

THE WALK

A Journey of Sacrificial Love



2026 Lenten Devotional | Friendship Community Church



Introduction

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Dates: February 18 – April 5, 2026

Beloved Friendship Family,

Lent is an invitation to return.

For forty days, we walk with Jesus—from the wilderness to the Cross, and from the Cross to the empty tomb. This is a season to slow down, examine our hearts, and realign our lives with the will of God. Sacrifice during Lent is not about deprivation; it is about devotion. Every surrender creates space for deeper intimacy with Christ.

Through daily Scripture, reflection, and prayer, this devotional is designed to guide you intentionally through the journey. Some days will challenge you. Others will comfort you. All are meant to draw you closer to the One who first loved us.

As a church family, we walk together—returning with our whole hearts and preparing for the joy of Resurrection Sunday. May this season strengthen your faith, renew your focus, and remind you that sacrificial love always leads to victory. Let us begin.

With expectation and hope,
Friendship Community Church

THE BEGINNING: RETURN

Ash Wednesday | February 18

Scripture: *Joel 2:12-13*

"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Reflection:

Lent begins not with a demand, but with a quiet, tender invitation: "Return." In the busyness of life in Atlanta—between the traffic, the work, and the noise—it is easy to drift. We don't usually run away from God; we just slowly slide away, distracted by good things that aren't the *best* things. Today, the call is to stop the drift. It doesn't matter how far you've gone or how long it's been. The door is open. As we mark this day, we acknowledge that we are not self-sufficient. We need God. Come home to the One who loves you.

Prayer: *Lord, I am coming home. Clear the clutter from my heart so I can see You clearly.*



Thursday | February 19

Scripture: *Luke 9:23*

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Reflection:

We often view "sacrifice" as a grand, one-time gesture, but Jesus frames it as a daily rhythm. To "deny yourself" isn't about self-hatred; it is about self-displacement. It is the conscious decision to move "me" off the throne of my life to make room for Jesus. It's saying "no" to my immediate comfort so I can say "yes" to His eternal will. This isn't just about giving up chocolate or coffee for a season; it's about giving up the illusion that we are the captains of our own souls. Pick up the cross today—it's the only path to true life.

Prayer: *Lord, help me say "no" to my selfishness today so I can say "yes" to Your will.*



Friday | February 20

Scripture: *Psalm 51:10*

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew
a steadfast spirit within me.

Reflection:

We live in a culture obsessed with the exterior—how things look, how we are perceived, and image management. But David, in his moment of greatest desperation, didn't ask God to fix his reputation; he asked God to fix his heart. He understood that the problem wasn't just his behavior; it was his nature. Real transformation starts in the secret places that no one else sees. This Lent, don't just modify your behavior on the outside. Invite the Holy Spirit into the basement of your soul to do a gut renovation. Ask for a heart that beats in rhythm with His.

Prayer: *Creator God, do a new work inside me.
Renovate my heart.*



Saturday | February 21

Scripture: *Isaiah 58:6*

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Reflection:

True fasting is not just about an empty stomach; it's about a liberated spirit. God critiques religious acts that don't lead to justice or freedom. If our fasting makes us irritable or self-righteous, we've missed the point. The purpose of this season is to break chains—chains of addiction, chains of bitterness, and chains of indifference toward others. As we prepare for the first full week of Lent, ask God to show you what "yokes" need to be broken in your life. Your sacrifice is meant to lead to freedom, both for you and for those around you.

Prayer: *Lord, show me what chains need breaking in my life this season.*



WEEK 1: TESTED IN THE WILDERNESS

Weekly Focus: Identity & Reliance

Sunday | February 22

Scripture: *Luke 4:1-4*

Jesus... was led by the Spirit into the wilderness... The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

Reflection:

The enemy attacked Jesus's identity ("If you are the Son of God...") precisely when He was hungry and vulnerable. In our own wilderness moments, we are often tempted to prove our worth through what we do, what we own, or what we can control. The temptation is to turn "stones into bread"—to use our power to meet our own needs instantly. But Jesus reminds us that our true sustenance comes from God's Word, not our own efforts. We don't survive on the physical alone; we survive on the promises of God.

Sacrificial Step: As we begin this week, reflect on where you turn for comfort. Is it food? Screens? Spending? Invite God to be your primary source of comfort this week.

Monday | February 23

Scripture: *Psalm 91:1-2*

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Reflection:

The wilderness can feel exposed, dangerous, and lonely. But even there, we have a shelter. The "shadow of the Almighty" implies closeness—you have to be very near to someone to stand in their shadow. This week, you don't have to face your challenges exposed or unprotected. You are covered. The noise of the world may be loud, and the demands of life may be heavy, but you have a fortress. Run to Him. Let His presence be the roof over your head and the wall around your heart.

Prayer: *Lord, You are my hiding place. I trust You with my safety and my future.*



Tuesday | February 24

Scripture: *Romans 10:8b-9*

"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart..."

Reflection:

We often feel like God is distant, especially when we are struggling. We think we need to climb a mountain or cross an ocean to find Him. But Paul reminds us that salvation and God's presence are "near you." It is as close as your own breath, as close as the confession on your lips. In the middle of your busy Tuesday, amidst emails and errands, remember that you don't have to shout across the universe. Whisper His name. He is right there, closer than your own skin, ready to listen and ready to save.

Prayer: *Jesus, be Lord of my schedule, my conversations, and my thoughts today.*



Wednesday | February 25

Scripture: *Deuteronomy 26:10-11*

"And now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me."

Reflection:

Gratitude is a weapon against temptation. When the Israelites brought their "firstfruits," they were acknowledging that *everything* they had was a gift. It destroys the myth of "self-made" success. When we remember that our job, our home, and our very breath are on loan from God, it becomes harder to be selfish. As you go through your day, look at what you have—not as things you earned, but as fruits God grew. This shift in perspective turns our clutching hands into open hands, ready to give back to the Giver.

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for the harvest in my life. Help me to be generous with what You've given me.*



Thursday | February 26

Scripture: *Psalm 25:4-5*

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me.

Reflection:

In the wilderness, it's easy to get lost. The landscape looks the same, and we can easily go in circles. We need a guide. David's prayer is simple: "Show me." We don't need to see the whole map for the next ten years; we just need to know the path for today. God promises to guide the humble. If you are willing to be taught, He is willing to lead. Stop trying to figure it all out on your own. Pause, ask for direction, and trust that He will highlight the next step.

Prayer: *I am listening, Lord. Show me the path for today.*



Friday | February 27

Scripture: *Hebrews 4:15*

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Reflection:

You are not alone in your struggle. Jesus has been there. He knows the gnawing of hunger, the weight of fatigue, and the whisper of temptation. He isn't sitting in heaven judging your weakness; He is empathizing with it. He is the only One who truly understands the pressure you feel because He bore it too. When you feel weak today, don't hide from Him in shame. Run to Him for strength. He represents you before the Father, not as a critic, but as a compassionate Brother and Savior.

Prayer: *Thank You, Jesus, for understanding my struggles. Give me Your strength to stand firm.*



Saturday | February 28

Scripture: *Matthew 4:10-11*

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Reflection:

Worship is the ultimate defense. When Jesus was offered the kingdoms of the world, He didn't argue logic; He stood on worship. When we fix our eyes on God, the enemy has to flee. Idolatry isn't just bowing to statues; it's anything that takes the "throne" of our hearts—worry, ambition, relationships, or money. As you prepare for corporate worship tomorrow, do a throne check. Who is sitting in the seat of authority in your life? Clear the throne. Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.

Prayer: *I choose to worship You alone. Clear the throne of my heart.*



WEEK 2: THE SHELTER OF GOD

Weekly Focus: Courage & Protection

Sunday | March 1

Scripture: *Luke 13:34*

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."

Reflection:

Jesus uses a surprisingly tender image today: a mother hen. It contrasts sharply with the violence of the world (Herod the "fox"). The world uses power to exploit and destroy, but God uses His power to protect and gather. He wants to cover you. The tragedy of this verse is the end: "you were not willing." God will not force His protection on us. We have to be willing to come under His wing. Stop running around in the open, trying to fight the hawks on your own. Come under the shelter.

Sacrificial Step: This week, consider how you can be a shelter for someone else. Can your generosity or your listening ear provide a safe place for a hurting neighbor?

Monday | March 2

Scripture: *Psalm 27:1*

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Reflection:

Fear is a thief. It steals our peace, our joy, and our generosity. It makes us hoard our resources and our love because we are afraid of running out. But David declares a different reality. If the Lord is our "stronghold"—our fortified castle—then we are untouchable by the real enemy. We can live with open hands because our safety is guaranteed. What are you afraid of today? Financial lack? Rejection? Failure? Bring those fears into the light of God's presence. When He is your Light, the shadows of fear have to disappear.

Prayer: *Cast out my fear, Lord. Let me live bravely today.*



Tuesday | March 3

Scripture: *Philippians 3:17*

Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

Reflection:

Faith is caught as much as it is taught. We need models. Paul wasn't being arrogant; he knew that people need to see the Gospel lived out to understand it. Look around Friendship Community Church. Who is walking a walk worth following? Who is modeling sacrificial love, forgiveness, and generosity? Identify them and learn from them. And then, ask yourself the hard question: If someone imitated my life, would they look like Jesus? We are all influencing someone. Let's make sure we are leading them toward the Cross.

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for the spiritual mothers and fathers in my life. Help me to follow their example.*



Wednesday | March 4

Scripture: *Psalm 27:4*

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life...

Reflection:

David was a King with a thousand responsibilities—armies to lead, laws to pass, battles to fight. Yet, he boils his life down to "one thing." In a world of multitasking and endless notifications, what if we had a singular focus? To simply be with God. This doesn't mean living in the church building; it means living in the *presence* of God wherever you are. Whether you are in the boardroom or the living room, you can "dwell" in His house. Make His presence your priority today.

Prayer: *Simplify my heart, O God. Let my one desire be You.*



Thursday | March 5

Scripture: *Genesis 15:1*

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Reflection:

God doesn't just *give* rewards; He *is* the reward. Often we come to God for what He can give us—protection, blessing, guidance. But here, God tells Abram that the Prize is the Relationship. When we understand this, our perspective on giving and sacrifice changes completely. We don't give to get a blessing; we give because we already possess the greatest Treasure in the universe. If you have God, you have everything. Let that truth settle your heart and remove your fear of the future.

Prayer: *You are my prize, Lord. Nothing on earth compares to You.*



Friday | March 6

Scripture: *Philippians 3:20*

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

We are residents of Atlanta, but we are citizens of Heaven. That means we operate by a different economy and a different set of laws. The world says "hoard," but Heaven says "give." The world says "revenge," but Heaven says "forgive." When we travel to a foreign country, we don't follow their customs if they violate our home values. Similarly, while we live here, we must represent our true Home. Let your life today be an outpost of Heaven. Let people see your "accent" of love and grace.

Prayer: *Help me live today as a citizen of Your Kingdom.*



Saturday | March 7

Scripture: *Psalm 27:14*

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

Reflection:

Waiting is one of the hardest spiritual disciplines. It feels passive, like we are doing nothing. But scriptural waiting is active. It is like a waiter at a table—alert, watching, ready to move the moment the Master speaks. It requires strength ("be strong") to not run ahead of God or give up in despair. As we approach Sunday, maybe you are waiting on an answer, a healing, or a breakthrough. Don't lose heart. Keep your spiritual engine running. He is never late.

Prayer: *I am waiting, Lord. Quiet my soul and strengthen my heart.*



WEEK 3: FRUITFULNESS & GRACE

Weekly Focus: Patience & Growth

Sunday | March 8

Scripture: *Luke 13:8-9*

“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Reflection:

We serve a God of second chances. In this parable, the tree was barren and deserved to be cut down. But the gardener intercedes, asking for more time and offering more grace. Jesus is that Gardener. He is constantly interceding for us, giving us time to grow. But notice: grace isn't permission to stay the same; it is an opportunity to change. He "digs around" our lives—sometimes disrupting us—to help us grow. Friendship family, are we bearing the fruit He expects? Or are we just taking up space?

Sacrificial Step: Consider the "fertilizer" God has given you—your time, talents, and treasure. Are you using them to produce fruit for the Kingdom, or just leaves?

Monday | March 9

Scripture: *Isaiah 55:1*

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

Reflection:

God's grace is free, but it isn't cheap. It was paid for by the life of Christ, but it is offered to us as a gift. He invites us to feast on what truly satisfies—peace, joy, and purpose. The world sells us "junk food" that leaves us empty—fame, material things, approval. God offers "wine and milk," symbols of joy and nourishment. Why do we keep spending our labor on what is not bread? Stop striving for things that can't fill you. Come to the waters of life and drink deeply.

Prayer: *Lord, I'm tired of spending my energy on things that don't satisfy. I come to the waters of life.*



Tuesday | March 10

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 10:13*

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

Reflection:

When we are tempted, we often feel isolated, like no one understands our specific struggle. But Paul says our struggles are "common." You aren't the only one. More importantly, God is faithful. He provides a "way of escape." He acts like a spotter in the gym—He won't let the weight crush you, but He allows the resistance so you can build muscle. Look for the exit door today. It might be a prayer, a phone call to a friend, or simply walking away from the screen. The way out is there.

Prayer: *When I am weak, You are strong. Show me the way out today.*



Wednesday | March 11

Scripture: *Psalm 63:1*

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

Reflection:

Midway through the week, we can feel spiritually dry. The initial excitement of Lent may have worn off. But spiritual thirst is actually a good sign—it means you are alive. Dead things don't get thirsty. David didn't ignore his thirst; he turned it into a prayer. He recognized that the "land"—his circumstances—couldn't satisfy him. Only God could. If you feel parched today, don't try to quench it with entertainment or distractions. Bring your thirst to the Source. Let your longing draw you closer to Him.

Prayer: *Pour Your Spirit out on my dry and weary heart today.*



Thursday | March 12

Scripture: *Luke 13:6*

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any."

Reflection:

Fruitfulness is the natural result of a healthy connection to the vine. You don't see an apple tree "straining" to produce apples; it just happens because it's healthy. If there is no patience, kindness, or generosity in our lives, we don't need to just "try harder." We need to check our connection to Jesus. We need to check the soil of our hearts. Are we rooted in His love? Are we soaking in His Word? When the connection is right, the fruit will come.

Prayer: *Reconnect me to You, Lord. Let my life naturally display Your character.*



Friday | March 13

Scripture: *Isaiah 55:6*

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Reflection:

There is a holy urgency in this verse. God is always omnipresent, but there are seasons when He is particularly "near"—moments of conviction, moments of crisis, or seasons like Lent. These are windows of opportunity. Don't assume you can always delay obedience. If you hear His voice today, respond today. Don't put off your repentance, your forgiveness, or your generosity until "someday." Someday often becomes never. He is near *now*. He is listening *now*. Call on Him.

Prayer: *I seek You today, Lord. Not tomorrow, but right now.*



Saturday | March 14

Scripture: *Psalm 63:7*

Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow
of your wings.

Reflection:

It is easy to sing in the sunshine. But David sings in the "shadow." Even when things are dark, or when we are in the wilderness, we can sing because we know who is casting the shadow. It is the Shadow of our Helper. As we prepare for worship tomorrow, let a song rise in your heart regardless of your circumstances. Praise is an act of defiance against the darkness. It declares that God is still good, even when life is hard.

Prayer: *I will sing of Your goodness, even in the waiting.*



WEEK 4: THE PRODIGAL LOVE

Weekly Focus: Restoration & Reconciliation

Sunday | March 15

Scripture: *Luke 15:20b*

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Reflection:

The true hero of this story is the Father. In ancient culture, a patriarch never ran; it was undignified. Yet, this Father hiked up his robes and sprinted through the village to protect his son from shame. This is the heart of God for you. He does not wait for you to clean yourself up or get your theology perfect. He sees you from a distance and runs to meet you. Today, stop hiding. The Father is already running toward you.

Sacrificial Step: Is there someone you have been keeping at a distance? Close the gap this week with a phone call or a text.

Monday | March 16

Scripture: *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Reflection:

The "new creation" isn't just a future promise; it is a present reality. When the prodigal son returned, he was given a new robe and a new ring. He was fully restored. Too often, we live in the "old"—shackled by our past mistakes and old labels. Lent is a season to shed those old garments. You don't have to live in the past anymore. The old is gone. Walk in the newness of life that Christ has purchased for you today.

Prayer: *Lord, I trade my old rags for Your righteousness. Thank You for making me new.*



Tuesday | March 17

Scripture: *Psalm 32:1*

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Reflection:

There is a specific kind of happiness that comes only from a clear conscience. We spend so much energy trying to cover our own sins—hiding them or rationalizing them. True relief comes when we finally stop hiding and let God do the covering. His covering doesn't just hide the sin; it washes it away completely. The weight you are carrying today was never meant for your shoulders. Drop it at His feet. The blessing of forgiveness is waiting for you right now.

Prayer: *I stop hiding, Lord. Cover me with Your grace.*



Wednesday | March 18

Scripture: *Luke 15:28*

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

Reflection:

The older brother was physically close to the father but spiritually miles away. He worked hard and obeyed the rules, yet he viewed his relationship as a contract—"I slaved for you, so you owe me." It is possible to be in church every Sunday and still be a "prodigal" at heart. God doesn't want your employment; He wants your enjoyment of Him. Don't let your service to God replace your love for God. The Father is pleading with you to come in and celebrate.

Prayer: *Father, save me from the bitterness of a dutiful but loveless life.*



Thursday | March 19

Scripture: *Joshua 5:9*

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you."

Reflection:

The Israelites carried the shame of slavery for generations. But there came a specific day when God said, "Enough." He rolled away the shame of their past. Maybe you are carrying the "reproach of Egypt"—old labels from your childhood, mistakes from your college years, or failures in your career. God is a shame-roller. He removes the stigma and gives you a fresh start. You are not what happened to you; you are who God says you are.

Prayer: *I release the shame of my past. I am a child of God, not a slave to my history.*



Friday | March 20

Scripture: *Psalm 32:5*

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity... And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Reflection:

Confession is not for God's information; it is for our transformation. It is the act of agreeing with God about what is true. When we keep silent, our bones waste away (Psalm 32:3). Silence creates a barrier, but confession builds a bridge. It unlocks the prison door we built for ourselves. Is there something you've been holding back from God? Speak it out today. The moment the confession leaves your lips, the forgiveness of God rushes in to meet you.

Prayer: *Lord, I agree with You about my sin. Thank You for the instant freedom of forgiveness.*



Saturday | March 21

Scripture: *2 Corinthians 5:18*

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Reflection:

Because we have been reconciled to God, we are now ambassadors of reconciliation to others. This is the family business. As we prepare for worship tomorrow, look around your life. Who is estranged? Who is on the outside looking in? You have been given the "ministry of reconciliation." It might mean extending an olive branch, writing a letter, or simply offering a warm welcome. We are never more like Jesus than when we are building bridges to those who are far off.

Prayer: *Make me a bridge-builder, Lord. Use me to bring others back to Your heart.*



WEEK 5: AN EXTRAVAGANT OFFERING

Weekly Focus: Worship & Generosity

Sunday | March 22

Scripture: *John 12:3*

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet... And the house was filled with the fragrance.

Reflection:

Mary's gift was worth a year's wages. She didn't hold back a "safety net." She broke the jar and poured it *all*. To the disciples, it looked like a waste; to Jesus, it looked like worship. This week, we are moving toward our Resurrection Sunday Sacrificial Offering. Like Mary, we aren't just giving to a budget; we are giving to a Person. The value of the gift reflects the value we place on the Recipient. May our offering be a sweet fragrance that fills the house.

Sacrificial Step: As you finalize your offering plans, ask yourself: Does this gift reflect what Jesus is worth to me?

Monday | March 23

Scripture: *Isaiah 43:19*

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it? I am making a way in
the wilderness...

Reflection:

We often get stuck looking at the "wasteland"—the problems, the shortages, the dry places. But God says, "Look closer." He is carving out roads where there were no roads. This requires spiritual perception. We have to stop looking at our circumstances with natural eyes and start looking with spiritual eyes. Trust that God is making a way for you this week, even if you can't see the construction crew yet.

Prayer: *Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see the new thing You are doing in my life.*



Tuesday | March 24

Scripture: *Psalm 126:5*

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Reflection:

Sometimes, obedience hurts. Giving—whether it's our money, our time, or our forgiveness—can feel like a loss in the moment. It can feel like "sowing with tears." But God promises a harvest. The seed that leaves your hand never leaves your life; it goes into God's future to multiply. Your tears are watering the soil of a future joy. If this season of sacrifice feels difficult, take heart. The harvest is coming. Keep sowing.

Prayer: *Lord, I sow my offering and my obedience in faith, trusting You for the joyful harvest.*



Wednesday | March 25

Scripture: *Philippians 3:13-14*

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind
and straining toward what is ahead, I press on
toward the goal...

Reflection:

You cannot run a race looking backward. Paul says "one thing I do"—he forgets. This is a holy amnesia. It means refusing to let the past define the future. What do you need to forget today? The mistake you made last year? The hurt someone caused you? Leave it behind. There is a prize ahead. Press forward with focus and determination. The finish line is closer than you think.

Prayer: *I let go of yesterday. I set my face like flint toward the call of God.*



Thursday | March 26

Scripture: *John 12:7-8*

“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial... you will not always have me.”

Reflection:

Jesus defends Mary’s extravagant worship. He highlights the timing—there are windows of opportunity to bless God that, once closed, do not reopen in the same way. This season of Lent is one of those windows. It is a unique time to pour out our love on Jesus. Don't let the voices of practicality or criticism stop you. Seize the moment to worship Him while you can.

Prayer: *Lord, defend me when I take risks for You. Let my life be a timely offering.*



Friday | March 27

Scripture: *Philippians 3:8*

What is more, I consider everything a loss
because of the surpassing worth of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord...

Reflection:

Paul looked at his impressive resume and called it "loss" compared to knowing Jesus. Sacrifice isn't about losing; it's about trading up. We give up the lesser to gain the Greater. When we understand the "surpassing worth" of Jesus, generosity becomes easy. It's not a duty; it's a delight. He is the Treasure in the field worth selling everything to possess.

Prayer: *You are my greatest gain. Help me to value You above all earthly things.*



Saturday | March 28

Scripture: *Psalm 126:3*

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Reflection:

As we stand on the brink of Holy Week, we pause to look back. Despite the struggles, despite the wilderness, the Lord has done great things. We are still here. We are still standing. That alone is a reason for joy. Let this gratitude fuel your worship tomorrow. Enter the house of the Lord not with a list of complaints, but with a testimony of His faithfulness.

Prayer: *Thank You for every victory, large and small. My heart is full of praise.*



HOLY WEEK: THE ROAD TO VICTORY

Weekly Focus: The Passion & The Cross

Palm Sunday | March 29

Scripture: *Luke 19:38*

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Reflection:

The crowd shouted "Hosanna," expecting a political conqueror. But Jesus came to solve their ultimate problem: sin and death. He rode in on a donkey, a beast of peace, signaling a different kind of Kingdom. Today, we welcome Him not just as a fixer of our circumstances, but as the King of our hearts. Let us lay down our own agendas like palm branches and submit to His rule.

Sacrificial Step: Today marks the beginning of the holiest week of the year. Commit to walking closely with Jesus each day.

Monday | March 30

Scripture: *Isaiah 42:1-3*

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

Reflection:

Jesus is powerful, yet incredibly gentle. He handles bruised people with care. If you feel like a "bruised reed" today—damaged by life or fragile—know that He will not discard you. He knows how to mend the broken without breaking them further. He knows how to fan a dying flame back into a fire. Trust your fragility to His gentle hands this week.

Prayer: *Heal my bruises, Lord. Fan the flame of my faith back to life.*



Tuesday | March 31

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 1:18*

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

Reflection:

The cross makes no sense to the world. A dying God? It looks like defeat. But God flips the script. What looks like foolishness is actually the wisdom of God. What looks like weakness is actually the power of God. As we approach Good Friday, remember that God's methods are often paradoxical. He uses the weak to shame the strong. He uses a cross to bring a crown. Trust His wisdom, even when it doesn't make sense.

Prayer: *Lord, I trust Your wisdom over the world's wisdom.*



Wednesday | April 1

Scripture: *Luke 22:3-4*

Then Satan entered Judas... And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard how he might betray Jesus.

Reflection:

This is often called "Spy Wednesday," the day the betrayal was set in motion. It's a sobering reminder that it is possible to walk with Jesus and still harbor darkness in our hearts. Judas allowed greed to open a door to the enemy. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Is there any area where you are "selling out" your integrity for a temporary gain? Close the door.

Prayer: *Search me, O God. Root out any seeds of betrayal in my heart.*



Maundy Thursday | April 2

Scripture: *John 13:14-15*

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."

Reflection:

On His final night, Jesus didn't ask for a throne; He asked for a towel. He washed the feet of the disciples—including the feet of Judas. This is the mandate of the New Covenant: love one another as I have loved you. Service is the highest form of leadership. As we remember the Last Supper tonight, let us come to the table with humility, ready to serve rather than be served.

Prayer: *Lord, give me a servant's heart. Help me to wash the feet of those around me.*



Good Friday | April 3

Scripture: *Luke 23:46*

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Reflection:

The sky went dark. The curtain tore. The Son of God died. It is the most somber day in history, yet we call it "Good." It is good because in that moment, the debt of sin that we owed was paid in full. There is no more sacrifice left to make for sin. It is finished. Sit in the quiet today. Feel the weight of the cost. He did this for you.

Prayer: *Thank You for the Cross. Thank You for paying a debt I could never pay.*



Holy Saturday | April 4

Scripture: *Psalm 31:24*

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

Reflection:

Saturday is the day of silence. The body of Jesus lay in the tomb. The disciples were hiding in fear. It looked like it was all over. But God was working in the dark. This is the "in-between" day—the day between death and life. If you are in a season of silence where God seems dead or absent, hold on. Sunday is coming. The story isn't over yet.

Prayer: *I wait for You, Lord. I trust that You are working even in the silence.*



RESURRECTION SUNDAY: HE IS RISEN!

Date: Sunday, April 5, 2026

Scripture: *Luke 24:5b-6a*

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”

Reflection:

The tomb is empty! The stone is rolled away! The darkness has not overcome the light. Today, we celebrate not just a historical event, but a living reality. Because He lives, we can face tomorrow. Because He lives, our "sacrifices" are not losses—they are investments in an eternal Kingdom.

A Final Word on our Offering:

Today, as we present our **Resurrection Sunday Sacrificial Offering**, we do it with joy. We don't give to a dead hero; we give to a living King! We sow into the future of Friendship Community Church because we know the victory has already been won.

Prayer:

Risen Savior, You have won the victory! I give You my life, my trust, and my offering today. Use it to spread the Good News that YOU ARE ALIVE. Hallelujah! Amen.

THE WALK

A Journey of Sacrificial Love

The Walk: A Journey of Sacrificial Love invites you into a forty-day pilgrimage from the wilderness to the Cross and from the Cross to the empty tomb.

Through daily Scripture, reflection, prayer, and intentional sacrificial steps, this devotional guides you to slow down, return to God, and realign your heart with His will. As we journey together toward Resurrection Sunday, may this season deepen your faith, strengthen your obedience, and remind you that sacrificial love always leads to victory.

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