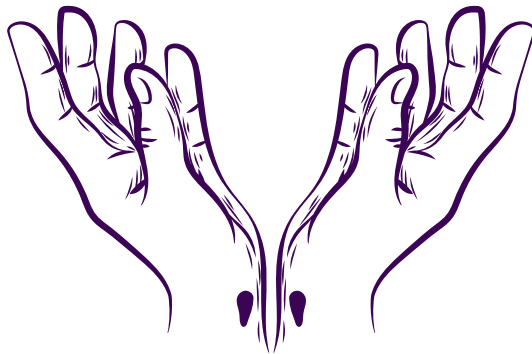
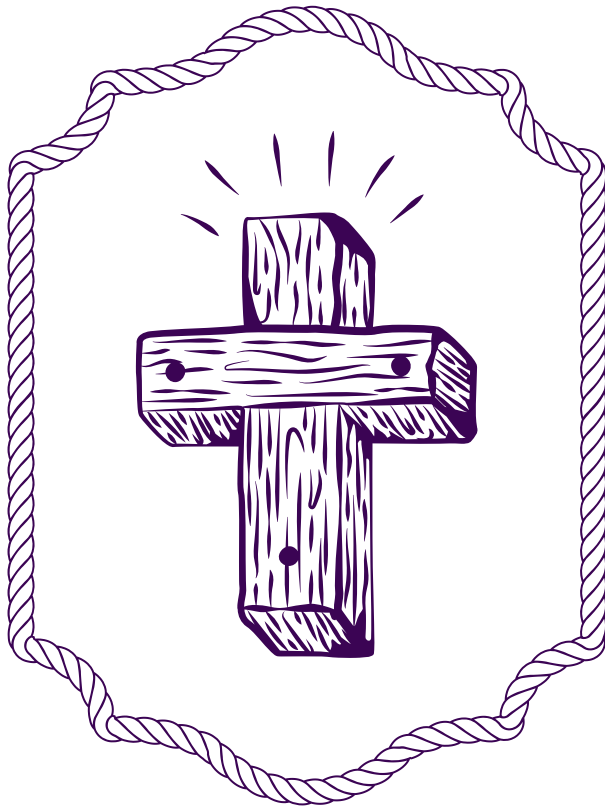


FIRST WEEK OF LENT DEVOTIONAL



Returning to God

This devotional is designed for the first week of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Each day includes a short Scripture reading, a brief reflection, and a prayer for meditation.

Ash Wednesday (February 18) – Remembering Who We Are

Scripture

Genesis 3:19 - “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Reflection

Lent begins with truth-telling. We remember our mortality, our limits, and our deep need for God. Ashes are not a mark of shame, but of honesty. They remind us that life is fragile and grace is essential. Today, we begin not with striving, but with humility.

Prayer

Merciful God, I remember that I am dust, and yet deeply loved by you.

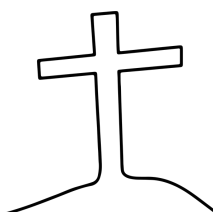
Strip away my illusions of control, and teach me to depend on your grace.

As this Lenten journey begins, turn my heart again toward you. Amen.

Thursday (February 19) – Returning with the Heart

Scripture

Joel 2:13 - “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful.”



Reflection

God's call is not simply to change our behavior, but to return with our whole heart. Lent is an invitation to come home—to God who waits with patience and compassion. Even small steps toward God matter, because God meets us with mercy.

Prayer

Gracious God, I return to you not because I am worthy, but because you are merciful.

Gather my scattered heart, and help me turn toward you again.

Receive me as I am, and shape me by your love. Amen.

Friday (February 20)– Learning to Be Honest

Scripture

Psalms 51:10 - "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

Reflection

Lent invites us to honest prayer. We do not hide our brokenness from God; we bring it into God's healing light. God desires truth in the inward being and offers renewal that begins in the heart.

Prayer

Holy God, you know me completely.

I bring before you my faults, my regrets, and my fears.

Create in me a clean heart, and renew my spirit by your grace. Amen.



Saturday (February 21)– Depending on Grace



Scripture

2 Corinthians 12:9 - “My grace is sufficient for you.”

Reflection

We often rely on our own strength, especially when faith feels demanding. Lent gently reminds us that grace, not effort, sustains us. God’s grace is enough for each day—even when we feel weak or unsure.

Prayer

Faithful God, when I feel weary or inadequate, remind me that your grace is enough.

Help me rest not in my strength, but in your sustaining love.
Amen.

Sunday (February 22)– Beginning Again

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:17 - “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

Reflection

Each Sunday in Lent reminds us that renewal is at the heart of our faith. In Christ, we are continually invited into new life—new mercy, new hope, and new beginnings. Even as we reflect and repent, we rejoice that God is always at work making us new.

Prayer

God of new beginnings, thank you for meeting me again today. As I continue this Lenten journey, open me to the new life you are creating within me. Walk with me in the days ahead.
Amen.