

PRAY EVERY DAY March 14, 2021 Resource

*A Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Gospel of Mark Readings for Lent 2021*

March 15: Mark 9:30-49

March 18: Mark 11:1-11

March 16: Mark 10:1-31

March 19: Mark 11:12-26

March 17: Mark 10:32-52

March 20: Mark 11:27 – 12:12

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)*

March 15: Joshua 16 – 18

March 19: Judges 3 – 5

March 16: Joshua 19 – 21

March 20: Judges 6 – 7

March 17: Joshua 22 – 24

March 21: Judges 8 – 9

March 18: Judges 1 – 2

*Small Group or personal study*

Read Mark 2:1-12

- What sticks out to you most in this passage – the healing or the forgiveness of Jesus?

Why?

- Which do you consider more miraculous – healing or forgiveness? Why?
- The paralytic who received forgiveness of sins and healing from paralysis was brought to Jesus by others. It is plain why a paralytic would have difficulty traveling to see Jesus. Think about what obstacles a sinner might have in coming to Jesus. The crowd around Jesus that was an obstacle to the paralyzed sinner was able to make room for him to go in the forgiveness and healing of Jesus. What helps and obstacles did the paralyzed sinner face?
  - How have you or the church acted as obstacles to sinners coming to Jesus?
  - How have you or the church acted like those who got the paralyzed sinner close to Jesus despite obstacles in way?
  - Some religious leaders (scribes) questioned the power of Jesus to forgive. What sins or your own or sins of others have you questioned if Jesus could forgive?
  - The healing of the paralyzed man which could be seen was a sign of the forgiveness Jesus gave which could not be seen as clearly and immediately. What signs of the forgiveness of Jesus have you seen in yourself and others?

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

*(The following prayer is offered by the Bishops' Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)*

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity  
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.  
You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races  
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.  
Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.  
Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.  
Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.  
Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.  
Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.  
We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. Amen.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day*

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
AMEN.

*Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships*

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

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Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.