

LIVING GOD'S WORD



SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION
FOR EACH DAY OF LENT

February 26

ASH WEDNESDAY

Even now, says the LORD,
return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;
Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the LORD, your God.
For gracious and merciful is he,
slow to anger, rich in kindness,
and relenting in punishment.

Joel 2:12-13

Live God's Word

Every year, with ashes on our forehead, we begin Lent with the assurance that God is gracious and merciful. Yes, there still may be weeping and mourning, but that is largely a by-product of our own sorrow as we better understand how far we've strayed from our loving God. How can I return to God with my "whole heart" this Lent?

Joel 2:12-18 • Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14, 17
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 • Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

February 28

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

**Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe
out my offense.**

**Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.**

**For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always.**

Psalm 51:3-5

Live God's Word

Here, the psalmist is admitting, in no uncertain terms, that he is guilty. That's not an easy admission. We often resist getting to that point ourselves. We have a special season—Lent—designed to help us unburden ourselves, opening us to receiving God's goodness. What sins have I buried long ago, refusing to acknowledge?

Isaiah 58:1-9 • Psalm 51:3-6, 18-19 • Matthew 9:14-15

March 3

TUESDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

**The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
and those who are crushed in spirit he
saves.**

Psalm 34:19

Live God's Word

I may not want to admit it, but I am brokenhearted. I am unkind to myself, largely because I do not follow the teachings of the Lord as closely as I'm capable of doing. Have I broken my own heart? Have I caused someone else to be brokenhearted? I cannot forgive as readily, as wholeheartedly, as God. But does that mean that I shouldn't try?

Isaiah 55:10-11 • Psalm 34:4-7, 16-19 • Matthew 6:7-15

Keep this powerful, intimate resource handy this Lent, along with a pen or pencil, as you read and write about the timeless truths of the Bible. God's word will come to life for you more fully while you journal about your own feelings.

Based on the Church's Mass readings, Living God's Word will help you to experience more prayerful, spiritually enriching moments every day of Lent. Welcome Jesus into your heart each day, reflecting on his sacrifice, passion and death as you prepare for the great joy of his resurrection at Easter.



By Terence Hegarty. Design by Jamie Wyatt. Cover image: iStock. © 2020 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

LGWP