

PRAY EVERY DAY March 28, 2021 Resource

A Blessing from Psalm 118:26-27 (NRSV)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

Gospel of Mark Readings for Lent 2021

March 29: Mark 15:1-15

April 1: Mark 15:42-47

March 30: Mark 15:16-32

April 2: Mark 16:1-8

March 31: Mark 15:33-41

April 3: Mark 16:9-20

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

March 29: 1 Samuel 9 – 12

April 2: 1 Samuel 21 – 24

March 30: 1 Samuel 13 – 14

April 3: 1 Samuel 25 – 27

March 31: 1 Samuel 15 – 17

April 4: 1 Samuel 28 – 31

April 1: 1 Samuel 18 – 20

Small Group or personal study

Read Mark 10:13-16

- Jesus was criticized by religious leaders for welcoming the wrong sort such as tax collectors and sinners. Read Mark 2:13-17. How may some people criticize Jesus for welcoming someone like you? What in your past actions, work, or identity could people call into question a willing of Jesus or the church to associate with you?

- Even Jesus' disciples struggled to extend the openness and welcome Jesus had extended to them. In Mark 10:13-16 disciples discouraged people bringing their little children to Jesus. Read Mark 9:33-37 and notice that Jesus had already spoken to the disciples about welcoming children. What "little ones" like young children have you kept back from coming to Jesus – ones who are vulnerable, rejected by religious leaders, or of low (or no) status?

- How has the welcome of Jesus affected how you welcome others (or not)?

- Read Mark 10:16 again. Notice Jesus did not just instruct disciples to welcome little ones.

Jesus gave a great welcome to the little children in correcting disciples, taking little children in his arms and blessing them. That may have been uncomfortable for the disciples to see Jesus generously welcome those little children the disciples had not welcomed. When have you felt uncomfortable about who Jesus was welcoming with the blessings of God?

- Who could you show the welcome and blessing of Jesus with this week?

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.

Jesus' Directions on Welcoming Little Ones from Mark 10:14-16 (NRSV)

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.