

Prayers for Lent



March 6 – April 21, 2019



1. Ash Wednesday – March 6

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we enter this Lenten season, we pray that You would grant us repentant hearts that are turned toward You. We know that we daily wander from Your ways and transgress Your Law. We know that we deserve nothing but death and punishment. Yet by Your grace we also know that Your Son took all that we deserve into His own body on the cross. May the awfulness of what You suffered cause us to realize more clearly the awfulness of our transgressions that led You to such a horrible death. We have forsaken You, but You did not forsake us. You died so we could live. Help us to reflect on Your sacrifice more earnestly throughout this holy season. May our hearts swell with greater gratitude and love, causing us to rejoice in our redemption, walk closer to You in willing obedience, and follow Your example of love and sacrifice. Throughout this holy season, fix our eyes on Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Lord, have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Personal prayer items: _____

2. March 7 – A Call to Prayer

Lord of the universe, as these days of Lent unfold, we commit to You our daily prayers. Rather than despairing, complaining, and worrying about what we see in ourselves, in the church, and in our world, lead us to fervent prayer for ourselves and for others. For we know that we are a broken people – in our own hearts, in our homes, in our communities, in our country, and in our world. For we have all sinned and fallen short of Your glory. In these 40 days may we take to heart Your directive: *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.* Come, Lord God,

into our hearts! Come, Lord God, into our world! Hear, Lord God, our prayers for our brokenness and sin. Grant us Your mercy!

Personal prayer items: _____

3. March 8 – Our Church

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that you have blessed Calvary Lutheran Church over the years. You have sustained and encouraged us through Your Word and sacraments. Through the Baptismal waters and the Word You have brought many to faith and given us the assurance of everlasting life. We pray that You would fill our church with Your Holy Spirit that we would continually grow in our faith and in love and service to one another. Guard and keep us from anything that hinders our faith, our relationships with one another, and the spread of Your Gospel. May we so gladly hear Your Word and live its truths that we would be a source for good in our members, in our community, and throughout the world. Teach us to live as Your faithful people, encouraging one another, and fulfilling Your calling for us, that Your name would be glorified. In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Personal prayer items: _____

4. March 9 – Calvary Lutheran School

“Let the little children come to Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” It is because of these words that Calvary has established a school to bring children up in the knowledge and fear of You. Keep the teachers and staff faithful to Your Word, guiding the children in love and mercy. May our school be a beacon of support both spiritually and emotionally that all those within our

walls would delight in Your love for them. Where there is sin and contention, may You be a source of strength and forgiveness. As learning ensues, may all know that wisdom and knowledge come from You alone. And may hearts be encouraged to live and work for You above all. Protect our children and staff from the temptations of Satan that would seek to draw them away from Your will. Protect our school from anything that would hinder its ministry. Help us as a congregation to continue to gladly support our school and its mission, knowing that hearts are being trained to grow in the fear and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. And may the words and lessons the children are taught remain with them all the days of their lives, that they would serve You faithfully until eternity.

Personal prayer items: _____

Sunday – March 10 – Our Merciful God

Oh Lord, on this “celebration” Sunday, we give You thanks for Your great mercy. We know that in this past week, we have sinned daily and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. But we also have the assurance that You suffered and died to cleanse us from those very sins. You have made us “*alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.*” How You can have such mercy on us poor sinners is beyond our understanding. We can only offer You our humble thanks and adoration. Accept our praise and thanks, oh Lord! To You be the glory!

Personal prayer items: _____

5. March 11 – Our Community

Heavenly Father, even as we work and serve in Your church, we know that we are also a part of the community at large. So many around us do not know of Your love and mercy. You suffered and died that ALL would be saved. Open our eyes to the needs of those around us and show us ways we can reach out to them with the love of Jesus. And we pray that hearts would be receptive to us and our message. Help us not to miss opportunities to share the message of the Gospel to those around us. Spur us on to greater works for Your kingdom. Grant us hearts of compassion that serve willingly and joyfully, that others see Jesus in our words and actions and join us in the communion of believers. In Jesus' name we pray.

Personal prayer items: _____

6. March 12 - Government Leaders

On this day, Lord, we lift up our government leaders – our president, governor, members of Congress, and all who serve at the federal, state, and local levels. Grant them wisdom, guiding them to serve with honesty, integrity and diligence for the benefit of all. Keep them from selfish ambitions, serving as You served us, with humility and compassion. May they seek wisdom from You as You sought Your Father's wisdom, that peace and prosperity, truth and justice, religion and piety may dwell in our land. Use us to support those in leadership positions. Rather than being quick to condemn, help us to pray for them. May we take advantage of opportunities to support and defend them with our votes, letters, and encouragement. May we be instruments of Your peace during contentious times, entrusting our leaders into Your care and direction. This we ask for Jesus' sake.

Personal prayer items: _____

7. March 13 – Freedom from Temptation

Heavenly Father, life is full of temptations that lure us away from You. These might be sinful actions, giving in to fear, distrusting Your care, or believing Satan’s lies. You know our hearts best. Open our eyes to times when we give in to anything that is not of Your will. You were tempted by Satan to flee from Your suffering and death. It would have been so much easier to walk away, especially since mankind’s sins never cease, even when You showed mercy time and time again. But You said no to Satan’s temptations and fulfilled what Your Father sent You to do. Thank You for Your example. *“Lead **us** not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.”*

Personal prayer items: _____

8. March 14 – Persecuted Christians

Oh Lord, You have told us that *“if they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”* We are beginning to feel the pangs of persecution in our culture and know that throughout the world Christians are likewise experiencing persecution for Your name’s sake. Help us all to remain firm in our faith during these times, trusting in You and relying on Your strength to continue to be a beacon of light to those who would persecute us. Help us to remember that it is You that is being persecuted, yet it is for those very lost souls that You came to save. Give us a heart of compassion for them, loving them and praying for them, that they may *“see our good works and praise our Father in heaven.”*

Personal prayer items: _____

9. March 15 – Marriages and Families

Our wise and heavenly Father, from the very beginning You established the family. You established male and female, husband and wife, and children. You ordained that families serve one another in love and faithfulness. So, Heavenly Father, we pray for husbands and wives that You would help them to follow Your example of love for one another. Help them to show forgiveness when conflicts arise and love and support through the everyday challenges that marriages and families provide. Where families are torn apart, bring forgiveness and reconciliation that our homes would be havens of acceptance, mercy, and faithfulness.

And Lord, we also know that the foundation of the family is being attacked in our world. We see it all around us in numerous ways contrary to Your will. Heavenly Father, help us to stand firm in upholding Your pattern for families. Help us to be examples to the world of the blessing and beauty of families that honor Your Word and live in love toward one another. Where alternatives to Your plan for families is displayed, help us, in love, to be bold to Your truth and diligent to support the family wherever we can. Help us to be obedient to Your will. It is only then that we can live the lives You have called us to live.

Personal prayer items: _____

10. March 16 – Support of Pastors

Great Shepherd of the flock, we come before You asking Your blessing upon those who lead Your people today as pastors, priests, deacons, and leaders. We pray that they would remain faithful to the Word, diligent to serve, and supported by their flocks. Grant them encouragement when discouraged, strength when weary, and enlightened with Your vision when the way seems dark. Help them to know You will provide for all their needs and will never leave them nor forsake them. Help them to *stand firm, letting nothing move them, always giving themselves fully to the work of the Lord, knowing that their labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

Personal prayer items: _____

Sunday – March 17 – Our Loving God

Dearest Heavenly Father, as we continue to contemplate your passion for us, we marvel at how Your love is unmatched by anything man can offer or explain. We celebrate Your love that has borne our sins, carried our sorrows, and given us eternal life. We give You our feeble thanks and ask that You help us extend Your love to others. Just as Your love is patient, kind, and unconditional, may we, too, love all without reservations. Teach us Your kind of love that holds nothing back.

Personal prayer items: _____

11. March 18 – The Addicted

Oh, Lord God, Lover of all, we bring before You those who find themselves trapped in addiction. We ask You to help them to

seek help, to guide those around them to be supportive and loving, and to strengthen them in their weakness. When the way seems hopeless, grant them hope. When families around them are distraught, give them encouragement and direction, and when progress seems elusive, grant perseverance and trust that You are there to guide and help. As You never give up on us, may we never give up on one another, calling on You to uplift and sustain us. Use us to be Your instruments of hope and guidance.

Personal prayer items: _____

12. March 19 – The Sick

To our Great Physician and Healer, we lift up those around us who are ill in some way. We know that as You walked the earth, You stopped often to tend to the sick and dying. You had compassion on them and also commended those with great faith. Today many are also in pain, facing surgeries, hospitalized, or facing a difficult prognosis. We know You can heal all diseases and infirmities, so we pray for healing for those who are suffering. But we also know that sometimes some linger in their illness for a long time. We pray that You would grant patience and a trusting heart to those who are suffering. Reassure them of Your love and mercy. Take possession of their hearts and minds, helping them to overcome fear and discouragement. Grant them hope and even joy in the assurance that You are their Friend and Savior. Guide the hearts and hands of the doctors and nurses who care for them. And we ask You to bring hope and comfort to their families as they see their loved one suffering and in need. We place them all into Your care, trusting in Your mercy.

Personal prayer items: _____

13. March 20 – The Homeless

Heavenly Father, today there are those who don't have a place they call home. For various reasons they live on the streets, in shelters, or in temporary housing. Some have lost their homes due to fire, hurricanes, or storms. Others suffer mental illnesses, loss of job, or family difficulties. You know their needs and what brought them to this situation. Help them above all to know that they are loved by You. Through Your people grant them food, shelter, and help. May they be receptive to help and direction. Let them not lose hope, knowing that You will never leave them or forsake them. Give us a heart of compassion to help in whatever way You call us to help. Remind us that all people are Your loved children, causing us to reach out, too, just as You continually reach out to us in our times of need.

Personal prayer items: _____

14. March 21 – For Missionaries

Our Almighty God, we come before You on behalf of those who have chosen to go into the mission field. We pray that You would open doors of ministry for them. Help them to be bold to speak of Your Name and the Gospel truth. Guide them with words and actions that communicate effectively in cultures different from their own. We pray against evil forces that would attempt to hinder their message and pray that You would protect them from harm and danger. We especially lift up to You those from our congregation who serve in India and El Salvador. We pray that the ministries they have begun in those countries would flourish. We pray that their faith would not waver and that Your grace would continue to encourage them even as they face persecution, indifference, and trials. Help us to continue to support them with

our prayers, finances, and encouragement, and may hearts be moved to accept You as the only true Savior and Lord.

Personal prayer items: _____

15. March 22 – To Combat Greed

Dear Lord, You have said that money is the root of all evil. How we see that all around us, and yes, Lord, even in ourselves. We have substituted *things* for You. As a result, there is greed, stealing, lying, deceiving, hatred, and all manner of sin. Heavenly Father, forgive us for hearts that look to the things of this world rather than You for our satisfaction. Let us see You as our true wealth and treasure. Open our eyes to see how we are blessed beyond measure by Your righteousness, Your mercy, Your faithfulness, Your forgiveness, and yes, Your very self. You have truly provided for all of our needs. We thank You, Lord.

Personal prayer items: _____

16. March 23 – For Caregivers

Our compassionate God, You have called us to care for one another. We know that we are all caregivers in one way or another, and yet there are those whose role is much bigger than our own as they serve aged parents, sick loved ones, or those entrusted to them as doctors, nurses, therapists, C.N.A.'s or the like. We pray, Lord, that You would be their encouragement and strength. When the days seem long and their bodies are weary, help them to rely on Your strength and love as You have loved us. Give them hearts of compassion and mercy, remembering Your words, "*whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.*" In the midst of their serving grant them

patience and yes, even joy, knowing that they are Your hands and feet. May they also be mindful to attend to their own needs. Nourish them in body and soul. This we ask for Jesus' sake.

Personal prayer items: _____

Sunday March 24 – Thankfulness for the Word
--

We give You thanks, Living Lord, that You have given us Your Living Word! How we take for granted Your words to guide every aspect of our lives. When we are quick to desire that You would appear in our midst and *speak to us*, help us to turn to Your Word to find guidance and wisdom. You knew we would have many questions and doubts, fears and longings – so You gave us millions of words to speak to those cries. Just as quickly as we look to numerous other resources to find answers, turn us instead to pore over Your Word. Reassure us that You are surely speaking to us through it. Remind us that *“all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* Yes, Lord, we are fully equipped in You, our Savior and Lord who is *all things!*

Personal prayer items: _____

17. March 25 – When We Are Afraid

Oh Almighty God, we so often believe we are brave and fearless, yet what lurks in the recesses of our minds is fear over something, whether that be loss of a job, failing health, upcoming challenges, or future unknowns. We don't want to live in fear, but it seems to plague us nonetheless. Open our eyes to those things that hinder our trust in You. We bring them before You to forgive, help, and guide. May we always remember Your almighty power and ever-present wisdom. Remind us of Your words, *"I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you,"* and help us say with confidence, *"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

Personal prayer items: _____

18. March 26 – Our Youth and Young Adults

Heavenly Father, the temptations and ways of the world beckon to our teenagers and young adults! Satan lurks in every crevice, *seeking someone to devour*. We pray that You would come against Satan's attacks on our young people and defend them against all danger and temptation. Help our young to be faithful to You, taking up the shield of faith by which they can *extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one*. For those who are wandering aimlessly, send Your Spirit to draw them unto You. For those who are questioning the faith of their fathers, extend Your patience and guidance that they may come to see You for the great and awesome God You are. Speak to their innermost being that assures them of Your great and unconditional love for them. We pray for boldness for those who know You are the true God, but face attacks from friends and peers. Hear our prayer, oh Lord!

Personal prayer items: _____

19. March 27 – For Those in the Military

Heavenly Father, we thank You for those who have stepped up to serve in the military. We ask, Lord, that You would protect and defend them. Guard them from danger on land, sea, and in the air. We pray that You would not only protect them physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Grant them courage as they face tense situations, long days and nights, and the unknown. Protect them from fear and discouragement. Remind them that You are with them through every encounter and will help them with whatever they face. For those who are wounded, we pray for healing and encouragement, hope and trust in You. We pray also for their families who are separated from them for long periods. Remind them all of Your presence and help. Bring the soldiers back home safely to family and friends, church and home.

Personal prayer items: _____

20. March 28 – The Ministry Teams of Calvary

Oh Lord, our God, we lift up to You those who serve on the various ministry teams at Calvary. Each one is important to Your kingdom work. We pray, Lord, that You would give vision to each of the teams to respond to the changing needs of our congregation, to know Your will, and to have the energy and vision to carry out the tasks You have called them to do. We ask You to help each team work together cooperatively and to support one another, guiding each team member to do his share to fulfill the goals of the ministry. Above all we pray that each team would always seek Your guidance and wisdom desiring only what gives glory to You. For those team members who may be weary of their work, we ask that You provide encouragement through the help and prayers of others, remembering Your words,

“Let us not grow weary in doing good; for in due season we shall reap.”

Personal prayer items: _____

21. March 29 – For the Depressed

Heavenly Father, in this world of sin where evils and injustice abound and where discouragement with our own failings and shortcomings troubles us, we pray for Your encouragement and unflagging hope. You have told us, *“In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.”* Too often we forget that Your death and resurrection have overcome the trouble we see all around us. The victory is ours even if we don’t feel or see it. Keep us strong and trusting of Your promises, Your presence, and Your help. Help us to look to You rather than to our problems and ourselves, seeing what is *true, noble, right, pure, lovely, desirable, excellent, and praiseworthy*, as scripture reminds us. As we live among those who are experiencing deep depression, give us wisdom to know how to support and encourage them. May we not condemn them or give blithe encouragement but help us to be Your hands and feet to support them through their dark valley. You are the Light of the world. Illumine our dark paths.

Personal prayer items: _____

22. March 30 – For Refugees and Displaced Persons

Our righteous and eternal God, we are humbled as we consider Your unconditional love for all people. You don't see various races, ethnic groups, and minorities as ones to be treated differently or some more highly than others. We recall Your mercy toward the Samaritan, the Jew and Greek, the poor and the rich. Your grace and mercy extends to all. Grant us hearts of compassion and mercy like Yours. In our country which was founded upon *liberty and justice for all*, instill in us a greater understanding and mercy for those whom You have created. Show us how we can help, support, and extend Christian love to those who are experiencing distress in their own countries, living in fear, poverty, or evil. May they see Jesus in our words and actions. Guide us in *genuine* Christian love.

Personal prayer items: _____

Sunday March 31 – Freedom from Sin

God of all mercy, I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing . . . Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! . . . there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Jesus Christ the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Free! Yes, Lord, I am free! Who but You would grant pardon and peace even as we struggle daily with our sins? What can I say but, Thank You, God, my merciful Savior! Grant me joy this day as I contemplate this amazing grace!

Personal prayer items: _____

23. April 1 – For Policemen, Firefighters, and Other Emergency Responders

Oh, Lord, our Protector and Defender, we pray that You would defend those who serve in response to danger, crime, fires, and other catastrophes. We pray that You would give them courage as they face danger, wisdom as they make quick decisions, and strength when their work is long and difficult. Guard those in positions of authority from using their positions unwisely, giving in to hatred, unnecessary force, dishonesty, or bribery. Help them to work for justice as You would, enforcing laws that You Yourself have also established in Your Word. Grant encouragement to these workers as they are confronted daily with evil, destruction, and hurt. Grant them Your heart of compassion and perseverance, that they see their work as a service for You and Your people.

Personal prayer items: _____

24. April 2 – For Teachers and Students

Our Majestic God, You have created a world with untold intricacies. We can't even begin to fathom the world with all its wonders, mysteries, and majesty. You call us to look and see what You have made and then praise You in awe and admiration. Help our teachers to inspire students to love the complexities of Your created world. Keep all of us ever learning and appreciating its wonders. Yet, we know, too, that teachers must deal with more than just teaching facts and concepts. Teachers are also called to be counselors, encouragers, disciplinarians, and, yes, Your instruments of love, correction, and compassion. Help all teachers to love and guide the children as You did as You walked the earth. You taught with such wisdom, seeing Your people as *sheep without a shepherd*. Help all teachers who work in either

Christian or public schools to fulfill their callings with a genuine love and concern for each student. May the students be touched by their love and example. And we pray for the students as well. When learning is difficult, help them to persevere. When friendships cause concern, guide them to follow Your ways of friendship and consideration. Grant to all a heart of wonder and appreciation for the intricacies of Your world, never ceasing to have a heart that wants to know more. And finally, we ask for safety for our schools. Keep out any dangers that would harm students or faculty. Protect our students from anything that would harm them physically or mentally. This we ask in Jesus' name.

Personal prayer items: _____

25. April 3 – For the Unborn

Heavenly Father, Your Word tells us that *you created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . . Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.* How You love Your creation! All are precious in Your sight. Oh Lord, our God, we lift up to You those women who are now carrying children in their womb. We thank You for the gift of life and pray Your blessing on mother and child in families where children are desired. But for those who would desire to end the life of their child or are considering such an act, convict their hearts of the sanctity of life. Help them to see the evil of ending such a life. Where fear and doubt reign, help them to receive the support they need that would allow them to bring their child to full term. Send those in their midst that would lovingly support them and help them to see other alternatives. We also pray for Your help to come against those who are working to make laws to end the lives of

these precious children. Guide us as Your people to know how to combat these evil forces and uphold life as You see it – holy and precious to You.

Personal prayer items: _____

26. April 4 – Combatting Pride and Arrogance

Oh Lord, our humble and loving God, we come before You knowing that our own hearts are so often full of pride and arrogance. We either think we are better than others, look down on those different from ourselves, or think we know better than You how life should work. Our pride shows itself in the countless times we don't seek Your counsel in how we should live or in the decisions we make. We think we can handle things on our own just fine. Forgive our arrogance, Lord. Remind us of Your power, wisdom, and majesty that we hold You in humble awe and follow Your example in how we treat others. Keep us from self-righteous thoughts and actions. Keep us on our knees as we begin each day, as we walk through our days, and as we close our eyes each night. May we say along with John the Baptist as he spoke of You, *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

Personal prayer items: _____

27. April 5 – For Our Sunday School

Great Teacher and Lord, we pray for our Sunday school and those who lead it. We pray for Your vision and leadership that the programs enacted and lessons taught would be pleasing to You and leading all involved to a greater love and respect for You and Your Word. We pray for the teachers that You would give them diligence in their duties, love for the children, and zeal for Your

Word. We pray, Lord, that children and adults alike would have a thirst for Your Word; that we would desire to know You better and be faithful to attend adult Bible studies and children’s ministries. Keep us from indifferent hearts that avoid Your Word and the blessings that it brings. Help our parents to see the fruits of faithful attendance in Sunday school for both them and their children. Fix in us a yearning to always *keep learning and growing*. May we *like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it [we]grow up in [our]salvation*.

Personal prayer items: _____

28. April 6 – For Our Work and Labor

Oh Lord, our God, we lift up to You our work and labor. From the beginning You established work, even as Adam and Eve labored in the garden. You created work to help sustain and bless the world You made. Help us to see our niche in the working world as ordained by You to uphold Your creation and bring blessing to others. Due to sin, that work sometimes becomes a burden as we face obstacles, deadlines, difficult co-workers, and the like. We pray that we would not bemoan the jobs You have given us to do, but rather have hearts of joy and thankfulness, seeing the good You are doing through us. Guide us to remember and live Your words, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men . . . it is the Lord Christ you are serving.”* Sustain us through long days and difficult assignments. Remind us of the strength You provide as You guide us through every task. And let us not forget that even You rested from Your labors on the seventh day. You have told us *six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work that you may be refreshed*. Refresh us, Lord, in our labors, always giving glory to You.

Personal prayer items: _____

Sunday – April 7 – Renewed, Restored, Forgiven

On this new day, holy to You, I give You thanks that through my worship in Your house I have been renewed, restored, and forgiven. When all around me I see decay and trouble, and my spirit groans under its weight, I am reminded of Your mercy, grace, and love. You have said, *I have redeemed you, I have called you by name. You are mine. And You have called me out of darkness into Your marvelous light.* May these not be just mere words to me, O Lord. Let their truth soak into my soul and may they help my spirit to soar. The sins that so often weigh me down are forgiven and no longer bear condemnation. How blessed am I! Thank You, heavenly Father for Your redeeming love, that sees me as Your righteous child. May I walk through this day with a joy in my heart and a lilt in my step because of Your great promises!

Personal prayer items: _____

29. April 8 – For the Unemployed

Oh Lord, sustainer of life, we lift to You those who find themselves out of work. We pray, Lord, that You would encourage and strengthen those in this situation, helping them to maintain hope and courage. May they surrender their lives wholly to You, looking to You as their Provider and Help. Remind them that Your ears hear every plea from their hearts and that You are working for their good. Open doors of opportunity for them in Your good timing, and may they trust that You are doing so. Help them to say with a believing heart, *“my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”* We pray also that You would use us to support those whom we find in such situations. Spur us on to good works so that they may find mercy and grace to help them in their time of need.

Personal prayer items: _____

30. April 9 – For Readiness to Forgive

Our forgiving God, I come before You only too aware that I find it difficult to forgive others as You have forgiven me. When others hurt or sin against me my thoughts too quickly turn to holding a grudge, self-pity, or revenge. Help me overcome my sinful attitudes. Remind me of how often You have forgiven me, freely and completely. May I take to heart the words You gave to Peter to forgive *seventy times seven*. How can I not forgive when You so readily forgive me? Even more, remind me once again of the agony You endured on the cross just so I could be forgiven completely. And even when those railed against You, You said, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*. I want a heart like Yours, O Lord. Help me in my weakness. Show me the blessedness of a forgiving heart. It brings healing, restoration, and renewed joy.

Personal prayer items: _____

31. April 10 – For Peace Among Nations

God of all, as we see unrest and tension between the nations, we ask for Your Almighty hand to guide the leaders in wisdom and direction. We ask Your presence and guidance in the councils of the nations that respect and understanding would prevail. Where there is dishonesty, pride, and selfishness, we ask You to help the nations uphold fairness, equity, and fellowship. Show each nation how to display patience and set goals that are beneficial to all. Help the leaders of each nation to resolve their differences and to enact solutions that bring help, satisfaction, and good will among their people and with other countries. Guide the nations to resolutions that bring peace and not war. And finally, we pray that You would direct the course of this world according to Your will. Help us as a nation to seek Your counsel in fulfilling that goal.

May an order in nations prevail that would allow the Gospel to continue to be spread, as we know, Lord, You desire all nations to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Personal prayer items: _____

32. April 11 – For Those Who Mourn

Our Eternal God, we lift up to You those who are mourning over the loss of a loved one. We know that You Yourself felt the pangs of death as You grieved over the death of Lazarus. So, we ask You to comfort those who are shedding tears of sorrow over their loss. Sustain them through the dark days and feelings of abandonment, separation, and fear. Fill the aching void in their hearts with Your presence, helping them to be assured that You will never leave them or forsake them. Above all, comfort them with the assurance of eternal life. May the promise that You take all believers to heaven with You, bring them comfort and peace. During their time of grief, may they be drawn closer to You and thus experience a peace that passes understanding. As we witness those experiencing grief, help us to be a comfort and support to them in any way You show us. Use us to encourage them with our prayers, visits, help, and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who died that we might live forever.

Personal prayer items: _____

33. April 12 – For the Lonely

Our Savior, You understood loneliness as You prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and hung from the cross. It was an agonizing and sad time. And we know that there are many today who are also experiencing loneliness. You, O Lord, know the

source of their loneliness. Are they single, living alone, friendless, forsaken? We pray, Lord, that they would find sweet friendship with You above all else. May they be assured that You care about their every need and are always by their side. May we as a Christian community reach out to them with our prayers and visits. It has also been demonstrated that a deeper sense of friendship and belonging can be cultivated as we serve others. So we pray that You would prompt them to give of themselves to others in some way. Through their reaching out, we pray that some of their loneliness can be assuaged. If they are homebound, help them to know that their prayers and example are a service for You. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Friend and Companion to all.

Personal prayer items: _____

34. April 13 – For Those Living in War Torn Areas and Deep Distress

Heavenly Father, we cannot imagine the travails of living in areas devastated by war and terror. In so many places throughout the world, homes and livelihoods have been destroyed. Hunger, homelessness, poverty, and fear are a daily reality for them. What do we do? How do we help? Lord, we know we cannot be everywhere, so we lift our prayers to You for these desperate souls. We pray that support and encouragement would come to them, whether through organizations or individuals. Awaken in our nation and in nations throughout the world the desire to support them financially, through legislation, and through breakthroughs in bringing peace to these areas. Help us to root out terrorism and those who would inflict atrocities upon innocent people. Again we pray that the Gospel message would reach these areas. Open doors of opportunity that those in peril would know that You are the God who loves them and offers

them hope amid their sorrow. Protect them by Your Almighty hand as only You can do.

Personal prayer items: _____

Palm Sunday – April 14 – Hosanna to our King!
--

On this day of triumph, we, too, cry *Hosanna – Lord save us!* And save us You did! You rode humbly into Jerusalem, not in pomp and splendor, for You would soon die a lowly death, facing a criminal’s cross. Today we wave the palm branches of praise, honoring You as our King of Peace. And we praise You as our Savior who did not come to be served, but to serve, granting us eternal life. Our King of kings, we pray that we would not turn against You as the crowds did after that triumphal day. May we in the strength of the Holy Spirit, be ever loyal to You, honoring You until our own deaths. We praise You, Lord and Savior, that You kept Your gaze toward Jerusalem and entered that town with only one desire – to fulfill why You came – for US! Hosanna to You, our righteous King!

Personal prayer items: _____

35. April 15 – Honesty Before our God

As this Holy Week unfolds, I devote my prayers to a focus on *You* and how it was *my* sins that led You to such a tremendous act. I must be honest with myself and my wretched condition. How often I treat my sins lightly, *nor suppose the evil great*. More often than not, I think I’m pretty good and it’s those *other people* who have a problem. Lord, have mercy on me. I pray the words of Psalm 139: *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and*

know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Yes, Lord, make plain before me my offenses, causing me to see that I have no excuse. I am guilty! I am a poor, wretched sinner in need of Your forgiveness and mercy. It was for me You died.

Personal prayer items: _____

36. April 16 – A Clean Heart

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart . . . Oh, Lord, my hands are dirty. I cannot rely on my own righteousness to be clean before You. I must rely solely on the merits of You, my Savior, Jesus Christ. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with Your free spirit. Thank you, Lord, that You have given me Your own righteousness. Keep me from wallowing in my sin, but instead, grant me great joy in your forgiveness. You have made me clean!

Personal prayer items: _____

37. April 17 – Steady in Him

Why is it, O Lord, that one day I am on top of the world in the assurance of Your love and mercy, and the next day I am drowning in the depths of my sins? Today I find myself perturbed, irritated, full of dissatisfaction with myself and the world around me. My rebellious heart has reared up its ugly head once more. Forgive me, Lord, for caving in to despair rather than looking to You for cleansing and peace of mind. Restore to me the joy of

Your presence and Your everlasting love and mercy. Forgive my sins and grant me Your peace – that peace which only You as my Savior can give me in fullness and perfection. Thank You for this blessed assurance.

Personal prayer items: _____

38. Maundy Thursday – April 18 – A Holy Feast

It was on this night that You gathered Your disciples and shared with them a *new* Passover meal. In just a few hours You would be betrayed and sent to the cross. But Your thoughts were toward us – even us who now live centuries later. You wanted us to be strengthened in our daily walk, to be reminded of the great truth that You gave Your body and blood for our salvation, and that we would have fellowship with other believers, united as one in You. This is not just a shallow remembrance. This is life-giving! This is Your true body and blood! We cannot fathom it. We cannot know its full depths. But we trust in Your words and our faith is nourished and strengthened. As we receive this Passover meal, move us to hearts of gratitude and joy. You did this for us!

Personal prayer items: _____

39. Good Friday – April 19 – The Death of our Lord

Here we are at the foot of the cross, O Lord. How is it that *we* are guilty and deserving of death, but it is *You* hanging from that cross, bleeding and suffering an excruciating death that we can only begin to imagine? For *me* You endured the betrayal of Judas; the mockery and mistreatment of Herod; the injustice before Annas, Caiaphas, and Pilate; the scourge, the rod, and the crown of thorns. It was for *my* sins that the nails pierced Your hands and

feet, that You were mocked by thieves, soldiers, and an angry crowd. It was *You* who felt the weight of the millions of sins of each of us. You were forsaken by Your own Father because You would not forsake us. Ironic? Implausible? Unthinkable? Yes, all that and so much more. Only a God like You would stoop to make us great. Only a Savior like You would have mercy on us who deserves nothing but to hang there in Your place. We can do nothing but offer our feeble thanks. We hang our heads in sorrow and repentance, but lift them up to view our redemption. Holy, blessed Lord, we honor You.

Personal prayer items: _____

40. Holy Saturday – April 20 – Buried in the Tomb

Heavenly Father, we stand at the tomb where our Lord is buried. Here lies the one who was innocent, yet was condemned to die. Here lies the one who came in love for all mankind, yet those for whom he came condemned Him to death. Here lies the one who knew no sin, yet became sin for us. He became obedient to death while we continued in disobedience. Such an irony, yet what was the only thing that could save us? It is good for us to have this day to contemplate Christ lying in that tomb, for we, too, lie there with Him. Our sins and death were buried with Him. He will arise just as we, too, will arise. As He will arise in victory over sin, we, too, will arise forgiven and made new. As He will arise and ascend to His Father in heaven, we, too, will arise and ascend to heaven to live eternally. Only You could accomplish this great and awesome reality. We anticipate with joy the day You arose from the dead – alive, victorious, and reigning on high forever.

Personal prayer items: _____

Easter Sunday – April 21 – Hallelujah! He Lives!

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Sin and sorrow no longer reign. Death no longer reigns. Every day we can claim victory because Jesus lives! Our Lord, because You are risen You show Yourself to be Lord over all of heaven and earth. There is no god who can make any claims against You. There is no sin that cannot be forgiven by You. Help us, O Lord, to realize the magnitude and victory of this truth. Nothing stands in the way of Your forgiveness and Your eternal love – nothing! Erase our fears, our doubts, and our tears. Replace them with confidence, joy, and trust. Move us from standing in sorrow at the cross to rejoicing in joy at the empty tomb. As we savor the reality of Your resurrection, move us to live in the freedom it brings. Move us to live lives that reflect Your love to others, for all the world needs to know of Your saving love. Glory to You, our risen Savior and Lord! Glory and praise and honor and majesty be to You forever and ever. Amen!

Personal prayer items: _____
