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Lent 2026

What is Lent? It's a forty day period leading up to Easter.

Why forty days? These days reflect Jesus' forty days in the wilderness culminating in the temptations by Satan found in Luke 4:1-13.

Why do we celebrate it? It's not a biblical command or event. It's a time of reflection the church uses to renew our awareness of sin and the glorious victory of our Savior. A time to recognize the depth of our sins and to cry out to God about the brokenness around and within us. It's a time to grieve about how evil the world around us is and to look forward to a renewed relationship with God through His sacrifice of Jesus.

WHY HE CAME

2/18 John 12:12-19 ¹²The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors ¹³took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!” ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: ¹⁵“Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey’s colt.” ¹⁶His disciples didn’t understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. ¹⁷Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others^[a] about it. ¹⁸That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. ¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!”

Heavenly Father, help us as we mature in Christ, and as we think back on our weaknesses as infants in Christ, that grow in understanding more of the spiritual nature of Christ’s kingdom and its power and glory. Lead and guide us as we proclaim what we know with boldness.

2/19 Psalm 8:4-6, 9 ⁴what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? ⁵Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority. ⁹O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

Sovereign God, even though we (mankind) are small as compared to your creation, you gave us great authority over some parts of it. Help us to respect you, and to live up to your expectation to be responsible in using that authority.

2/20 Titus 1:1-3 ¹This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. ²This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began. ³And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone. It is by the command of God our Savior that I have been entrusted with this work for him.

Holy God, we praise you for being the God of Truth and the God of never-failing promises. Help us to put on more of your character so that we may become more significant and effective witnesses for you.

2/21 1 John 3:8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

Heavenly Father, help me to recognize on-going sin in my life. Help me to listen to your Spirit and trust in His power to help me to turn from and flee from that sin.

2/23 Hebrews 9:12-14 ¹²With his own blood - not the blood of goats and calves - he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. ¹³Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. ¹⁴Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Thank you God, for opening the door of direct access to you through the blood of your perfect Son, Jesus Christ. Blood, freely given, willingly shed because of your unfathomable love for us.

2/24 1 John 4:7-12 ⁷Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹²No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

Holy Father, your plan for our salvation is sure. You knew we could not accomplish it on our own and had nothing perfect enough to offer to you, so you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to be the expression of your love for us, in a human way. Thank you for giving us the strength to love others as you commanded. Help us to desire to do it.

2/25 Jeremiah 31:31-34 ³¹"The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³²This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord.

³³"But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

We praise you God, that you always keep your promises. Thank you for this hope. Thank you for the invitation you have given us to write your Word on our hearts so that we can have a permanent, personal relationship with you.

2/26 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15, 21 ¹⁴ Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Heavenly Father, a mere thank you is not adequate to express our gratefulness for your "regenerating grace, which creates a new world in the soul" and that You God, the "offended Majesty of Heaven is willing to be reconciled" to mankind through your Mediator, Jesus Christ. (Matthew Henry's Commentary)

WHAT HE DID

2/27 Luke 23:32-43 ³² Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. ³³ When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. ³⁵ The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. ³⁷ They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?" ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Father, thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ! Thank You for forgiving us our sin, and bringing us into Your kingdom.

2/28 Luke 23:44-49 ⁴⁴ By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ⁴⁵ The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." ⁴⁸ And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. ⁴⁹ But Jesus' friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching.

We praise You, Lord, for Jesus' incredible sacrifice of suffering and death. Jesus willingly gave up His life – it wasn't taken from Him. Thank You for this incredible sacrifice!

3/2 Hebrews 9:22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

Thank You, Father, that Jesus' blood covers our sin - that bloody stain washes us pure and righteous before God. Father, thank You for forgiveness of our sin!

3/3 1 Peter 2:22-25 ²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ²⁴ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

Like sheep we are wandering and lost, threatened by the evil that surrounds us in this world. So we thank You, Jesus our Messiah, our good shepherd that protects from every menace and loves us!

3/4 1 Peter 1:18-21 ¹⁸ For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake. ²¹ Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

What love, mercy and grace has come to us from God's plan – existing before time and continuing through all eternity. Thank You, Heavenly Father, for the sure and certain confidence we have in You because of Jesus' death and resurrection!

3/5 Hebrews 2:14-15 ¹⁴ Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

We praise You, Lord for Jesus Christ: fully human, subject to every temptation we are, but who never, ever sinned. Because of His torture and death, we no longer have reason to fear death – it is our entry into heaven and into His presence. Thank You!

3/6 1 John 2:1-2 ² My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

Thank You, Lord, that every sin can be forgiven and forgotten once we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

3/7 1 John 3:1-6 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. ² Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. ⁵ And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. ⁶ Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is.

Father, help us to keep ourselves pure and free from sin. Thank You that You are our good Father and we are Your children!

3/9 1 John 3:16 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Lord, thank You for Your plan. For Jesus' sacrifice. Strengthen our faith and help us live our life for You, in service to our fellow believers – with a love that is possible only through the Holy Spirit.

OUR RESPONSE

3/10 Matthew 28:1-10 ¹ Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. ² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. ⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." ⁸ The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. ⁹ And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

Lord, may the miracle of the empty tomb replace our fears with great joy, reminding us that just as You promised, Christ is risen and goes before us in every new day.

3/11 Mark 16:19-20 ¹⁹ When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²⁰ And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.

Lord, as we look to Your seat of honor in heaven, empower us to carry Your message into the world, trusting that You are working through us and confirming Your truth with Your presence and power.

3/12 1 John 3:23-24 ²³ And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.

Lord, grant us the grace to live in deep and continual fellowship with You by believing in the name of Your Son and loving one another, being ever mindful of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us and confirms Your presence in our lives.

3/13 1 John 2:22-25 ²² And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist. ²³ Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. ²⁵ And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us.

Lord, we acknowledge Jesus as the Christ and ask for the strength to remain faithful to the truth we have been taught, so that we may live in perfect fellowship with You and enjoy the gift of eternal life.

3/14 2 Corinthians 5: 17-19 ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

Lord, thank You for making those who belong to You a new creation through Christ, and we ask for the grace to faithfully carry Your message of reconciliation to a world in need of Your peace.

3/16 Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Lord, help us to cast aside every distraction and sin that hinders us, so that we may run the race with steady endurance while keeping our eyes fixed solely on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

3/17 1 Peter 1:8-9 ⁸ You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

Lord, deepen our trust in You even though we cannot see You, so that our hearts overflow with the joy that comes from knowing we are secure in Your salvation.

3/18 2 Peter 1:5-8, 11 ⁵ In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. ⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹¹ Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lord, help us to actively build upon our faith with character and wisdom, so that our lives will become a reflection of Your grace until we are welcomed to our eternal home.

3/19 Hebrews 10:22-25

²² let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Lord, grant us the boldness to enter Your presence with a sincere heart, holding fast to our hope in Your faithfulness while actively seeking ways to encourage and uplift others in love as we await Your return.

3/20 1 Peter 2:9-10 ⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

Lord, thank you for choosing us as Your own and calling us out of darkness, and we pray that our lives would clearly reflect Your mercy and goodness to everyone we meet.

3 /21 1 John 5:11-12 ¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

Lord, we thank You for the gift of eternal life found only in Your Son, and we ask that You help us walk daily in the fullness and assurance of that life.

3/23 1 Corinthians 15:54-56 ⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power.

Lord, I thank You that the sting of death has been defeated through Christ's sacrifice, and we rest in the joyous hope of the day when our mortal bodies will be transformed into Your eternal victory.

WHAT'S NEXT

3/24 Hebrews 1:1-4 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ²And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. ³The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. ⁴This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

Jesus, we praise you and acknowledge that you are the perfect revelation of the Father. Thank you that you cleanse us from our sins and reign over your creation in love, righteousness, and wisdom!

3/25 Revelation 1:13-16 ¹³And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. ¹⁵His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. ¹⁶He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.

Jesus, there is no one like you. Help us to see you for who you are! We praise you and rejoice in your glorious, sovereign power. We praise you for your holiness and purity. We acknowledge that your words alone are truth!

3/26 Revelation 1:5-6 ⁵and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. ⁶He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Jesus, you possess all power and all authority. You alone provide forgiveness for our sins and because of your resurrection, we will also be raised to newness of life for all eternity!

3/27 Revelation 1:17-18 ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am the living one. I died, but look - I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

Jesus, you have no beginning and no end. Thank you that you have destroyed the power of sin and death. You are our living and reigning Savior!

3/28 Jude 24-25 ²⁴ Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. ²⁵ All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

Faithful God, all glory belongs to You, and our hope is in You alone. We know that You will complete the work you began in us and we eagerly yearn for the day that we stand faultless in Your glorious presence!

3/30 Ephesians 2:4-7 ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

God, we praise you for the incomparable gift of Your rich mercy towards us in Christ Jesus! We give thanks to You that we are no longer dead but we are raised to new life forever united to Christ!

3/31 Psalm 8:4-6, 9 ⁴ what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority. ⁹ O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic and loving are You that You are mindful and so deeply caring of us! We owe everything to You, and may we honor You with our lives.

4/1 Jude 20-21 ²⁰ But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, ²¹ and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

Merciful God, we praise You for the promise and assurance of eternal life! May we abide in Your love as we seek to love and build up one another.

4/2 Revelation 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Father, thank you for your goodness and mercy to us. Because of your grace, we can look forward to a new heavens and new earth where we will dwell with you for eternity! Help us and empower us to live each day in light of that day.

4/3 2 Corinthians 5:1, 5-7

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.

⁵ God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. ⁶ So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing.

O Lord, how we long for our eternal dwelling place with You! Strengthen us as we live by faith in these earthly bodies, and increase our love for You as we look toward our glorious future and eternal home!

4/4 Revelation 21:5-7 ⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega - the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

O God who keeps His promises; God who is faithful and true; You are our God! We praise you that You have won the victory for us and have secured our redemption as Your sons and daughters!

New Living Translation

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