

Pray

Lord, help me to live my life so that no one could doubt the faith I claim. Give me the courage to face trials and the boldness to proclaim my heritage as your child and recipient of your grace.

Tuesday, April 12

Read

Mark 14:66-72

Reflect

- As fallible human beings, we must consciously make the choice not to deny Jesus every day. This is hard work, even for the most devout Christian. Even Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, denied Him. How have you denied Christ in your life? How were you quickened from that experience? How has God exercised God's grace, mercy, and love toward you afterward?

- It's easy to point blame at Peter for denying Jesus, even though he said he would never do so in Mark 14:27-31. It's much harder to humanize his decisions and empathize with his self-disappointment. Afterall, Jesus knew that Peter would betray Him, and He still invited Peter to pray with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. What does this say about God's love for us? How have you seen God's unconditional love overcome your sins?

Pray

Lord, Peter's story is a reminder that all of us will fail in our journeys as your ambassadors. Please give me the wisdom to make the right choices, the discernment to determine right and wrong, and the grace to learn from my mistakes. Allow me to continually grow in my triumphs and failures. Thank you for your unconditional love.

Wednesday, April 13

Read

Mark 15:1-15

Reflect

- Why do you think Jesus answers Pilate the way he does when he is first asked if he is the King of the Jews?
- Why do you think Pilate still referred to Jesus as the King of the Jews when asking the people if he should be pardoned?
- Why were the chief priests jealous of Jesus?
- Why do you think the people were so easily swayed to call for Barabbas to be released?

Pray

Lord, guide us to truth that brings life. Teach us how to act, speak, and think in ways that undo the harm done by oppressive systems created by human sin and error. May life and life more abundantly be our guiding notion in all we do. Amen.

Thursday, April 14
Holy Thursday

Read

Mark 15:16-41

Reflect

- Re-read the passage, and pick a character in the story to imagine yourself as (a soldier, Simon, one of the other people being crucified, an onlooker, the centurion, one of the Marys). What are you thinking? Seeing? Feeling? Hearing?

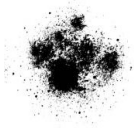
- Why do you think it was important for the writer to share this much detail of how Jesus was crucified?

- Notice which characters in the story are able to identify who Jesus really is. Why do you think those characters "get it?"

- What in your life has helped you "get it" and understand why Jesus is so important? Are you still discovering who Jesus is for you? How does this story of his crucifixion impact your journey?

Pray

Crucified God, reveal yourself to me in Jesus. Make Christ's sacrifice for the world become a personal reality for me that I might receive the fullness of my savior's gifts. Amen.



Friday, April 15
Good Friday

Read

Mark 15:42-47

Reflect

- Think of a time when you had to speak up in order to get something you wanted. What motivated you to speak up? What about the specific thing you wanted gave you the courage to ask?

- When you read the phrase, "Jesus died," do you picture him on the cross or in the tomb? What is the difference between those two images for you? Why do you think you picture one instead of the other?

- These verses are short and simple, but the actions that take place in them are lengthy (the meeting with Pilate and Joseph, the summoning of a centurion, giving a lifeless body to someone, rolling a stone away from a cave, etc.). Think of all the times in these verses that Joseph could have given up. What keeps you going when you feel like giving up? What motivates you to keep going through a task you may not want to do in the first place? What do you think kept Joseph going?

Prayer

Lord, our minds today can hardly comprehend the depth of faith that the earliest followers of Jesus had to have in their hearts in order to walk with him. Our faith journeys today feel significantly lighter in comparison… and yet. And yet we still struggle to walk in your footsteps. Holy God, in these dark days of Lent as we walk beside you, remind us of the full weight of the cross, of your body, of the stone in the tomb. Let us sit with that weight on our hearts as we prepare for your glorious resurrection so that on Easter morning, we feel the weightlessness of your unending love.

Here are some ways you can get involved and experience Lent with St. Luke's

- Sign up for a book/Bible study to learn with others
- Join a Life Together group to live out this journey in community
- Serve families at Maxey Elementary School by donating food items like peanut butter and canned chicken, or help pack them for delivery
- Share your caregiving experiences with others in a safe space during our monthly Coping with Caregiving support group meetings
- Receive care from a Stephen Minister, a trained listener who will encourage you and pray for you
- Practice Contemplative Prayer in Breathing Space

Scan the QR code to learn more about these opportunities and more, or visit **st.lukes.org/lent**!

Join us for Easter worship on **April 17**
on campus and online at
9:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

For more details about Holy Week and Easter worship
visit **st.lukes.org/lent**

ST LUKE'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Road
Orlando, Florida 32819
407.876.4991
www.st.lukes.org