



# Devotional Guide for the Season of Lent 2017

*As we journey together through the season of Lent, this devotional guide is meant to serve as weekly preparation for the Sunday to come. Email subscribers will receive each week's devotion early in the week prior, giving them several days to study the Scripture passage for the week and meditate on the questions, hymns, and prayers provided.*

*You are encouraged to spend the days leading up to each Sunday in prayer and meditation with the Scripture, opening your hearts to hear what message God may have for you. We hope that this guide will be a blessing to you, and that your season of Lent may be a time in which you are renewed and refreshed.*

*We suggest that you use this guide in this manner:*

*Day One: Read the Scripture and commentary. Circle words and underline phrases that speak to you. Reflect on them.*

*Day Two: Read the Scripture again and focus on one of the questions.*

*Day Three: Read the Scripture again and focus on another of the questions.*

*Day Four: Read through the hymn lyrics, and sing them if you so desire. How does the hymn deepen the message of the Scripture?*

*Conclude each day by praying the prayer.*

## April 14th, 2017 - Good Friday

### **Luke 23:34**

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.

### **Luke 23:43**

Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

### **John 19:26-27**

Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.

### **Mark 15:34**

*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

### **John 19:28**

I thirst.

### **John 19:30**

It is finished.

### **Luke 23:46**

Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit.

-----

These passages are commonly referred to jointly as “The Seven Last Words of Christ”. Though coming from three different Gospels, together, they make up the narrative that we have come to know of Jesus’ death on the cross. It is a remarkable journey of a few hours’ time - Jesus asks forgiveness for those crucifying him; he grants pardon to the thief hanging to his right; he places his mother, Mary, and his apostle, John, into each other’s care; he cries out to God, quoting the 22nd Psalm, asking why he has been forsaken; he expresses his physical, human need for something to drink; he acknowledges the end of his struggle; and he commits his spirit into the care of God.

For us as Christians, we have a tendency to want to jump ahead in the narrative to Sunday morning, when

Jesus rises from the tomb, triumphant and glorious. And yet, it is vital that we recall the hours he spent on the cross. We must remember that our salvation was not given to us without struggle - there was great darkness before there could be light.

It vitally important that we remember this in today’s world. We hear so often that great darkness has fallen upon our land and our world. And yet, we remember that even in the greatest darkness of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, we can look forward to the light that is coming, in just days.

-----

### **Question to Consider**

What gives us hope in the darkness? When we feel that we have been forsaken, how do we commit ourselves to God?

-----

### **Hymn for the Week -**

#### **“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

When I survey the wondrous cross,  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

-----

### **Prayer for the Week**

O God, you guide us. You protect us. You lift us up.  
Into your hands, we commit our spirits. AMEN.