



**LENT DEVOTIONAL 2025**





### *The Challenge:*

This Lent, we are inviting everyone at Trinity to read the Gospel of Luke.

### *Sabbath Time:*

Set aside 20 minutes (or whatever time you can) each day to spend time with God.

### *Daily Read:*

One chapter a day. Intermixed in these readings from Luke are chapters from other parts of Scripture that relate to Luke's Gospel.

### *Journal:*

Reflect in a journal on the questions posed after each reading. If the questions aren't helpful, feel free to write your own thoughts or questions about what you've read.

### *Pray:*

Spend some time in free prayer taking your concerns or thanksgivings to God.

### *Community:*

For those who desire to discuss Scripture in community, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at noon on Mondays during Lent. Feel free to bring your lunch as we informally discuss the previous week's Scripture.

## *Day 1: Read Luke 1*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Mary praises God, celebrating with song all God has done for her. For what do you praise God? Write your own song of praise.

Pick a verse from Zechariah's prophecy that stands out to you (v.67-79). Reflect on what this verse means.

## *Day 2: Read Luke 2*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Jesus was born in a manger. What does this tell us about God?

Anna and Simeon experience joy when they meet Jesus. Write about a time when God brought joy into your life.

## *Day 3: Read Luke 3*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

In baptism, we are claimed as children of God. What does it mean that you are a child of God?

If John was preaching to North Iowa, in what ways might he call us to repent?

## *Day 4: Read Isaiah 40- A Way in the Wilderness*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Pick two images from this passage. Reflect on what these verses reveal to us about God's character.

Isaiah 40 was written to a people in exile who God was bringing back home. What words of freedom does Jesus bring?

### *Day 5: Read Luke 4*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

What sustains you in difficult times or in wilderness seasons of life?

Do you ever feel like you push Jesus away? Explore that thought.

### *Day 6: Read Isaiah 61- The Spirit of Lord is Upon Me*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

What good news is proclaimed in this passage?

How can your life of faith embody the good news Isaiah and Jesus proclaim in this chapter?

### *Day 7: Read 1 Kings 17- The Widow at Zarephath*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

Zarephath is in a foreign country. After reading the story of Elijah's miracles with the widow and her son, why do you think the people in Jesus' day got so angry at him for referencing this story?

In what ways does God continue to feed you day after day?

### *Day 8: Luke 5*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

"Your sins are forgiven" (5:23). How does this promise from Jesus bring freedom to you?

What do you think the disciples thought as they saw Jesus cleanse the leper and heal the paralyzed man?

## *Day 9: Luke 6*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Reflect on Jesus' teaching to love your enemies. What clarifying questions might you ask Jesus about how to love enemies?

What beliefs in your life are foundational (most important to you)?

## *Day 10: 1 Samuel 21:1-9- David Eats Holy Bread to Survive*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

In what ways do you practice Sabbath- time for rest and connecting with God?

In what ways might you fight hunger in our community?

## *Day 11: Luke 7*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

When is a time you experienced healing? Is there a time you longed for healing, but it didn't come in the way you hoped? How might you hold these experiences in tension?

John the Baptist and his disciples seem to have a moment of doubt about Jesus. How has doubt or questioning been a part of your faith journey?

## *Day 12: Read Luke 8*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Many women were disciples of Jesus. Who are important women who have shaped your faith journey and how did they impact you? (Bonus: Thank them with a note or a text).

How are you a light that points to Christ?

*Day 13: Read 1 Corinthians 12- The Family of God*

**Questions for Reflection:**

What does it mean to you to be a part of Jesus' family?

What unites the body of Christ?

*Day 14: Read Luke 9*

**Questions for Reflection:**

How does Jesus define greatness?

Have you had a 'mountain-top' faith moment when you experienced God in a powerful way? Write about it.

*Day 15: Read Exodus 16- God Provides Food in the Wilderness*

**Questions for Reflection:**

How does God provide for you each day?

Manna that was hoarded became rotten. How might this apply to the resources God provides today?

*Day 16: Read Exodus 34- Moses on the Mountain*

**Questions for Reflection:**

A deep concern of the 2nd Sinai Covenant is rejecting worship of idols and false gods. What idols are most often worshipped in our own time?

Moses' face shines from being in the presence of God. If you could spend an hour with God on the mountain, what would you talk about?

*Day 17: Read Luke 10*

**Questions for Reflection:**

How would you react if Jesus sent you on a mission without any money and limited provisions? Why do you think Jesus sent the 72 in this way?

Who is your neighbor?

*Day 18: Read Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19:18- The Heart of God's Law*

**Questions for Reflection:**

How do you love God?

How do you love your neighbor?

*Day 19: Read Luke 11*

**Questions for Reflection:**

Jesus' prays, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." What aspects of God's kingdom are you most eager to see today in the world?

Jesus refers to God as 'Father.' What names/titles help you connect most with God?

*Day 20: Read Jonah 3-4*

**Questions for Reflection:**

Why is Jonah angry with God? Do you think you'd also be angry with God? Why or why not?

What does the mercy God shows Nineveh (Israel's enemy) say about God's character?

*Day 21: Read Luke 12*

**Questions for Reflection:**

Respond to Jesus' teaching about worry. How do you react to what Jesus has to say?

In what ways can possessions get in the way of your faith life?

*Day 22: Read 1 Kings 10- Solomon in all his Glory*

**Questions for Reflection:**

After reading about Solomon's great wealth, what do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." (Luke 12:27)?

What is the difference between Solomon's treasure and "unfailing treasure in heaven" (Luke 12:33)?

*Day 23: Read Luke 13*

**Questions for Reflection:**

What is the fertilizer to your spiritual life? What helps you grow?

What does Jesus mean when he says, "some are last will be first, and some are first who will be last (Luke 13:30)?

*Day 24: Read Luke 14*

**Questions for Reflection:**

What does it mean to you to take up your cross and follow Jesus (Luke 14:27)?

Like the dinner guests, what excuses might we make to reject Jesus' invitation to follow him?



*Day 25: Read Luke 15*

**Questions for Reflection:**

With which character in the Prodigal Son Parable do you most connect? Why?

What hope do these parables bring?

*Day 26: Read Psalm 23- The Lord is my Shepherd*

**Questions for Reflection:**

Which verse of this psalm is most meaningful to you? Why?

Write your own version of this psalm, describing how God is your shepherd.

*Day 27: Read Luke 16*

**Questions for Reflection:**

We are over halfway finished with Luke's biography of Jesus. Have any of Jesus' teachings or actions surprised or challenged you?

What do you think is the main point of the parable of Lazarus and the rich man?

*Day 28: Luke 17*

**Questions for Reflection:**

Why do you think Jesus tells so many stories about Samaritans (a group Israelites held prejudice against)?

What are 5 things for which you are thankful to Jesus? Write a prayer thanking him.

*Day 29: Read Genesis 8:1-19- In the Days of Noah*

**Questions for Reflection:**

What does it mean to have a God who remembers us in our crises/trials?

Do you believe that God's saving action is only for humans or all of creation? How might God gathering animals on the ark inform this answer?

*Day 30: Read Luke 18*

**Questions for Reflection:**

What do you think Jesus means when he says to "pray always and not to lose heart" (18:1)?

The Rich Ruler is another parable about money. Why do you think Jesus tells so many stories about money?

*Day 31: Read Exodus 20- You Know the Commandments*

**Questions for Reflection:**

Which commandments are most difficult to keep? Why?

What motivates you to keep the 10 Commandments?

*Day 32: Read Luke 19*

**Questions for Reflection:**

What makes Jesus weep today?

What do you think caused Zacchaeus to change his ways?

### *Day 33: Read 1 Kings 1- A Royal Ride*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

Jesus' ride on a donkey mimics Solomon's ride on David's mule to claim the crown. What does it mean to claim Jesus is King in a world where other powers claim our loyalty?

Why do you think the religious leaders were so threatened by Jesus' ride into Jerusalem?

### *Day 34: Read Luke 20*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

The Sadducees ask Jesus questions about resurrection. What question(s) would you ask Jesus about resurrection/life after death?

What does it mean to "give to God the things that are God's" (20:25)?

### *Day 35: Read Psalm 118- The Chief Cornerstone*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (118:24).

What are 10 things you are grateful for today?

What is the difference between Jesus being a foundational cornerstone in our life versus a picture we hang on our wall?

### *Day 36: Read Luke 21*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

Besides money, what parts of your life might you offer to God?

What is a place that is sacred to you? How would you feel if it was destroyed? In what ways do our church buildings facilitate a sacred connection to God? Do buildings ever take the place of the God we are seeking to worship?

*Day 37: Read Luke 22:1-30*

**Questions for Reflection:**

What is greatness in the eyes of Jesus?

The chief priests and scribes looked to put Jesus to death because they were afraid of the people (22:2). In what ways might fear of others, or what they think of us, cause us to do what is wrong?

*Day 38: Read Exodus 12:1-42 The Passover*

**Questions for Reflection:**

In Exodus, it is the blood of a lamb that saves the Israelites from the final plague on Egypt. In Luke, it is God's Son, Jesus, who offers his own body and blood for our salvation. Why would Jesus sacrifice his own life?

God gives the Israelites very specific directions on how to celebrate Passover as a means to remember what God has done for them. What rituals do you observe to help you remember what God has done for you?

*Day 39: Read Luke 22:31-71*

**Questions for Reflection:**

Why do you think Jesus stopped his disciples from fighting the soldiers who came to arrest him?

In his time of trial, Jesus takes his burdens to God. Write a prayer to God about a burden you are carrying.

## *Day 40: Read Daniel 7- The Son of Man*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Daniel uses images of beasts to represent empires and leaders of his day. What images most stand out to you from this passage?

The Son of Man (*one like a human being* in some translations) is given final lordship over all rulers and empires. Jesus claims this authority during his trial. What hope might this bring today, that in the end, Jesus reigns over all things?

## *Day 41: Read Luke 23*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Jesus asks God to forgive even the soldiers who put him to death. Jesus' forgiveness is for you and for all. For what might you seek forgiveness from God? Write a prayer asking for forgiveness.

Jesus tells the criminal on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise". What hope does the promise of life after death bring to your life today?

## *Day 42: Read Isaiah 53- The Suffering Servant*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

How deep is God's love for us in Jesus?

In Jesus, God experiences the fullness of human suffering. How might we be strengthened in the knowledge that God knows and is with us in our own suffering?

## *Day 43: Psalm 31- Into your Hands I Commit my Spirit*

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Quoting Psalm 118:5, Jesus' last words are, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). What hope does it bring that God holds our spirit and soul, even in death?

In what ways is God your rock and refuge?

### *Day 45: Ezekiel 37:1-14- Bones that Live Again*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

If God can bring breath and life to dry bones, what hope does that bring to you?

Who is a loved one who has died that you are most eager to connect with in heaven?

### *Day 46: Luke 24:13-53*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

Cleopas recognizes Jesus as they break bread. When do you see Jesus most clearly?

Jesus first greets his disciples, saying, “Peace be with you” (24:36). Empowered and led by Jesus, where might you bring peace to a chaotic world?

### *Day 47: Read Acts 1: The Story Continues*

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

You made it! What book of the bible might you want to read next? Suggestions: Acts, Romans, or John.

What was the experience like to read through Luke a chapter day? In what ways did your faith grow and/or was challenged?