



Lent Sampler

Teach Us to Pray

Scripture-Centered Family Worship through the Year

Lora A. Copley and Elizabeth Vander Haagen

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CICW BOOKS
Calvin College Press
Grand Rapids, Michigan



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Published by CICW BOOKS
an imprint of Calvin College Press
3201 Burton St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
calvin.edu/press

Printed in the United States of America

Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication data

Names: Copley, Lora A., author | Vander Haagen, Elizabeth, author.

Title: Teach us to pray : scripture-centered family worship through the year / Lora A. Copley and Elizabeth Vander Haagen.

Description: Grand Rapids, MI: CICW BOOKS, an imprint of Calvin College Press, 2016.

Identifiers: ISBN 978-1-937555-00-9 | LCCN 2016953581

Subjects: LCSH Families—Prayers and devotions. | Christian life. | BISAC: RELIGION / Christian Life / Devotional

Classification: LCC BV200 .C67 2016 | DDC 249—dc23

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Illustrations by Matthew Plescher (www.mattplescher.com)



Lent

Lent · Introduction

How do we get ready to celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday—two important days in the history of the universe? The church developed a tradition called Lent—a forty-day journey on which we can stop, look, and listen to what God is doing.

On that journey we stop to see what God wants us to do. We stop to see what saying sorry looks like. We stop to see what it means to suffer for Jesus' sake and to see what the prophets say about Jesus' suffering. Finally, we walk, step by painful step, with Jesus on the road to the cross. It's a hard road, but it shines with glory too.

Watch for places on your Lenten journey where God is asking you to stop, look, and listen. Ask yourself, "What things do I need to leave behind so I can travel on this journey? What things should I take with me?"

Preparing: Our preparing action for this Lenten season is to hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus was nailed to a cross of wood and on the cross, died for our sins.

Materials: smaller hammer, piece of wood, nails with large heads

Other Activities: Here are other activities to make your Lenten worship meaningful:

- Make a simple necklace from a large-headed nail and a piece of yarn. Wear this nail as you do your daily readings either as an alternate to the suggested preparing action or in addition to it.
- Attend an Ash Wednesday service together as a family.
- During Lent, practice a new spiritual discipline together. Or remove a

distraction from your life for forty days, such as a video game, screen time, sweet food, fatty food, texting, gossiping, or something else.

- Identify with people who are suffering by doing a weekly family service project. Or, during each devotion time, set aside some food, money, or clothes to give away.
- On Good Friday, attend or hold your own Tenebrae service.
- At the beginning of Holy Week, on Palm Sunday, set up six candles in candleholders. At each devotion time for the next six days, extinguish one. On Easter Sunday, greet the morning with every candle in your house lit.

Singing: In each day's reading you will find a song (find the music in the appendix). Here are other songs to make your Lenten worship meaningful:

- "Create in Me a Clean Heart"
- "Give Us Clean Hands"
- "Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord"
- "Lamb of God"
- "Lord, Have Mercy"
- "Oh, How He Loves You and Me"
- "The Wonderful Cross"

Note: There are forty-six calendar days in the season of Lent, but we talk of Lent having *forty* days. Why? Unlike other seasons, in Lent Sundays are not counted. Sundays are *always* celebrations of the resurrection. The number forty also reminds us of other times of testing, like Noah and forty days of rain, Israel's forty years in the wilderness, and Jesus' forty days in the desert.

Lent · Day 1 · Ash Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Obadiah 3–4; Luke 18:9–14

“But your proud heart has tricked you.

So you say to yourself,

‘No one can bring me down to the ground.’

You have built your home as high as an eagle does.

You have made your nest among the stars.

But I will bring you down from there,”

announces the LORD.

Jesus told a story to some people who were sure they were right with God. They looked down on everyone else. He said to them, “Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee. The other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed. ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people,’ he said. ‘I am not like robbers or those who do other evil things. I am not like

those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. And I give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood farther away than the Pharisee. He would not even look up to heaven. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed. He said, 'God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.'

"I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God. But not the Pharisee. All those who lift themselves up will be made humble. And those who make themselves humble will be lifted up."

Dwelling

Imagine sitting next to Jesus and listening to these words. Is there anything you'd like to ask Jesus?



Praying

- for people who are discouraged
- for grandparents



God, being proud of our goodness can keep us from you. It makes us think we don't need a Savior. Please bring us down to see that we too are sinners. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 2 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Nahum 1:3, 5–7

The LORD is slow to get angry.

But he is very powerful.

The LORD will not let guilty people go

without punishing them.

When he marches out, he stirs up winds and storms.

Clouds are the dust kicked up by his feet. . . .

He causes the mountains to shake.

The hills melt away.

The earth trembles because he is there.

The world and all those who live in it also tremble.

Who can stand firm when his anger burns?

Who can live when he is angry?

His anger blazes out like fire.

He smashes the rocks to pieces.

The LORD is good.

When people are in trouble,
they can go to him for safety.

He takes good care of those
who trust in him.

Dwelling

Is there a picture that comes to mind from what we have heard? What might it show us about God?



Praying

- for our president or prime minister and our government representatives
- for children who can't play outside because it is unsafe



Lord, it's scary to think of your anger at the sin that messes up our lives and hurts your good creation. But then we remember that you asked your Son, Jesus, to bear it all for us. Because Jesus took the heat for us, we can run to you and be safe. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, good God! Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 3 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Matthew 4:1–11

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry. The tempter came to him. He said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. It is written,

“‘The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you.

They will lift you up in their hands.

Then you won’t trip over a stone.’” (Psalm 91:11, 12)

Jesus answered him, "It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

(Deuteronomy 6:16)

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "If you bow down and worship me," he said, "I will give you all this."

Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan! It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

Dwelling

I wonder what the desert looked and felt like? I wonder if it was hard for Jesus to say no to the devil?



Praying

- for forgiveness for preferring other things to God
- for forgiveness for envying other people and their belongings



Jesus, sometimes we think that because you're God, you don't understand the battle we have with sin. But we forget you were fully human too. You struggled too. When the devil tempted you to sidestep the cross, it must have been hard to say no, but we're so glad you did. Help us in our fight against sin. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 4 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Joel 2:12–13, 16, 17

The LORD announces to his people,

“Return to me with all your heart.

There is still time.

Do not eat any food.

Weep and mourn.”

Don’t just tear your clothes to show how sad you are.

Let your hearts be broken.

Return to the LORD your God.

He is gracious.

He is tender and kind.

He is slow to get angry.
He is full of love.
He won't bring his judgment.
He won't destroy you.

Bring them together.
Set all of them apart to me.
Bring together the elders.
Gather the children and the babies
who are still nursing. . . .
Let them say, "LORD, spare your people."

Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell God?



Praying

- for pastors and worship leaders
- for people who don't know the story of Jesus



Kind God, saying "I'm sorry" is for everyone—from old people to toddlers. We all are sinners. How amazing that you open your arms, waiting for us to turn around and come back to you. Help us turn to you not just with words, but with our whole hearts. In our Savior's name, amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · First Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Isaiah 58:6–7, 13–14

“Here is the way I want you to fast.

“Set free those who are held by chains without any reason.

Untie the ropes that hold people as slaves.

Set free those who are crushed.

Break every evil chain.

Share your food with hungry people.

Provide homeless people with a place to stay.

Give naked people clothes to wear.

Provide for the needs of your own family.

“Do not work on the Sabbath day.

Do not do just anything you want to on my holy day.

Make the Sabbath a day you can enjoy.

Honor the LORD's holy day.

Do not work on it.

Do not do just anything you want to.

Do not talk about things that are worthless.

Then you will find your joy in me.

I will give you control over the most important places in the land.

And you will enjoy all the good things

in the land I gave your father Jacob."

The LORD has spoken.

Dwelling

Imagine Jesus sitting here and speaking these words right to us. What words stand out? Is there anything you'd like to ask Jesus?



Praying

God of justice, give us a heart like yours so we will care about people you care about—people who are poor, hungry, or homeless. Help us to honor you in our worship, in our rest, and in our generous living. We want to find our joy in you.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 5 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 5:6–9, 11–21

“I am the LORD your God. I brought you out of Egypt. That is the land where you were slaves.

“Do not put any other gods in place of me.

“Do not make statues of gods that look like anything in the sky or on the earth or in the waters. Do not bow down to them or worship them. I am the Lord your God. I want you to worship only me.

“Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

“Keep the Sabbath day holy. . . . Do all your work in six days. But the seventh day is a sabbath to honor the LORD your God. Do not do any work on that day. . . .

Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. The LORD your God reached out his mighty hand and powerful arm and brought you out of there. So the LORD your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day holy.

"Honor your father and mother, just as the LORD your God has commanded you. Then you will live a long time in the land he is giving you. And things will go well with you there.

"Do not murder.

"Do not commit adultery.

"Do not steal.

"Do not be a false witness against your neighbor.

"Do not want to have your neighbor's wife. Do not desire anything your neighbor owns. Do not desire to have your neighbor's house or land, male or female servant, ox or donkey."

Dwelling

What is God's Spirit telling us as we hear these words? What is God promising through these words?



Praying

- praise God for being holy
- offer thanks for the ways God is different from us



Redeeming God, please forgive us for breaking your laws. Please forgive us for putting other things in your place and for hurting other people by what we do. Please set us free to obey you joyfully. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 6 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Leviticus 19:2, 10, 14–16, 18, 34

“Be holy, because I am holy. I am the LORD your God.

“Do not go over your vineyard a second time. Do not pick up the grapes that have fallen to the ground. Leave them for poor people and outsiders. I am the LORD your God.

“Do not put anything in front of blind people that will make them trip. Instead, have respect for me. I am the LORD your God.

“Do not make something wrong appear to be right. Treat poor people and rich people in the same way. Do not favor one person over another. Instead, judge everyone fairly.

“Do not go around spreading lies among your people.

“Do not do anything that puts your neighbor’s life in danger. I am the LORD.

“Do not try to get even. Do not hold anything against any of your people. Instead, love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the LORD.

“Treat [outsiders] as if they were one of your own people. Love them as you love yourself. Remember that all of you were outsiders in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

Dwelling

I wonder why God wants us to follow these commandments and to be holy like God is? I wonder which of these commands sticks in your mind?



Praying

- for business owners and farmers who use the land
- for scientists who learn about creation



God, your commands are so good, and we want to follow them. But we can’t do it on our own. Thank you for Jesus, who followed these commands for us. Thank you for your Spirit, who can make us like Jesus. We need you, Lord. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 7 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Mark 12:28–34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard the Sadducees arguing. He noticed that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer. So he asked him, “Which is the most important of all the commandments?”

Jesus answered, “Here is the most important one. Moses said, ‘Israel, listen to me. The Lord is our God. The Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind and with all your strength.’ (Deuteronomy 6:4–5) And here is the second one. ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ (Leviticus 19:18) There is no commandment more important than these.”

“You have spoken well, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one. There is no other God but him. To love God with all your heart and mind and strength is very important. So is loving your neighbor as you love yourself. These things are more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Jesus saw that the man had answered wisely. He said to him, "You are not far from God's kingdom." From then on, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

Dwelling

I wonder what the man thought when Jesus said, "You are not far from God's kingdom"? How do we love the Lord with our hearts, our strength, our minds, or our souls?



Praying

- for people who are hurting because of divorce
- for people who are struggling at school or work



Jesus, sometimes we are far from God's kingdom. We don't love you or our neighbors. Please forgive us. Please fill our hearts and our minds and our strength with love for you and for other people, especially people who are different from us. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 8 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Psalm 19:7–11

The law of the LORD is perfect.

It gives us new strength.

The laws of the LORD can be trusted.

They make childish people wise.

The rules of the LORD are right.

They give joy to our hearts.

The commands of the LORD shine brightly.

They give light to our minds.

The law that brings respect for the LORD is pure.

It lasts forever.

The commands the LORD gives are true.

All of them are completely right.

They are more priceless than gold.

They have greater value than huge amounts of pure gold.

They are sweeter than honey

that is taken from the honeycomb.

Your servant is warned by them.

When people obey them, they are greatly rewarded.

Dwelling

I wonder why rules sometimes bug us so much when the Bible makes them sound so great? I wonder what is “sweet” about God’s laws?



Praying

- for people who create television, radio, movie, or Internet content
- for people who don’t have a home



Lord, help us believe that what you say in your law is for our good and will make us happy. As we listen and obey, let us taste how sweet your words are. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 9 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Micah 6:3–5, 6–8

The LORD says,

“My people, what have I done to you?

Have I made things too hard for you? Answer me.

I brought your people up out of Egypt.

I set them free from the land

where they were slaves. . . .

I want you to know

that I always do what is right.”

The people of Israel say,

“What should we bring with us
when we go to worship the LORD?
What should we offer the God of heaven
when we bow down to him? . . .
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams?
Will he take delight in 10,000 rivers of olive oil?”

The LORD has shown you what is good.
He has told you what he requires of you.
You must act with justice.
You must love to show mercy.
And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.

Dwelling

I wonder if following God is easy or hard—or both? What in this passage caught your attention?



Praying

- for forgiveness for lying
- for forgiveness in not doing good when we can



Rescuing God, please don't let us forget that you love us and that you sent Jesus to save us. Give us hearts that say “thank you” by doing justice and loving mercy and walking humbly with you. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 10 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Malachi 3:14–15, 17–4:2

“You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God. What do we gain by obeying his laws? And what do we get by pretending to be sad in front of the LORD? But now we call proud people blessed. Things go well with those who do what is evil. And God doesn’t even punish those who test him.’”

“The day is coming when I will judge,” says the LORD who rules over all. “. . . And you will see the difference between those who serve me and those who do not.

“You can be sure the day of the LORD is coming. My anger will burn like a furnace. All those who are proud will be like straw. So will all those who do what is evil.

The day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD who rules over all.

“Not even a root or a branch will be left to them. But here is what will happen for you who have respect for me. The sun that brings life will rise. Its rays will bring

healing to my people. You will go out and leap for joy like calves that have just been fed.”

Dwelling

I wonder if God is telling us to do something? I wonder if God is promising to do something?



Praying

- for seminaries and for people who train the leaders of the church
- for churches in Africa, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



God of truth, forgive us for saying or thinking bad things about you. We want to be people who serve you and trust you. Please forgive us, and send the warm sunshine of your love to heal our sinful hearts. Then we will jump for joy! In Jesus' name, amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Second Sunday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Psalm 51:4–5, 10, 16–17

[O God,] you are right when you sentence me.

You are fair when you judge me.

I know I've been a sinner ever since I was born.

I've been a sinner ever since my mother became pregnant with me.

God, create a pure heart in me.

Give me a new spirit that is faithful to you.

You don't take delight in sacrifice.

If you did, I would bring it.

You don't take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The greatest sacrifice you want is a broken spirit.

God, you will gladly accept a heart

that is broken because of sadness over sin.

Dwelling

As you listen to the reading, what feelings are in your heart? Is there anything you would like to tell God about?



Praying

Kind God, in your mercy let our hearts break when we think of the many ways we sin against you. Help us to feel deeply sorry over sin. Help us to find deep joy when we see how much you love us. We ask this in Jesus' name.



Close your prayer time by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 11 · Monday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Luke 7:37–39, 44–48

There was a woman in that town who had lived a sinful life. She learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house. So she came there with a special jar of perfume. She stood behind Jesus and cried at his feet. And she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair. She kissed them and poured perfume on them.

The Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this. He said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him. He would know what kind of woman she is. She is a sinner!"

Then [Jesus] turned toward the woman. He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water to wash my feet. But she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not

give me a kiss. But this woman has not stopped kissing my feet since I came in. You did not put any olive oil on my head. But she has poured this perfume on my feet. So I tell you this. Her many sins have been forgiven. She has shown that she understands this by her great acts of love. But whoever has been forgiven only a little loves only a little.”

Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Dwelling

I wonder how Jesus felt when the woman wiped and kissed Jesus’ feet? I wonder what the perfume smelled like?



Praying

- praise God for being our provider
- offer thanks for the ways God gives you what you need



Seeing God, Jesus saw that Simon was proud and looked down on others. Jesus saw that the woman who poured out her love was sad and sorry for her sins. Open our eyes to see how much we’ve been forgiven, God, so we will love you much too. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 12 · Tuesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Luke 15:1–10

The tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were whispering among themselves. They said, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them a story. He said, “Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? When he finds it, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders and go home. Then he will call his friends and neighbors together. He will say, ‘Be joyful with me. I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin. Yes, there will be more joy than for 99 godly people who do not need to turn away from their sins.

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the house? Won’t she search carefully until she finds the coin? And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors together. She will say, ‘Be joyful with me. I have found my lost coin.’ I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is joy in heaven over one sinner who turns away from sin.”

Dwelling

I wonder why the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus? I wonder what makes you joyful?



Praying

- for respect and care for our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit
- for pets and other animals we care for



God, thank you that you light the lamp and sweep the house in your search for us when we are lost. And thank you that you throw such a party when you find us! You love us so much! May we join you in your search for other lost people. Thank you that your love never quits. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 13 · Wednesday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Luke 15:11–14, 20, 28–32

Jesus continued, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger son spoke to his father. He said, ‘Father, give me my share of the family property.’ So the father divided his property between his two sons.

“Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had.

“So he got up and went to his father.

“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The older brother became angry. He refused to [celebrate]. So his father went out and begged him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve worked like a slave for you. I have always obeyed your orders. You never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But this son of yours wasted your money with some prostitutes. Now he comes home. And for him you kill the fattest calf!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.’”

Dwelling

Imagine sitting next to Jesus and listening to these words. Is there anything you’d like to ask Jesus about this story?



Praying

- for brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles
- for people who are hard to get along with



Father, sometimes it makes us jealous that you are so excited about bad people turning around when we try so hard to be good. But our jealousy shows we really don’t understand you. Help us to know we need your grace too. Help us to care about people who are far from you. And help us to go into the party of your love. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 14 · Thursday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Matthew 18:23–30, 32–33

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. As the king began to do it, a man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought to him. The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed.

“Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. ‘Give me time,’ he begged. ‘I’ll pay everything back.’ His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go.

“But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he said.

“The other servant fell on his knees. ‘Give me time,’ he begged him. ‘I’ll pay it back.’

“But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed.

“Then the master called the first servant in. ‘You evil servant,’ he said. ‘I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?’”

Dwelling

I wonder what this story shows us about God? I wonder what might it show us about ourselves?



Praying

- for bankers
- for judges



God, our sins have piled up into a huge debt we can’t pay. Thank you for taking that impossible debt on yourself. Forgive us when we don’t treat others the same way. It is so easy to hold a grudge; help us let them go by your grace. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 15 · Friday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.**

(Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: Matthew 25:31–32, 34–37, 40–45

“The Son of Man will come in all his glory. All the angels will come with him. Then he will sit in glory on his throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate the people into two groups.

“Then the King will speak to those on his right. He will say, ‘My Father has blessed you. Come and take what is yours. It is the kingdom prepared for you since the world was created. I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. I needed clothes. And you gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me.’

“Then the people who have done what is right will answer him. ‘Lord,’ they will ask, ‘when did we see you?’

“The King will reply, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, . . . ‘I was hungry. But you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty. But you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger. But you did not invite me in. I needed clothes. But you did not give me any. I was sick and in prison. But you did not take care of me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you?’

“He will reply, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Anything you didn’t do for one of the least important of these, you didn’t do for me.’”

Dwelling

I wonder what Jesus will look like on the throne? I wonder where you’ve seen Jesus in someone today?



Praying

- for forgiveness when we do not treat others the way that God treats us
- for forgiveness for a complaining attitude



King of mercy, you were hurt, and thirsty, and naked for us on the cross. You gave up all to help us. Now we want to give up our comfort to help others. We don’t want to turn away from people in need. We don’t want to turn away from you. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Lent · Day 16 · Saturday



Preparing

Hammer a nail into a piece of wood as a reminder that Jesus died for our sins.



Inviting

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, **slow to anger and rich in love.** (Psalm 145:8)



Stilling

In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.



Singing

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (p. 826)



Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6–9, 17–19

You gain a lot when you live a godly life. But you must be happy with what you have. We didn't bring anything into the world. We can't take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we will be happy with that. People who want to get rich are tempted. They fall into a trap.

Command people who are rich in this world not to be proud. Tell them not to put their hope in riches. Wealth is so uncertain. Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy. Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share. . . . Then they will take hold of the life that really is life.

Dwelling

Is God telling us to do something? Is God promising to do something for us?



Praying

- for church ministries that care for those without food or shelter
- for churches in Europe, and especially for people who are persecuted for believing in Jesus



God, rich in love and happiness, we want to say “no” to our wants. Free us from constantly wanting more stuff so that we can become generous givers and sharers like you. Give us the gift of being happy with what we have. We have you! What more could we want? In Jesus’ name, amen.

Blessing

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (Romans 5:8)



Songs · Lent · Days 1–16

Amazing Grace/Sublime gracia

G E C G

A - maz - ing grace — how sweet the sound — that
 ¡Su - bli - me gra - cia del Se - ñor — que_a_un

D7 G/B D/A G

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 pe - ca - dor sal - vó! Fui cie - go mas hoy

C G Em G/D D7 G

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 ve - o yo, per - di - do y_él me_ha - lló.

Song Title: "Amazing Grace" or "Sublime gracia"

Words: John Newton (b. 1725; d. 1807), 1779, P.D.; Spanish tr. Cristóbal E. Morales (b. 1898; d. 1981), alt.

Music (NEW BRITAIN): *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell (b. 1851; d. 1921), 1900, P.D.

