

By His Wounds We Were Healed



Praying Through Lent
With the Prophets

FR. EDWARD LOONEY



Introduction

Lent, a venerable tradition in the Church, spans forty days. Many believers make use of devotionals and prayer aids during this season to more fully meditate on the mystery of Christ's passion and death. This little prayer booklet you now hold, *By His Wounds We Were Healed*, will help you deepen your spiritual life through the words of the prophets. The prophets, like Isaiah, for example, foretold of the coming Emmanuel, the Christ Child. Isaiah also is well known for his Suffering Servant songs, which foretell the passion of Jesus. The prophets are quite important for our Lenten journey.

With this booklet, through the initial days of Lent, we will consider how God used special times to invite his people to come back to him. Lent is one of those special times for us. During the first week of Lent, we will look at the call of the prophet. In the second week, we will consider the importance of God's Word for our lives. In the third week, we will hear God's call—through the prophets—to conversion, and the fourth week examines how God has shown forgiveness. In the fifth week, we will explore the theme of healing, realizing that all of us stand in need of healing in various ways. And finally, through Holy Week, we will look at how the prophets foretold what the Gospel recounts.

I hope you are ready to walk with the prophets through a Lenten journey leading us to the promise of Easter.

Fr. Edward Looney



Ash Wednesday

Return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

JOEL 2:12

Dear Lord, as the Church begins this sacred time of fasting, I offer to you my fasting, acts of self-denial and sacrifices. I don't want to just give you a part of my heart, but I want to give you my whole heart.

I believe you want to do amazing things during these days; help me be open to your working. Amen.



Thursday After Ash Wednesday

Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the LORD, your God,
For he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
and relenting in punishment.

JOEL 2:13

Dear Lord, sometimes my past weighs me down, and I feel that I cannot approach you. I know that you are always ready and wanting to welcome me back. You desire to show us mercy.

I hear your call and voice so often inviting me to change my life and begin again. Help me in following your promptings, that I may return to you with my whole heart and mind. Amen.



Friday After Ash Wednesday

Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
That he may instruct us in his ways,
that we may walk in his paths.

MICAH 4:2

Dear Lord, you always invite us to follow you, and sometimes you invite us to make difficult climbs on the mountain of life.

I can ascend the mountain with your help. Give me strength to endure. Help me stay on your path so that I never lose my way. Amen.

Saturday After Ash Wednesday

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near.

ISAIAH 55:6

Dear Lord, I seek you. I know you are not hiding but are right there in front of me or alongside me. You have given me this time to seek you. You want to be found. You want to hear my voice.

Stay near me Lord, so I will never be separated from you. Amen.



First Sunday of Lent

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” “Here I am,” I said; “send me!”

ISAIAH 6:8

Dear Lord, you are calling me. I hear your voice in the depths of my heart. You speak to me when I am at Church and when I receive the holy Eucharist. I hear you when I call out to you. Every day you are leading me. You have a plan for me. Sometimes I get in the way. I’m sorry when that happens.

Today, I renew my desire to go where you want me to go. With the saints before me, with Isaiah, I repeat: “Here I am, send me.” I know you will. I will go. Amen.



Monday of the First Week of Lent

The word of the LORD came to me:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born, I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

JEREMIAH 1:4-5

Dear Lord, sometimes, I feel and believe that no one knows me or understands me. I know that is a lie because you know me. Sometimes, I doubt that you have a plan for my life. I know that is a lie because you have known your plans for me since I was in my mother's womb. At times, I don't know what your plans are for me. Help me trust you in those moments so that I don't despair. I want to do you will. I trust in your plans for my life. Amen.

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Prepare for the coming of Easter by first traveling back in time with the Scriptures to pray with the ancient prophecies of the Old Testament that harken to our need for the Messiah. Fr. Edward Looney offers readers relevant prayers for our time as he explores the prophetic announcements that are relevant for the season of Lent and the coming of Jesus, the Messiah and Savior of the world.

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