



## Daily Lenten Meditations Scriptures and Prayers for March 6-11, 2017

(Prepared by Rev. Karen Nyhart)

### Monday, March 6

### Scripture Verses: Luke 4:1-13

#### The Temptation of Jesus

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,<sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.<sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.<sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.<sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,<sup>10</sup> for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’<sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.”

#### Prayer:

Lord, the temptations of the world loom large before me. I am enticed, coaxed, and “sweet-talked” into moving from a life of service to a life of self-centeredness. I need your healing love. As you resisted the temptations in the wilderness, help me to place my trust in you, that I may be strong in my faith and confident in my service to you through serving others. Amen.

**Tuesday, March 7**

**Scripture Verse: Matthew 6:5-15**

Concerning Prayer

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> “Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

**Prayer:**

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Wednesday, March 8**

**Scripture Verse: Matthew 26:36-46**

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”<sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.<sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”<sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”<sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?<sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”<sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”<sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.<sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.<sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.<sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

**Prayer:**

O Lord God, whose Son followed your will, both as Servant and Savior, and now rules in the hearts of those who accept him as King: Open my heart to his rule, that I may rejoice in the blessings of his kingdom and share with those who honor him with their lives. In his name, we pray. Amen.

**Thursday, March 9**

**Scripture Verse: James 1:12-18**

### Trial and Temptation

“Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord<sup>[d]</sup> has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> No one, when tempted, should say, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured and enticed by it; <sup>15</sup> then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved.<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>18</sup> In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

### **Prayer:**

Lord of mercy and abundant love, may I hear your healing words of compassion and to be transformed by your love. Help me to become a more faithful servant in my thoughts, words, and deeds. It is in Jesus’ Name, I pray, Amen.

**Friday, March 10**

**Scripture James 4:1-7**

Friendship with the World

“Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup>Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? <sup>6</sup>But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says,

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God.”

**Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for allowing me into your presence. When I think of all that you have done, the incredible universe you have made, I am amazed you invite me into your presence. I am amazed that you even care about my choice of words. Thank you for knowing me and having a plan for my life. Help me this day to live with humility and grace before others as I seek to glorify you in all things. Through Jesus I pray. Amen

**Saturday, March 11**

**Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:19-26**

“But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.”

<sup>20</sup>In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. <sup>21</sup>All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work. <sup>22</sup>Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup>Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. <sup>24</sup>And the Lord’s servant<sup>[c]</sup> must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, <sup>25</sup>correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, <sup>26</sup>and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

**Prayer:**

Lord, for the healing love you have offered to me; for the patience you have with me; for your presence that will never fail, I give you thanks, O Lord. Bring my heart and spirit to you that I may grow in my faith and service to you by serving others. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.