



LENT

**Eagle River Presbyterian Church
2021 Lent Devotional**

LENTEN SEASON SCHEDULE

Please join us in person or online via our live-stream and let us journey together through this Lenten season!

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday | 6:30PM Worship Service

Sunday, February 21 | 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday, February 28 | 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday, March 7 | 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday, March 14 | 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday, March 21 | 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday, March 28 | 9:30am Worship Service

Thursday, April 1

Time TBD

Maundy Thursday | Worship Service

Friday, April 2

Time TBD

Good Friday | Worship Service

Sunday, April 4

Time TBD

Easter Sunday | Worship Service

Hi ERPC Family,

Lent is a time to take stock of our spiritual lives, to enter the depths of Christ's temptation and suffering, and to draw close to the presence of our Lord & to prepare ourselves for the greatest celebration for all humanity; Resurrection Sunday. Just as daily physical exercise helps to maintain healthy bodies, daily devotions are exercise for spiritual health. This devotional guide is offered in the hope that each of us will take the time, during the season of lent, to deepen our faith.

In the book to the Romans, the Apostle Paul says,

“... but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

Our difficulties in life, relationships, and faith move us through to hope, if we stay close to God and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. We have all experienced heartache and grief due to the pandemic. Our journey to the cross will include different needs and hopes this year. For some, we might see a clearer need for a Savior. For others, the past year may have shown us the important role community has in our life.

Our Lent devotion booklet will follow the stories of two people from the Bible.

The first person we will be reading and thinking about is the story of a man named Moses. On those days, you will connect with God in four simple ways: by **READING**, **PRAYING**, **DOING**, and **REMEMBERING**. We will discover how God transformed Moses' life, and our hope is that you will see how God can transform your life too.

The second person we will be reading and thinking about is Jesus' journey through Holy Week. On those days, we will read a particular story from the Gospels. These devotional reading days have been submitted by people within our church community.

I encourage you in your daily readings of these beautiful devotionals. We all have a story to share and our community grows stronger as we learn together. For our writers, thank you for sharing your faith with us through your words. I pray God will provide extra insight to us all as we enter into Lent which leads to Easter celebration.

Blessings,

Jordan Shive

Wednesday, February 17

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19

The Christian today should understand Lent to be a special season in which we draw near to God and take stock of our spiritual lives with Christ. As with all spiritual practices and disciplines, it is easy to lose our focus and sight of the ultimate purpose for doing them. The human heart tends to move the focus off of God and onto ourselves in any and all things that we do. Thus, it is critical for any spiritual practice to be kept in focus. The object and focus of Lent must always be to deepen our spiritual life, to purify our hearts from sin and to unite us more closely with our Savior.

Reflection Question: *With Jesus inviting me to move from solitude, to community, to ministry as his beloved child, I resolve to give up: _____ during this Lenten season.*

With Jesus inviting me to move from solitude, to community, to ministry as his beloved child, I resolve to take up: _____ during this Lenten season.

Prayer: *God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, place now upon our hearts the thing, the emotion, the person, or the sins that You would have us earnestly remove from our lives in the next 46 days so that we may grow closer to You.*

Pastor Rob Wilson

Thursday, February 18

PRAY

Tell God how you feel about starting this 30-day journey. Be honest. You don't need to hide anything from God. Write your prayer here, if that helps you focus.

READ

Exodus 3:1-10.

DO

Drink a glass of milk and eat a spoonful of honey. While you do, thank God for all the good things He has given you.

REMEMBER

What is your earliest memory of faith, either at church or at home?
What does it mean to you?

Friday, February 19

Jesus in Jerusalem Cleansing the Temple

Matthew 21:10-17, Mark 11:11-17, Luke 19:45-46

This short song of petition for God's presence is from the 1558 Sarum Primer, which was a collection of prayers and worship resources developed in Salisbury, England, during the 13th century. Choral settings have been arranged by Henry Walford Davies, John Rutter and others.

*God be in my head
And in my understanding
God be in mine eye
And in my looking
God be in my mouth
And in my speaking
God be in my heart
And in my thinking
God be at my end
And at my departing*

As we begin our Lent journey, let us be invited into the practice of welcoming and invite God's presence into our lives.

Reflection Question: How are you inviting God's presence into your daily life?

Prayer: God, who designed us to be with You and with others, help us to find ways to grow in our relationship with You and others. Amen

Jordan Shive

Saturday, February 20

PRAY

Talk to God about who He is to you.

READ

Exodus 3:11-15.

DO

Circle the words, “I AM who I AM” in your Bible. What do you think it means? Jump on Google and do some research.

REMEMBER

Describe a time when you felt that God was very close to you and your family?

Sunday, February 21

PRAY

Just like God sent Moses on a mission, ask Him what kind of mission He has for you.

READ

Exodus 3:16-22.

DO

Try something a little scary today. Invite a friend to church or have a conversation with someone about who God is to you and who God is to them. Oh, but just remember . . . a conversation isn't just about talking. It's about listening, too.

REMEMBER

For the next seven days of your Lent journey, work on memorizing II Corinthians 12:9. To help you remember it, you might want to try recording a video of yourself reading it out loud and then listening to that video each day.

Monday, February 22

The Chief Priests and Scribes Conspire against Jesus Mark 11:18-19, Luke 19:47-48

During this Lenten experience, I would encourage you to read again and ponder the verses of a favorite hymn of mine, “Come, Thou Found of Every Blessing”. In part, verse 4 of this hymn pledges a giving of, on my part, and a “safe keeping of”, on God’s part...“Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above”.

As I continue to contemplate the total sacrifice of our precious savior, Jesus the Christ, and “walk” these days of Lent again with Him, the interest and value of the word seal strikes me.

Seal: Anything that guarantees, as a pledge; to close or shut tight, as with a seal; to mark with a seal, as to authenticate or certify; to confirm the genuineness of a promise; to decide finally.

Following the crucifixion and death of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea requested that Pilate allow him to prepare Jesus’ body for burial. He lovingly placed the body in a rock hewn tomb and rolled a large stone in front of the entrance. Pilate, becoming anxious over Christ’s promise to rise again, then ordered a Pharisee and guard to go and make the tomb as secure as they could. They went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone. Little did they know

Reflection Question: In what ways are you giving your heart to Jesus?

Prayer: Dear Lord, as I present my heart to You, seal it to your keeping and again confirm the genuineness of Your promise to me, and mine to You. I know the seal you’ve placed on my heart guarantees my eternity with You, and I allow myself to be “closed tightly” with you for all time. Amen.

Kay Neal (2009)

Tuesday, February 23

PRAY

Talk to God about whatever's on your mind right now. You don't need a reason or an agenda to have a conversation with Him.

READ

Exodus 4:1-17.

DO

Like Moses, we all fail to trust God at times. Make a list of the ways you've failed to trust God recently. Ask for His forgiveness and to help you learn to trust Him more.

REMEMBER

Keep working on memorizing II Corinthians 12:9! Write it down to see how well you remember it.

Wednesday, February 24

The Question about Jesus' Authority

Mark 21:23-27, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 20:1-8

Read 1 Kings 18:20-24 & Joshua 24:13-17

“Choose you this day whom ye will serve” – Joshua 24:15

This is part of Joshua's last charge to the tribes of ancient Israel. It makes all the difference in this world, and in the next, whether we choose Jesus Christ as our Savior, our King, the One who is to rule our lives. There are three things to note:

First, *you* alone can choose for yourself. Others may advise, may prayer for you –but only *you* can choose.

Second, *this day*. God's standard of time is now. We have no time but *now*. Tomorrow is too late.

Third, *whom*. You will have a supreme loyalty. Will it be the flesh or the spirit? Will it be Christ or Satan?

Choose, ye, now and choose rightly or else you will go down into utter defeat.

Reflection Question: In what ways, in your daily life—which comes with a multitude of decisions, are you choosing Jesus?

Prayer: Help us, O Lord, to make right choices, in every moment and every eventuality of life. Help us to remember that the choice of Jesus means that we have the gift of God, even eternal life. Amen.

Excerpted from **Strength For Service to God and Country**,
a devotional given to Pastor Rob's grandfather
Lt. Col. Grover Wilson, at the beginning of World War II

Thursday, February 25

PRAY

Ask God to help you see what He wants for the remaining days of your journey with Him.

READ

Exodus 4:18-31.

DO

After you've talked to God about the next days of your journey with Him, write down a few goals you have for this Lent journey.

REMEMBER

How's that memorization coming?

Friday, February 26
The Parable of the Two Sons
Matthew 21:28-32

Read John 15: 1-17

Jesus is telling the disciples, and us, to remain with Him and to make Him our home.

Jesus said there is no wholeness while we are disconnected from the branch. Being far from home is not the place we need to be. In our parable, the son is out there focusing on being popular, getting respect, becoming well-known, the life of the party, the one who can get things done. Are we often not just like him? Do we not focus on earthly things like looking good, being the top employee, attending the best schools, or skiing 100+ days? Are we disconnected from the branch? Are we far from home?

When we decide to come back home, no matter how long it's been, or how many doubts we have, we are welcomed with a homecoming because God's love for us is beyond limitless.

Lastly, to make God our home sweet home again, we must transfer control to Him, which can only happen as we put in the daily work to abide with Him. What makes God your home is knowing there is no place better. There is nothing greater than the presence, purpose, and promises of God.

Reflection Question: What are you willing to do to remain in God, and to make God your home?

Prayer: God help us find ways to remain and stay close to you and help develop practices that help us make our home in You. Amen

Jordan Shive

Saturday, February 27

PRAY

Talk to God about the first week of your journey with Him. Bring Him all of your questions, thoughts, and hopes so far.

READ

Catch up on anything you missed.

DO

Turn off your phone for one hour each day. Use your time away from your phone to reflect and talk to God.

REMEMBER

Did you memorize II Corinthians 12:9? Write it here!

Sunday, February 28

PRAY

When's the last time someone treated you unfairly or unkindly? Talk to God about the experience and the person who hurt you.

READ

Exodus 5:1-23.

DO

Who is someone you've treated unfairly or unkindly? Do something to show that person the love and kindness of God today. You may even need to ask for their forgiveness.

REMEMBER

For the next seven days of your Lent journey, work on memorizing Micah 6:8. To help you remember it, you might want to post it somewhere you'll see it every day, like your bathroom mirror.