



Seven Signs

A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

A Journey to Easter

About the Author

Pastor Burt is a Master of Divinity graduate from Bangor Theological Seminary and ordained in the United Church of Christ. Beginning as a youth minister and later serving as a licensed pastor in Maine, he brings over 30 years of ministry experience. He blends thoughtful leadership with a personable approach, focusing on hope, healing, and community. As a husband and father of four, he nurtures his congregations like family—creating spaces where all are embraced, grow together, and encounter God. He hopes to leave a legacy of fostering welcoming places where people walk in faith together.

Pastoral Introduction

Lent is a season that invites us to slow down and pay attention—to God, to ourselves, and to the quiet ways grace is already at work in our lives. Too often we approach Lent as something to accomplish rather than a journey to receive. Yet in the Gospel of John, the signs of Jesus do not demand effort from those who witness them; they invite trust, openness, and response.

This devotional follows the Seven Signs of Jesus not as distant miracles, but as living encounters that continue to shape us today. Each day offers a moment to pause, listen to Scripture, and reflect on how Christ meets us in ordinary moments, deep questions, long waiting, and hopeful new beginnings.

My prayer is that these reflections help you walk through Lent not with pressure or perfection, but with honesty and hope—trusting that the same Jesus who revealed God’s glory then is still at work among us now.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Burt

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Week One – Transformation
The Wedding at Cana

Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.”
2 Corinthians 5:17

Reflection:

Ash Wednesday marks both an ending and a beginning. We come marked with ashes, reminded of our mortality, our limits, and our need for grace. Yet Scripture speaks a word of hope into that honesty: in Christ, we are already being made new. Lent does not begin with shame or self-improvement, but with truth—about who we are and whose we are. Like the water at Cana, our lives may feel plain or unchanged, but God is already at work within what we bring. This season is not about rushing transformation, but about trusting it. Ash Wednesday invites us to walk forward gently, grounded in repentance and hope, believing that God’s grace meets us exactly where we are.

Prayer:

Gracious God, meet me in my dust and shape me by Your grace.
Amen.

Week One – Transformation

The Wedding at Cana

Thursday – February 19, 2026

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth.”

Isaiah 43:19

Reflection:

God speaks of newness not from a place of ease, but in the midst of wilderness. New beginnings rarely arrive fully formed or clearly announced. Often, they emerge quietly—through small changes of heart, new awareness, or unexpected openness. Lent teaches us to pay attention to these early stirrings of grace. What feels uncertain or unfinished may already be part of God’s new work within us. Transformation does not erase the past; it reshapes it. Today, we are invited to look honestly at our lives and trust that God is creating paths even where we cannot yet see them.

Prayer:

God of new beginnings, help me notice what You are already doing.
Amen.

Week One – Transformation

The Wedding at Cana

Friday – February 20, 2026

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.”

Colossians 3:23

Reflection:

Jesus' first sign takes place not in a sacred space, but at a wedding—surrounded by ordinary people and everyday joy. Transformation often begins in places we consider unremarkable. Lent reminds us that God does not wait for perfect circumstances or dramatic gestures. God meets us in routines, responsibilities, conversations, and quiet acts of faithfulness. When we offer these moments to God, they become spaces of grace. Today's invitation is simple: to bring God into the ordinary rhythms of life and trust that even small offerings can be transformed.

Prayer:

Lord, be present with me in the ordinary moments of this day. Amen.

Saturday – February 21, 2026

“With all humility and gentleness, with patience.”

Ephesians 4:2

Reflection:

Spiritual transformation always touches our relationships. Humility, gentleness, and patience are not traits we force into being; they grow as God softens our hearts. Lent has a way of revealing where relationships feel strained, hurried, or guarded. Rather than pushing harder, this season invites us to slow down and allow God's grace to reshape how we listen, forgive, and love. Renewal often begins not with grand gestures, but with small changes in posture—choosing compassion where frustration once ruled.

Prayer:

God, renew my relationships with Your patience and love. Amen.

Week One – Transformation
The Wedding at Cana

First Sunday of Lent – February 22, 2026

“Give thanks in all circumstances.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Reflection:

The miracle at Cana nearly goes unnoticed because it blends so seamlessly into the celebration. Gratitude trains us to see what might otherwise pass by. Lent invites us to cultivate thankfulness—not as denial of hardship, but as attentiveness to grace that coexists with struggle. When we pause to give thanks, we begin to recognize how present God truly is. Small mercies, quiet provisions, and unexpected kindnesses are signs of God’s faithfulness woven into daily life.

Prayer:

Lord, open my eyes to the gifts You place before me each day. Amen.

Week Two – Faith Across Distance
Healing the Official’s Son

Monday – February 23, 2026
“Faith comes from what is heard.”
Romans 10:17

Reflection:

Faith often begins not with certainty, but with listening. The royal official comes to Jesus desperate for help, yet what he receives first is a word. He must decide whether that word is enough. Lent invites us into this same posture—learning to trust God’s voice before we see results. We are surrounded by many voices that promise control, clarity, or quick answers, but faith grows as we learn to listen for God amid the noise. Today’s invitation is to allow God’s word to carry more weight than fear or expectation.

Prayer:

Lord, help me listen for Your voice and trust what You say. Amen.

Tuesday – February 24, 2026
“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for.”
Hebrews 11:1

Reflection:

The official begins his journey home without proof that his son is healed. Faith requires movement before certainty. Lent reminds us that trust is not passive—it carries us forward even when answers lag behind our prayers. We often want clarity before commitment, but faith calls us to walk with hope rather than evidence. God meets us not only at the destination, but along the road itself.

Prayer:

God, help me walk forward in trust when the way is unclear. Amen.

Week Two – Faith Across Distance Healing the Official’s Son

Wednesday – February 25, 2026

“The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him.”
John 4:50

Reflection:

The miracle in this story begins with belief. The official trusts Jesus’ word before confirmation arrives. Lent invites us to consider where we are waiting for reassurance instead of trusting God’s promise. Faith does not deny concern or fear; it chooses confidence in God’s faithfulness over control. Today, we are invited to believe that God is already at work, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

Prayer:

Lord, strengthen my faith to trust Your word. Amen.

Thursday – February 26, 2026

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer...”
Philippians 4:6

Reflection:

The official’s faith carries the life of someone he loves. Lent reminds us that prayer becomes the place where love and trust meet. We bring before God the people we cannot fix or protect, trusting that God’s care reaches farther than ours ever could. Intercession teaches us release, grounding us in God’s compassion rather than our anxiety.

Prayer:

God, hold those I love in Your care today. Amen.

Week Two – Faith Across Distance
Healing the Official’s Son

Friday – February 27, 2026
“Your word is a lamp to my feet.”
Psalm 119:105

Reflection:

God rarely reveals the whole journey at once. Faith offers enough light for the next step, not the entire path. Lent teaches patience with God’s timing and humility about our need for guidance. Today’s invitation is to trust that God’s quiet leading is sufficient for this moment.

Prayer:

Lord, guide my steps as I trust You today. Amen.

Saturday – February 28, 2026
“Believe in the Lord Jesus.”
Acts 16:31

Reflection:

Faith is never contained to one person alone. The official’s belief eventually shapes his entire household. Lent reminds us that our trust in God quietly influences those around us. Faith lived honestly becomes a witness of hope, even when words are few.

Prayer:

Jesus, let my faith reflect Your love to others. Amen.

***Week Two – Faith Across Distance
Healing the Official's Son***

Sunday – March 1, 2026

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget.”
Psalm 103:2*

Reflection:

The journey ends with remembrance. The official learns his son was healed at the very moment Jesus spoke. Lent invites us to practice holy remembering—recalling God’s faithfulness in the past as strength for today. Memory becomes a spiritual anchor, reminding us that God’s promises can be trusted again.

Prayer:

Lord, help me remember Your faithfulness with gratitude. Amen.

***Week Three – Restoration
Healing at the Pool of Bethesda***

Monday – March 2, 2026

“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?”

Psalm 13:1

Reflection:

Waiting has a way of wearing down both hope and patience. The man at the pool of Bethesda has waited thirty-eight years—long enough for disappointment to settle in and hope to grow thin. Lent gives us permission to name the exhaustion that comes from prolonged waiting. God does not rush past our weariness or scold us for asking hard questions. Instead, Jesus steps directly into the place of waiting and meets the man there. Today, we are reminded that long seasons are not signs of God’s absence. Even when waiting feels endless, God sees, remembers, and comes near.

Prayer:

Lord, meet me in the places where waiting feels heavy. Amen.

Tuesday – March 3, 2026

“Do you want to be made well?”

John 5:6

Reflection:

Jesus’ question is surprising in its simplicity. After so many years of waiting, healing would seem obvious—yet Jesus invites honesty rather than assumption. Sometimes our brokenness becomes familiar, even shaping how we understand ourselves. Lent asks us to consider whether we are truly ready for change, knowing that healing may disrupt patterns we have learned to live with. This question is not a test, but an invitation—to name our desire, our fear, and our hope before God. Today, we listen for Jesus asking us the same gentle question.

Prayer:

God, help me answer honestly when You invite healing. Amen.

***Week Three – Restoration
Healing at the Pool of Bethesda***

Wednesday – March 4, 2026

“Stand up, take your mat and walk.”

John 5:8

Reflection:

Healing often comes with a call to action. Jesus does not only restore the man’s body; He invites him to move forward into a new way of living. Lent reminds us that grace empowers response. Rising and walking may feel risky after years of waiting, but restoration is never meant to leave us unchanged. Today, we are invited to consider what step of obedience God may be placing before us—not as proof of worthiness, but as participation in the healing already given.

Prayer:

Lord, give me courage to step into the new life You offer. Amen.

Thursday – March 5, 2026

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Psalm 51:10

Reflection:

Jesus later tells the healed man to sin no more, pointing toward a deeper restoration beyond the physical. Lent opens space for this kind of honest self-examination—not rooted in shame, but in desire for wholeness. God’s healing touches hearts as well as bodies, renewing what has grown weary or hardened. Today, we invite God to tend to the places within us that need cleansing, renewal, and grace. True restoration reaches beneath the surface, shaping how we live and love.

Prayer:

God, renew my heart and restore my spirit. Amen.

***Week Three – Restoration
Healing at the Pool of Bethesda***

Friday – March 6, 2026

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”

Isaiah 40:31

Reflection:

Waiting is not wasted time in God’s economy. Though it can feel empty or frustrating, Scripture reminds us that God renews strength precisely in these seasons. Lent invites us to release the belief that productivity defines faithfulness. Instead, we trust that God is at work even when progress feels slow. Today, we rest in the promise that waiting does not disqualify us from God’s care—it places us within it.

Prayer:

Lord, renew my strength as I wait on You. Amen.

Saturday – March 7, 2026

“Come to me, all you that are weary.”

Matthew 11:28

Reflection:

Jesus does not demand more effort from the weary; He offers rest. After long seasons of struggle, restoration often begins with allowing ourselves to stop striving. Lent reminds us that rest is not a reward for faithfulness—it is part of God’s healing gift. Today, we are invited to bring our exhaustion, discouragement, and weariness to Christ, trusting that His compassion meets us gently and fully.

Prayer:

Jesus, give me rest in Your presence today. Amen.

*Week Three – Restoration
Healing at the Pool of Bethesda*

Sunday – March 8, 2026

“We too might walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

Reflection:

Healing leads us forward. The man once confined to waiting now walks freely, carrying what once carried him. Lent reminds us that restoration is not simply about being healed, but about living differently because we are healed. Newness of life unfolds over time, shaped by grace and practice. Today, we give thanks for God’s restoring work and trust that God will continue guiding us as we learn to walk in freedom.

Prayer:

God, help me walk faithfully in the new life You are forming in me.
Amen.

***Week Four – Abundance
Feeding of the Five Thousand***

Monday – March 9, 2026

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Psalm 23:1

Reflection:

The crowd follows Jesus into a remote place, bringing with them hunger, hope, and need. Jesus does not turn them away or ask them to manage on their own. Instead, He receives them with compassion. Lent reminds us that God is attentive to our needs, even the ones we hesitate to name. Abundance in Scripture does not mean excess; it means sufficiency rooted in trust. Today, we are invited to reflect on where we may be living from fear of lack rather than confidence in God’s care. The Shepherd who guides us also provides for us, meeting us with grace rather than scarcity.

Prayer:

Lord, help me trust that You know and care for my needs. Amen.

Tuesday – March 10, 2026

*“There is a boy here who has
five barley loaves and two fish.”*

John 6:9

Reflection:

The offering brought before Jesus is small, unimpressive, and clearly insufficient by human standards. Yet it is enough when placed in Christ’s hands. Lent invites us to release the belief that what we have to offer must be impressive or complete. God works not through abundance of resources, but through willingness and trust. Today, we consider what we may be holding back because it feels too small to matter. God does not ask for what we do not have—only for what we are willing to bring.

Prayer:

Jesus, take what I offer and use it as You will. Amen.

***Week Four – Abundance
Feeding of the Five Thousand***

Wednesday – March 11, 2026

“Have the people sit down.”

John 6:10

Reflection:

Before the miracle unfolds, Jesus asks the crowd to sit. Stillness precedes provision. Lent teaches us that trust often begins with stopping—releasing urgency, anxiety, and the need to fix things ourselves. Sitting down is an act of faith, a willingness to wait for God rather than rush ahead. Today’s invitation is to notice where rest may be the faithful response. God’s work does not depend on our constant motion; sometimes it begins when we allow ourselves to pause.

Prayer:

Lord, help me rest in You and trust Your timing. Amen.

Thursday – March 12, 2026

*“Jesus took the loaves,
and when he had given thanks...”*

John 6:11

Reflection:

Jesus gives thanks before the food is multiplied. Gratitude comes before abundance. Lent trains our hearts to give thanks not only for what we have received, but for what we trust God will provide. Gratitude reshapes how we see our lives, turning scarcity into possibility and anxiety into trust. Today, we practice thanksgiving not as denial of need, but as recognition of God’s faithful presence. What we bless with gratitude becomes a place where grace can grow.

Prayer:

God, cultivate gratitude in my heart today. Amen.

***Week Four – Abundance
Feeding of the Five Thousand***

Friday – March 13, 2026

*“Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly...”*

Ephesians 3:20

Reflection:

The crowd eats until they are satisfied, and still there is more. God's abundance exceeds expectation, not to impress, but to assure us of God's generosity. Lent invites us to examine where we may have settled for too small a vision of God's grace. Abundance in God's kingdom is not about accumulation; it is about trust that God's power is already at work within us. Today, we are invited to widen our hope and trust that God is able to do more than we imagine.

Prayer:

Lord, expand my trust in Your generous grace. Amen.

Saturday – March 14, 2026

*“Gather up the fragments left over,
so that nothing may be lost.”*

John 6:12

Reflection:

Jesus instructs the disciples to gather what remains, honoring every piece. Nothing is wasted in God's hands. Lent reminds us that even what feels broken, leftover, or insignificant belongs within God's redemptive story. God gathers our fragments—our failures, losses, and unfinished places—and weaves them into something meaningful. Today, we reflect on where we may have written parts of our lives off as useless. God sees value where we see only remnants.

Prayer:

God, redeem what feels broken or wasted in my life. Amen.

***Week Four – Abundance
Feeding of the Five Thousand***

Sunday – March 15, 2026

“I am the bread of life.”

John 6:35

Reflection:

The miracle of the loaves points beyond itself to Jesus, the true source of life. The crowd's hunger is real, but Jesus reveals a deeper hunger only He can satisfy. Lent invites us to consider what we turn to for sustenance, comfort, or security. When we seek life elsewhere, we remain unsatisfied. Today, we are invited again to receive Christ as our daily bread—trusting that His presence nourishes us more deeply than anything else.

Prayer:

Jesus, feed my life with Your sustaining grace. Amen.

Week Five – Courage
Jesus Walks on the Water

Monday – March 16, 2026

*“In the world you face persecution.
But take courage; I have conquered the world.”*
John 16:33

Reflection:

The disciples set out across the sea knowing the journey will not be easy. Storms arise not because they have failed, but because they are faithfully following Jesus' direction. Lent reminds us that difficulty is not always a sign of disobedience; sometimes it is simply part of the journey. Courage in Scripture is not the absence of fear, but trust in God's presence within it. Today, we are invited to notice where we may be interpreting struggle as failure rather than faithfulness. Jesus does not promise calm waters, but He does promise His presence and peace in the midst of them.

Prayer:

Lord, give me courage when the journey feels difficult. Amen.

Tuesday – March 17, 2026

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
Psalm 46:1

Reflection:

The disciples row through the night, straining against wind and waves, making little progress. Darkness and exhaustion shape their fear. Lent acknowledges how weariness can distort our perspective, making it harder to trust God's nearness. Yet Scripture assures us that God is present help—not distant, not delayed. Today, we are invited to bring our fatigue honestly before God, trusting that strength does not come from pushing harder, but from leaning into God's sustaining presence. Even in the dark, God remains near.

Prayer:

God, be my refuge and strength when I am weary. Amen.

***Week Five – Courage
Jesus Walks on the Water***

Wednesday – March 18, 2026

“They saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near.”
John 6:19

Reflection:

Jesus comes toward the disciples in a way they do not expect, and fear fills the boat. Lent reminds us that God’s presence may appear unfamiliar or unsettling at first, especially when we are overwhelmed. We often imagine help arriving according to our plans, but God meets us on divine terms. Today’s invitation is to remain open to God’s nearness even when it does not look the way we imagined. Christ moves toward us, not away from us, even in chaos.

Prayer:

Lord, help me recognize Your presence when it surprises me. Amen.

Thursday – March 19, 2026

“It is I; do not be afraid.”
John 6:20

Reflection:

Fear loosens its grip when Jesus is recognized. His words do not immediately calm the storm, but they calm the disciples’ hearts. Lent teaches us that peace often comes through presence, not circumstance. Jesus does not dismiss fear; He speaks directly into it. Today, we listen for Christ’s voice addressing our own anxieties—naming fear without letting it rule us. Courage grows as we learn to trust who is with us, even when conditions remain unchanged.

Prayer:

Jesus, speak Your peace into my fear today. Amen.

Week Five – Courage
Jesus Walks on the Water

Friday – March 20, 2026

“Then they wanted to take him into the boat.”

John 6:21

Reflection:

When the disciples welcome Jesus into the boat, everything changes. Lent invites us to consider what it means to fully receive Christ into our circumstances, rather than keeping Him at a safe distance. Trust deepens when we allow Jesus into the places that feel unstable or frightening. Today, we are invited to reflect on where we may be trying to manage storms alone. Courage grows not through control, but through surrender.

Prayer:

Lord, I welcome You into every part of my life. Amen.

Saturday – March 21, 2026

“Immediately the boat reached the land.”

John 6:21

Reflection:

The journey ends more quickly than expected. While not every storm resolves immediately, this moment reminds us that God’s timing can surprise us. Lent teaches us to remain open to hope even when progress feels slow. God is at work beyond what we can see or measure. Today, we are invited to trust that God knows the way forward, even when we cannot yet see the shore.

Prayer:

God, guide me safely where You are leading me. Amen.

Week Five – Courage
Jesus Walks on the Water

Sunday – March 22, 2026

*“I can do all things
through him who strengthens me.”*
Philippians 4:13

Reflection:

Courage rooted in Christ is not self-confidence; it is God-confidence. The disciples' strength does not come from their rowing, but from Christ's presence. Lent reminds us that resilience grows when we rely on God rather than ourselves. Today, we give thanks for the strength Christ provides—strength to endure, to trust, and to continue the journey with hope. Courage shaped by faith carries us forward, even when the path remains uncertain.

Prayer:

Jesus, strengthen me to walk forward in faith and courage. Amen.

***Week Six – Seeing with New Eyes
Healing of the Man Born Blind***

Monday – March 23, 2026

“He was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.”
John 9:3

Reflection:

The disciples begin with a question about blame, assuming suffering must have a cause that can be assigned. Jesus redirects their thinking entirely. This man’s blindness is not a punishment, but a place where God’s work will be revealed. Lent invites us to examine how quickly we search for explanations instead of meaning. When hardship comes, we often ask, “Who is at fault?” rather than “Where is God at work?” Today, we are invited to let go of blame—toward ourselves and others—and trust that God’s redemptive purpose can emerge even from places of deep struggle. God does not waste suffering; God meets us within it and brings light where we least expect it.

Prayer:

Lord, help me trust that You are at work even in difficult places.
Amen.

**Week Six – Seeing with New Eyes
Healing of the Man Born Blind
Tuesday – March 24, 2026**

“Jesus spat on the ground and made mud.”
John 9:6

Reflection:

Jesus heals in an unexpected way—through mud and touch rather than words alone. Lent reminds us that God often works through means we do not anticipate or control. We prefer clarity and order, but healing sometimes comes through messy, uncomfortable processes. Today's invitation is to remain open to God's creative methods, even when they challenge our assumptions. God's grace is not limited by our expectations. What feels strange or disruptive may become the very place where healing begins.

Prayer:

God, help me trust Your ways even when I don't understand them.
Amen.

Wednesday – March 25, 2026
“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.”
John 9:7

Reflection:

The man must respond to Jesus' instruction before he can see. Healing follows obedience. Lent teaches us that faith is not only belief, but action—sometimes taken without full understanding. Obedience does not guarantee ease, but it opens us to transformation. Today, we reflect on where God may be inviting us to take a step of trust, even if the outcome is unclear. God meets us as we move forward, not only once we arrive.

Prayer:

Lord, give me courage to obey even when the way is uncertain. Amen.

Week Six – Seeing with New Eyes Healing of the Man Born Blind

Thursday – March 26, 2026

*“Then the neighbors
and those who had seen him before began to ask...”*
John 9:8

Reflection:

Transformation often unsettles those around us. The people who knew the man struggle to recognize him after his healing. Lent reminds us that growth may not always be affirmed or understood by others. Change can challenge expectations, both theirs and ours. Today, we are invited to remain grounded in God’s work rather than seeking approval. Faithfulness is not measured by recognition, but by trust in God’s continuing presence and guidance.

Prayer:

God, help me remain faithful even when others question my growth.
Amen.

Friday – March 27, 2026

“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”
John 9:25

Reflection:

The man does not offer a polished explanation or theological argument—only honest testimony. Lent teaches us that faith does not require complete understanding, only truthful witness. As our experience of God deepens, clarity often comes gradually. Today, we are reminded that our story of faith is still unfolding. God honors honesty more than certainty, and growth often begins with simply telling the truth about what God has done.

Prayer:

Lord, help me speak honestly about Your work in my life. Amen.

***Week Six – Seeing with New Eyes
Healing of the Man Born Blind***

Saturday – March 28, 2026

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

John 9:35

Reflection:

Jesus meets the man again, inviting him into deeper relationship. Healing opens the door to belief, but belief continues to grow through encounter. Lent reminds us that faith is not static; it matures as we respond to Christ’s presence. Today, we listen for Jesus asking us the same question—not as a test, but as an invitation to trust more deeply. Belief is a journey shaped by grace, not a destination reached once and for all.

Prayer:

Jesus, deepen my trust in You as I continue to follow. Amen.

Sunday – March 29, 2026

“Lord, I believe.”

John 9:38

Reflection:

True sight leads to worship. The man’s journey moves from healing to confession, from seeing to believing. Lent draws us along a similar path, inviting us to recognize who Jesus truly is. Worship becomes our response not because everything is resolved, but because God has met us with truth and grace. Today, we pause to give thanks for the ways God has opened our eyes—slowly, patiently, and lovingly.

Prayer:

Lord, help me respond to You with trust and worship. Amen.

Holy Week - Staying with the Story

Lent has invited us to slow down—to notice how Christ meets us in transformation, trust, healing, provision, courage, sight, and hope. We have followed Jesus through signs that revealed God's glory in quiet and unexpected ways.

Now we enter Holy Week.

This week does not ask us to rush toward Easter morning. Instead, it invites us to stay close—to walk with Jesus through the final days of His earthly ministry and to remain present to the story as it unfolds.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we are invited to the table, where love is poured out through bread, cup, and humble service. Here, Jesus kneels, washes feet, and gives a new commandment: to love one another as He has loved us.

On **Good Friday**, we stand at the cross. There are no shortcuts, no explanations—only the costly love of Christ, freely given. We linger in silence, grief, and awe, trusting that God is still at work even when the world feels broken.

On **Easter**, we hear again the word that changes everything: life has overcome death. Resurrection does not erase the wounds, but it redeems them. Hope rises not because suffering was avoided, but because love proved stronger than the grave.

As you move through Holy Week, allow yourself to linger. Pray slowly. Read attentively. Trust that God is present in every moment—from the table, to the cross, to the empty tomb.

Prayer:

Faithful God, as we walk the path of Holy Week, draw us closer to Christ. Help us stay present to love that serves, love that suffers, and love that rises in hope. Prepare our hearts to receive the gift of new life. Amen.

***Week Seven – Resurrection Hope
The Raising of Lazarus***

Monday – March 30, 2026
“Lord, he whom you love is ill.”
John 11:3

Reflection:

Mary and Martha send word to Jesus with both trust and urgency. They do not explain or persuade; they simply name their need. Lent reminds us that prayer does not require perfect words—only honest ones. When illness, grief, or fear enters our lives, we often struggle to know what to say. Today’s invitation is to trust that Jesus already understands what we cannot articulate. Naming what hurts is an act of faith. God receives our prayers not as demands, but as expressions of trust rooted in relationship.

Prayer:

Lord, receive the concerns I bring before You today. Amen.

Tuesday – March 31, 2026
*“Accordingly, though Jesus loved
Martha and her sister and Lazarus, he stayed...”*
John 11:5–6

Reflection:

Jesus’ delay feels confusing, even painful. Love, it seems, does not always move according to our expectations. Lent gives us space to wrestle with unanswered prayers and delayed responses. God’s timing is not indifference; it is often bound to purposes we cannot yet see. Today, we acknowledge how difficult waiting can be and resist the urge to equate delay with absence. God’s love remains steady even when answers do not come quickly.

Prayer:

God, help me trust You when waiting is hard. Amen.

Week Seven – Resurrection Hope The Raising of Lazarus

Wednesday – April 1, 2026

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

John 11:21

Reflection:

Martha’s words hold both faith and disappointment. Lent reminds us that lament belongs within faithful prayer. God invites honesty, not silence. Naming our grief, confusion, or frustration does not weaken faith—it deepens it. Today, we are encouraged to bring our unfiltered emotions before God, trusting that God meets us with compassion rather than judgment. Faith that speaks honestly becomes faith that can be healed.

Prayer:

Jesus, meet me in my questions and grief. Amen.

Thursday – April 2, 2026

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

John 11:25

Reflection:

Jesus speaks hope not only about the future, but about the present. Resurrection is not merely a promise for someday; it is a living reality rooted in Christ’s presence now. Lent invites us to consider where God may be offering life in places that feel stagnant or closed. Today, we listen for Christ’s promise of life spoken into our own circumstances. Resurrection hope reshapes how we live, even before the stone is rolled away.

Prayer:

Lord, help me trust in the life You offer today. Amen.

Week Seven – Resurrection Hope
The Raising of Lazarus

Friday – April 3, 2026

“Jesus began to weep.”

John 11:35

Reflection:

Jesus does not stand apart from grief; He enters it fully. Lent reminds us that sorrow is not a failure of faith. God does not rush past our pain or explain it away. Instead, God meets us with tears and compassion. Today, we are invited to trust that God’s heart breaks alongside ours. In Christ, we see a God who shares our grief and promises that sorrow will not have the final word.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for meeting me with compassion. Amen.

Saturday – April 4, 2026

“Lazarus, come out!”

John 11:43

Reflection:

Jesus’ command pierces the silence of death and calls new life forward. Lent reminds us that God speaks boldly into places that feel closed, hopeless, or final. Today, we reflect on where God may be calling us out of fear, resignation, or despair. Resurrection begins with hearing Christ’s voice and responding, even when the way forward feels uncertain. God’s word creates possibility where none seemed to exist.

Prayer:

Lord, call me into the new life You desire for me. Amen.

Week Seven – Resurrection Hope
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Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026

“Unbind him, and let him go.”

John 11:44

Reflection:

Resurrection is not meant to be lived alone. Jesus invites the community to participate in Lazarus' freedom by unbinding him. Easter reminds us that new life unfolds within relationship. God often uses others to help us live into the freedom we have been given. Today, we celebrate Christ's victory over death and give thanks for the community that walks alongside us. Resurrection hope sends us forward—freed, restored, and bound together in love.

Prayer:

Risen Christ, lead me into freedom and life shared with others. Amen.
