

**READINGS FOR LENT**



Redemption Evangelical Lutheran Church  
22500 Route 11, Watertown, New York

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# LENT



*Just as the days are beginning to lengthen and the new life of spring approaches, so also Lent is a time for repentance and renewal. The 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (not counting Sundays) is a time for Christians to prepare for Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross.*

## LENTEN PREPARATION

Though it may be helpful to choose a particular day early on in the week to read, the intent of this guide is not to be reserved for one particular day each week. Instead the guide can be used for reading, meditation, and prayer through out the week. You will notice that there is no formal devotion, rather each reading is accompanied by four questions to assist you in identifying key truths in Scripture and applying them to you personal context.

- ***What truths does this section teach me?***

The Scriptures are not abstract accounts of people long ago. The intent of the Scriptures is primarily to teach you. Though they are historical accounts, they are also useful for instruction to us today. When you go through the readings read slowly. Think about each passage. Consider what each passage teaches you about God. What is God like in that particular passage. Also consider what each passage teaches you about yourself.

- ***How does this section convict me of guilt?***

This question helps you focus on the law. The law will reveal to you a particular one of your sins. It will often sound like a threat. Law statements will place you as the main performer of the action. When trying to identify law statements look for statements that sound like commands.

- ***How does this section assure me of God's love?***

This question helps you focus on the gospel. The gospel will always point you to Jesus. The gospel will often sound like a promise. When trying to identify gospel statements look for statements where God is the performer of the action.

- ***What does it lead me to pray for and do?***

What you gleaned from the reading with the three previous questions can often be crafted into a prayer. Prayer will often include elements of praise, confession, thanks, and requests. You can offer God praise for teaching you or reminding you about certain truths. You can confess your particular sin the reading revealed to you. You can thank your Father for providing you with the assurance of his love and forgiveness found in the reading. You can bring any and all requests you may have to your heavenly Father.

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## *February 14*

### **PSALM 51**

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

<sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

<sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered  
whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## **LISTEN**

*Of Psalm 51 · Soujourn*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](https://www.spotify.com/playlist/nnyredemption). The playlist is called Lent 2018.*

## **MEDITATE**

*1. What truths does this section teach me?*

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*2. How does this section convict me of guilt?*

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*3. How does this section assure me of God's love?*

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*4. What does this section lead me to pray for and do?*

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# LENT 1

*February 18-24*

## **ROMANS 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **LISTEN**

*The Second Adam · Psallos*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](#). The playlist is called *Lent 2018*.*

## **MEDITATE**

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# LENT 2

*February 25–March 3*

## **PSALM 6**

*For the director of music. With stringed instruments. According to sheminith. A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup> LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

<sup>2</sup> Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint; heal me, LORD,  
for my bones are in agony.

<sup>3</sup> My soul is in deep anguish. How long, LORD, how long?

<sup>4</sup> Turn, LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

<sup>5</sup> Among the dead no one proclaims your name. Who praises you from the grave?

<sup>6</sup> I am worn out from my groaning.

All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.

<sup>7</sup> My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.

<sup>8</sup> Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.

<sup>10</sup> All my enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish;  
they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

## **LISTEN**

*Lord, How Long · My Soul Among Lions*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](https://www.spotify.com/playlist/nnyredemption). The playlist is called Lent 2018.*

## **MEDITATE**

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# LENT 3

## *March 4-10*

### **COLOSSIANS 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—<sup>23</sup> if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

## **LISTEN**

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us · Wilder Adkins*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](https://www.spotify.com/playlist/nnyredemption). The playlist is called Lent 2018.*

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# LENT 4

## *March 11-17*

### **PSALM 73**

*A psalm of Asaph.*

- <sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
- <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.
- <sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- <sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.
- <sup>5</sup> They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.
- <sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits.
- <sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression.
- <sup>9</sup> Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.
- <sup>11</sup> They say, “How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?”
- <sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
- <sup>13</sup> Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.
- <sup>14</sup> All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.
- <sup>15</sup> If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.

<sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply  
<sup>17</sup> till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.  
<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.  
<sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!  
<sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them  
as fantasies.  
<sup>21</sup> When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,  
<sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.  
<sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.  
<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.  
<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion  
forever.  
<sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.  
<sup>28</sup> But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my  
refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

## **LISTEN**

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](https://www.spotify.com/playlist/nnyredemption). The playlist is called Lent 2018.*

## **MEDITATE**

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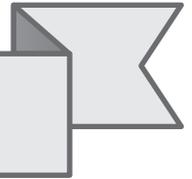
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# LENT 5

## *March 11-17*



### **EPHESIANS 2:11-22**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

# LISTEN

*Kyrie 2017 · Cardiffonia*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](#). The playlist is called *Lent 2018*.*

# MEDITATE

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# PALM SUNDAY

## *March 25*

### **PSALM 24**

*Of David. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

<sup>2</sup>for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

<sup>3</sup>Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup>The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol  
or swear by a false god.

<sup>5</sup>They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.

<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.,

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory  
may come in.

<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup>Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.

## **LISTEN**

*Rescue Us · Will Retherford*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](#). The playlist is called *Lent 2018*.*

## **MEDITATE**

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# MAUNDY THURSDAY

## *March 29*



### **JOHN 15:1-17**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

## **LISTEN**

*Agnus Dei · Koiné*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](#). The playlist is called Lent 2018.*

## **MEDITATE**

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# GOOD FRIDAY

## *March 30*



### **MATTHEW 27:45-56**

<sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

<sup>47</sup> When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

<sup>50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split <sup>52</sup> and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

<sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

<sup>55</sup> Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

# **LISTEN**

*What Wondrous Love is This · Josh Garrels*

*Access our Spotify playlist at [nnyredemption](#). The playlist is called *Lent 2018*.*

# **MEDITATE**

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# EASTER

## *April 1*

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-58**

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

# MEDITATE

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EASTER WORSHIP  
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