

LENTEN  
POSTCARDS

---

DAILY DEVOTIONS

INSPIRED BY

*The* BOOK *of*

Common Prayer



THE FOUNDRY  
PUBLISHING

# CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Lent 1: Ash Wednesday	7
Lent 2: Thursday	10
Lent 3: Friday	13
Lent 4: Saturday	16
Lent 5: First Sunday in Lent	19
Lent 6: Monday	22
Lent 7: Tuesday	25
Lent 8: Wednesday	28
Lent 9: Thursday	31
Lent 10: Friday	34
Lent 11: Saturday	38
Lent 12: Second Sunday in Lent	41
Lent 13: Monday	44
Lent 14: Tuesday	47
Lent 15: Wednesday	50
Lent 16: Thursday	53
Lent 17: Friday	56
Lent 18: Saturday	59
Lent 19: Third Sunday in Lent	63
Lent 20: Monday	66
Lent 21: Tuesday	69
Lent 22: Wednesday	72
Lent 23: Thursday	75

Lent 24: Friday	78
Lent 25: Saturday	81
Lent 26: Fourth Sunday in Lent	85
Lent 27: Monday	88
Lent 28: Tuesday	91
Lent 29: Wednesday	94
Lent 30: Thursday	98
Lent 31: Friday	101
Lent 32: Saturday	104
Lent 33: Fifth Sunday in Lent	107
Lent 34: Monday	110
Lent 35: Tuesday	113
Lent 36: Wednesday	117
Lent 37: Thursday	121
Lent 38: Friday	124
Lent 39: Saturday	127
Lent 40: Palm Sunday/Sixth Sunday in Lent	130
Lent 41: Monday of Holy Week	133
Lent 42: Tuesday of Holy Week	136
Lent 43: Wednesday of Holy Week	139
Lent 44: Maundy Thursday	143
Lent 45: Good Friday	147
Lent 46: Holy Saturday	150
Easter Sunday	153
About the Authors	157

---

# ASH WEDNESDAY

---

LENT 01

*AM Psalms: 95, 32, 143*

*PM Psalms: 102, 130*

*Amos 5:6–15*

*Luke 18:9–14*

*Hebrews 12:1–14*

We were only months into our very first pastoral assignment when, as a result of a habit I had quickly formed, I was reading the newspaper during our morning breakfast. Suddenly and without warning, the newspaper exploded from my hands and fell to the floor. I found myself staring into the blazing eyes of my beautiful wife. “*TALK* to me!” she said, with emphasis.

After my first startled reaction, I began to realize that in my zeal to stay informed, be relevant in my preaching and leadership, and in my desire to see what people were saying and thinking and doing in the world around us, I was neglecting to communicate with the one person most important to me in my life. Fifty-five years later, I still recall those piercing eyes.

“Seek the LORD,” said Amos to Israel. “You are preoccupied with your own agendas, running here and there in your vain attempts at wor-

ship, and still withholding justice from the poor, lying to preserve your advantage over others, and ignoring the cries of God trying to get your attention.”

There is certainly enough noise to hold our attention in this world. The urgent voices of newscasters, the angry accusations and recriminations of politicians and government leaders, contentious cultural relationships, and even the tensions at work in many of our churches—all make a claim on our emotions, our attention, and our spiritual well-being. Much like the Pharisee in the parable Jesus told in Luke 18, it is an easy step into utter blindness in our spiritual journey.

Lent is our wake-up call. This is a season for serious and sustained attention to our need for honest self-examination, piercing honesty with God, and humble contrition. It is a risky step to read Psalm 51 and assure ourselves that we are not like King David. While we may have avoided the devastation of a public moral failure, we must not miss the painful reality that our world would be much different if followers of Jesus Christ were actually more like Jesus. If we were focused less on our own personal preferences, our self-absorption, and our easy criticism of those not like us, we might find ourselves on our faces, acknowledging our own spiritual emptiness. This is the Lenten journey.

In this season, we are invited to face our mortality, and it is a mercy. This reminder is the gift of Lent. We are reminded that we are powerless to save ourselves. This realization moves us to repentance as we acknowledge our desperate need for a Savior, and to worship as we are reminded of God’s provision for us in Jesus. As we take this forty-six-day journey with Jesus toward the cross, let’s embrace our own mortality. Let’s humbly acknowledge that the sufferings of Christ were for us. And let’s heed the gracious invitation of Lent to enter into an intimate encounter with Jesus on this journey toward Jerusalem. He is trying to get your attention. Are you listening?

—JCM

## REFLECTION & PRACTICE

- 01 As you begin this Lenten journey, do an honest inventory of your life. In what ways might you be preoccupied with your own agenda and missing what God wants to do in and through you?

- 02 As in the Amos passage, preoccupation with our own agendas can lead us to self-serving habits that ultimately do damage to the weak among us. In a similar way, David's preoccupation with his own desires led to the abusive treatment of Bathsheba and murder of her husband. In what ways might unhealthy, self-centered patterns in your life be hurting those around you?
- 03 Lent is a season in which we set aside good things (or morally neutral things) to make space for better things. Do you find yourself turning to specific habits for comfort or affirmation? What might it look like to set aside those habits and allow yourself to feel your need for Christ?
- 04 In addition to setting aside certain habits, we are encouraged to take up new habits that draw our attention off ourselves and fix it on Jesus. Works of mercy and practical expressions of compassion and justice help us direct energy that was formerly devoted to pursuing our own agendas into serving others. How might you intentionally seek out opportunities to embody compassion and justice this Lenten season?

## PRAYER

*Lord, as we journey to the cross with you this Lenten season, we confess that we are often consumed by our own agendas. We fail to love you with our whole hearts and others as ourselves. We acknowledge our inability to save ourselves and invite you once again to reorient us rightly. We repent of our self-serving habits and give your Spirit full permission to convict us of any patterns or practices that are drawing our hearts away from you. Open our eyes to ways we might serve others selflessly in compassion and justice for the sake of your coming kingdom. Thank you for making a way for us through your Son, and thank you for giving us the gift of your Spirit, who empowers us to obey.*