

# Lent 2012

## Gospel Reading Plan

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

### March

|                          |                    |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wednesday, Feb. 22 | Matthew 1-2                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thursday, Feb. 23  | Matthew 3-4                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday, Feb. 24    | Matthew 5-7                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday, Feb. 25  | Matthew 8-9                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunday, Feb. 26    | Catch-up, meditation,<br>memory verse selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Monday, Feb. 27    | Matthew 10-11                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tuesday, Feb. 28   | Matthew 12-13                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wednesday, Feb. 29 | Matthew 14-16                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thursday, Mar. 1   | Matthew 17-18                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday, Mar. 2     | Matthew 19-20                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday, Mar. 3   | Matthew 21-22                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunday, Mar. 4     | Catch-up, meditation,<br>memory verse selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Monday, Mar. 5     | Matthew 23-25                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tuesday, Mar. 6    | Matthew 26-28                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wednesday, Mar. 7  | Mark 1-2  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thursday, Mar. 8   | Mark 3-4  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday, Mar. 9     | Mark 5-6  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday, Mar. 10  | Mark 7-8  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunday, Mar. 11    | Catch-up, meditation,<br>memory verse selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Monday, Mar. 12    | Mark 9-10                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tuesday, Mar. 13   | Mark 11-12                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wednesday, Mar. 14 | Mark 13-14                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thursday, Mar. 15  | Mark 15-16                                      |

### April

|                          |                    |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday, Mar. 16    | Luke 1-3  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday, Mar. 17  | Luke 4-5  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunday, Mar. 18    | Catch-up, meditation,<br>memory verse selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Monday, Mar. 19    | Luke 6-8  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tuesday, Mar. 20   | Luke 9-10                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wednesday, Mar. 21 | Luke 11-12                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thursday, Mar. 22  | Luke 13-14                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday, Mar. 23    | Luke 15-16                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday, Mar. 24  | Luke 17-18                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunday, Mar. 25    | Catch-up, meditation,<br>memory verse selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Monday, Mar. 26    | Luke 19-20                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tuesday, Mar. 27   | Luke 21-22                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wednesday, Mar. 28 | Luke 23-24                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thursday, Mar. 29  | John 1-3  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday, Mar. 30    | John 4-6  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday, Mar. 31  | John 7-9  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunday, Apr. 1     | Catch-up, meditation,<br>memory verse selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Monday, Apr. 2     | John 10-12                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tuesday, Apr. 3    | John 13-15                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wednesday, Apr. 4  | John 16-18                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Thursday, Apr. 5   | John 19-21                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday, Apr. 6     | Isaiah 53                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday, Apr. 7   | Psalm 22  |

*...when you received the word of God, which you heard from us,  
you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the  
word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.*

Psalm 145:3 (NIV)

## Must-read Bible verses for Lent and Easter

There are two chapters in the Old Testament that I think all Christians should read every Lent. It is my hope that as you review the stories of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his arrest after giving us the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, his trial, execution and resurrection; that you remember to get Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 in your reading schedule.

Written centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ, Isaiah 53 outlines the death and resurrection of God's Suffering Servant. Verses 4-5 read, "*Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*" It then goes on to say, "*He was cut off from the land of the living, and assigned a grave with the wicked.*" And yet, "the one who poured out his life unto death" is proclaimed in this prophecy of Isaiah, to be the one who will see the light of life, and that through him and his sacrifice the will of the LORD will prosper. Isaiah 53 is simply an amazing introduction to a Savior to be born centuries after Isaiah lived.

Psalm 22 is even more amazing, and is the one Jesus quoted from the cross. So often we read Jesus' cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" and wonder why the Son of God would feel this way. Was it possible for God incarnate to give up on God? But such a thought can only cross our mind if we miss a major clue Jesus gives us, a clue that comes out of the practice and prayer life of Orthodox Judaism.

Even today, at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and at other sites of religious significance, Jewish people will cry out the first line of the psalm of David that they feel defines their life. At the Wailing Wall, the foundation of the old temple, they will also write the first line of a psalm and stick it in a crack in the wall. Jesus was crucified near here. And his cry was the first line of the 22nd Psalm. That he was making the declaration that this was his personal psalm, the defining psalm of his life, comes from the clue in Matthew 27:26. Jesus cried out the first line of that psalm, not in the Hebrew in which it was written, but in his native Galilean language of Aramaic, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" The reason the authors of the Bible thought you might immediately catch this is because it is the only full sentence in scripture written in that language.

And what does Psalm 22 proclaim? That they pierced his hands and his feet, divided his garments among them and cast lots for his clothing. That he was laid in the dust of death. And yet, goes on to proclaim that God did not forsake him, and that because of this suffering servant, "all the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, even those who have gone down to the dust in death will kneel before him."

The Psalm was written over a thousand years before Jesus was born. Read it. Reflect on it. You will know why Jesus claimed it as his own. May your reflections on scripture this Lent and Easter change you! Blessings!

*Pastor David*

# Lent 2012

## Gospel Reading Plan

### All Four Gospels in 40 Days

This Lenten Gospel Reading Plan was inspired by a story shared in the JOY Sunday School class here at Grace Church. The class member related the story of a woman she called on many years ago, who made it a practice to read all four Gospel books during Lent each year. The class member has now followed this practice herself for many years, finding it very worthwhile.

Inside you'll find a suggested reading plan to cover all four Gospel books during the season of Lent. While it may sound like a daunting task, this can actually be accomplished by reading just two or three chapters daily for the 40 days of Lent (February 22 - April 7, excluding Sundays).

Two additional scriptures are included for Holy Week – Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. Pastor David Schrader provides an explanation on the back page regarding the significance of these passages.

With this plan, Sundays are reserved to catch up on readings you may have missed during the week, or to spend time meditating on a passage that captured your attention in the week's readings. Another suggestion for Sundays is to write out a new favorite verse you read during the week, and work on committing it to memory in the week ahead.

Most important, don't get discouraged if you fall behind and it takes an extra few days or weeks to get through the reading. Feel free to personalize the plan and make it work for you. Regardless of how you approach it, may it be a spiritually enriching experience and help you grow closer to Christ!

*Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.*  
(Luke 24:45)

