

A SEASON OF GRACE

LENT DEVOTIONS FOR SENIORS



ASH WEDNESDAY

Cleansed

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean...

✚ **PSALM 51:7**

Hyssop was an herb used in biblical times to cleanse the body from dirt. King David uses hyssop as a sign of spiritual cleansing. Jesus cleanses our very soul.

WASH AWAY *the filth of my wrongdoing, Jesus. Amen.*

CLEAN: Clean your face and offer a prayer of confession.

READ: Psalm 51:1-7

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Healing

...he welcomed them...and healed those who needed to be cured. ✚ **LUKE 9:11**

Jesus welcomes us into his presence this Lent and invites us to receive his healing so that we might be cured of the sickness of our sins. Let us gladly come to him.

BE OPEN *to the power of Christ to make you well in your faith. Amen.*

STRETCH: Stretch out your arms. Reach out to Christ.

READ: Malachi 4:2-3

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

His Journey of Grace

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ✚ LUKE 9:51

How will you journey with Jesus this Lent? With the Spirit's guidance, will you see it as a journey of grace? Luke's extensive travel account begins and ends with Jesus but constantly involves disciples on his journey to Jerusalem. Jesus "set his face" with determination to suffer and die on a cross—the ultimate display of grace. But along the journey, Jesus floods the world with little graces. He heals many and includes those who reject him. He sends out the 72 to teach, heal and cast out demons. He uses parables like the one about the Prodigal Son to demonstrate the Father's grace. He is patient with his disciples even when they fail to understand.

Jesus invites you to join him this Lent on a journey of grace—a journey in which you repent daily, focus on the cross, receive forgiveness and share him with others.

STEPHEN J. CARTER | Oakville, MO

LORD, HELP ME *journey with you this Lent to your place of pure grace on the cross. Amen.*

TAKE: Take one step this week toward one person with God's grace.

READ: Luke 9:43-45, 51-56; 10:1-3, 21-24

What Is Grace?

God is able to make all grace abound to you...

✚ **2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 (ESV)**

Lent is a season of preparation where we anticipate and prepare spiritually for Easter. Lent is a time to grow in the experience of God's love and grace. Grace is what God gives to us because he is all-loving. The encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus in Luke 19 illustrates God's grace in action. Despite Zacchaeus' reputation as a dishonest tax collector, Jesus chose to extend grace to him. This led Zacchaeus to repent and to make amends for his numerous wrongdoings. Jesus saved Zacchaeus by visiting him with grace and mercy. Grace is an essential part of God's character. Grace is the foundation of our Christian faith. Grace gives us eternal encouragement and hope in our walk with Christ.

DAVID BEVER | Las Vegas, NV

LORD, THANKS for showing me grace in my life when I fall short of your glory. Amen.

EXTEND: Extend God's grace by serving someone you know with the gifts God has given you.

READ: Luke 19:1-10; John 1:16

SUNDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Love for the Father

...so that the world may know that I love the Father.

✦ JOHN 14:31

Ahead of his public ministry, Jesus spends a kind of Lent in the desert. He was tempted by Satan. But Jesus blocks each assault in the name of God. Jesus' only "bread" is the Word of God; his complete faith is in God, so he will not bend the knee to the devil; his true hope is in God, and he will not test it by jumping off the Temple. Satan sneers at Jesus, "If you are the Son of God..." he says (Matthew 4:3). Jesus does not take the bait. The last thing Jesus would ever do is share his God's true name as "Abba, Father," with a fraudster like Satan (Mark 14:36).

At the Last Supper, on the very night before he dies, Jesus says of Satan: "the ruler of the world is coming" (John 14:30). Though the devil tries to tempt Jesus as he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. But again, he does the Father's will, "so that the world may know that I love the Father" (John 14:31).

MIGUEL DULICK | Las Vegas, Honduras

LORD, *let my love for you flow to all. Amen.*

CHASE: Chase the devil away with your love for God.

READ: Matthew 4:1-11; John 14:1-25

MONDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

The Grace Place

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus... ✚ **2 TIMOTHY 2:1**

I feel anxious each time an emerging technology lands in my lap. Lent is an appropriate time to “click pause” and remember that in the middle of our changing world, God offers a safe place. Sometimes hidden beneath the clutter of emerging technology, our Heavenly Father offers us each a place of grace.

Until aging caught me, I honestly didn’t pay much attention to grace. I knew grace was a blessing. After all, grace is sometimes called God’s undeserved favor. However, I didn’t realize that grace is in the air we breathe. As Christians, God’s grace in Jesus is our oxygen.

We’ve collected a lifetime of experiences, memories, mistakes and successes. But through all the transitions, God has designated a place where forgiveness is always available, love is free and divine blessing is given. The death and resurrection of Jesus ensures our journey home still leads directly to God.

MARY MANZ SIMON | Ft. Myers, FL

***LORD,** may your grace fill my heart with such peace that I no longer fear what the future might hold. Amen.*

ASK: Where have you experienced God’s grace today?

READ: Romans 5:8

TUESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Now Appearing

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all... ✚ **TITUS 2:11**

Before Jesus entered the world, he said to his Father, "... a body you have prepared for me" (Hebrews 10:5). This is the body that was born of Mary, grew to manhood, taught people about the kingdom of God for three years and then journeyed to the cross. This is the body whose appearance was "so marred...beyond human semblance" (Isaiah 52:14). This is the body that is given to us in the Eucharist (see 1 Corinthians 11:24).

Lent marks the culmination of Jesus' work on earth: "he has appeared once for all...to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Hebrews 9:26). Now clothed in his glorified body, Jesus reigns in heaven, but he will appear once more. "And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away" (1 Peter 5:4). Believe it. Receive it.

MARJ MAYNARD | Pipe Creek, TX

LAMB OF GOD, you sacrificed your body to redeem us.
How we long for your appearing! Amen.

BE ENCOURAGED: Sing or read the second verse of "Amazing Grace."

READ: Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Timothy 6:13-16

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LENTEN DEVOTIONS FOR SENIORS

We live in God's grace in every season of our lives. The daily devotions in this large-print special edition for Lent highlight the message and theme of God's grace to older adult Christian readers. These reflections help seniors remember the grace poured out for them on the cross of Christ for their salvation and encourage them to share with younger generations the grace that we all receive through Jesus.

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