

PRAY EVERY DAY March 21, 2021 Resource

The Power of the Cross from 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NRSV)

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel of Mark Readings for Lent 2021

March 22: Mark 12:13-44

March 25: Mark 14:12-25

March 23: Mark 13:1-37

March 26: Mark 14:26-52

March 24: Mark 14:1-11

March 27: Mark 14:53-72

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

March 22: Judges 10 – 12

March 26: Ruth 1 – 4

March 23: Judges 13 – 15

March 27: 1 Samuel 1 – 3

March 24: Judges 16 – 18

March 28: 1 Samuel 4 – 8

March 25: Judges 19 – 21

Small Group or personal study

Read Mark 8:31-38

- Share what you know about the suffering, rejection, cross, death, and resurrection that was ahead of Jesus in this passage. If alone, you might consider expressing what you know through art (song, drawing, or poetry).
- Peter was fully against Jesus as the Christ and Messiah taking on suffering and the cross. Those images probably did not match Peter's expectations for what Jesus would do. In what ways might suffering, rejection, and the cross be contrary to your expectations for what God would do?
- Jesus would call on the disciples to deny themselves, take up their own cross, and follow him. How have you seen followers of Jesus take up their own cross for the sake of the gospel?
- What cross does Jesus have for you to carry? How might your cross bring the grace of Jesus Christ to others? What has held you back from following Jesus by taking up a cross?

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.

Do, Look, and Think from Philippians 2:3-8 (NRSV)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.