

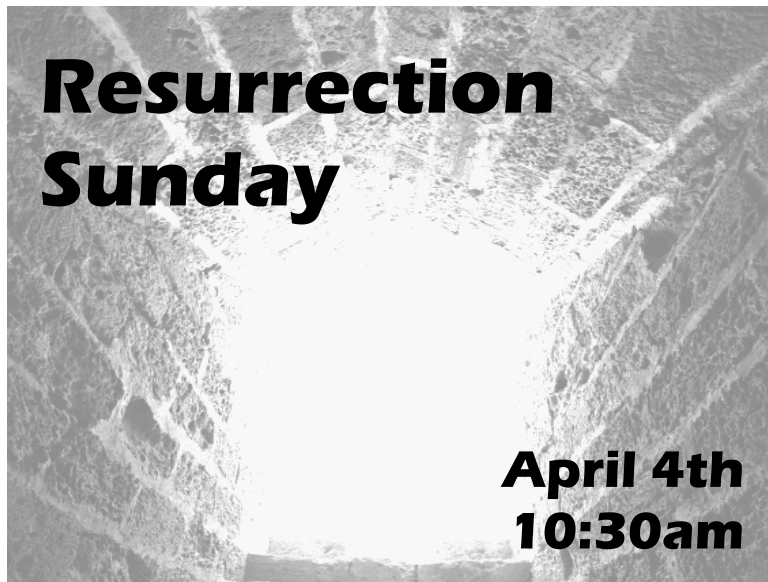
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Lent Season 2010
Willamette Community Church



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What is “Journey to the Cross”?

The Journey of Jesus

Luke 9:51 says, “*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*” Essentially Luke is saying, Jesus knew what he had to do, and he set his eyes on the cross. Amazing! Jesus knew full well what was in front of him and he resolutely set himself towards that goal. We see all through the life of Christ that Jesus was on an intentional mission, he was on an intentional journey straight to the cross. Part of the “Journey to the Cross” will be intently considering Jesus as he walked his long, troubled road to the cross.

Our Journey

Our lives are full of stories; we watch TV shows, we go to the movies, we read books. But the best stories are the ones that pull us in, the ones that show us how we are a part of the story. As a church we long, just as Jesus did, to set our faces toward the cross. Often we reach Resurrection Sunday and parachute into the story, but that’s a bit like trying to enjoy a good book when you’ve only read the final chapters. Our desire is to share with Christ in his journey. We hope you will contemplate suffering and pain and sacrifice and love in a new way. And that in the end, we would all have a new perspective when we come to the chapter called *Resurrection*.

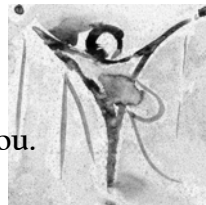
Recap of the Journey

Take some time and consider where you have been on this journey. Write down some memories from this lent season, or write down some things that you are grateful for. Make this your prayer to God.

Thursday, April 1st
Isaiah 1:15-20

Ponder the stain of your sin and how Jesus paid your debt.

Friday, April 2nd
Mark 15:33-47



Thank Jesus for taking the Journey to the Cross for you.

A Dummies Guide to Lent



- What is Lent?**
- What is Ash Wednesday?**
- What is Good Friday?**
- Do I have to fast?**
- Why should I care?**

What is Lent?

The tradition of Lent originated in the early church. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Resurrection Sunday. The Number 40 reminds us of the days that it rained while Noah was in the ark, the time that Israel wandered in the wilderness, and the days that Jesus spent in the desert after his baptism and prior to his ministry. Many people associate fasting with Lent because historically the church has encouraged some form of fasting throughout Lent. Many of you will see Lent through the lens of your experience at another church while others of you have never even heard the word. Either way, we'd love to invite you into this purposeful time of anticipating the resurrection of Christ.

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is a tradition that churches have held for many years. In the Old Testament ashes were used for two purposes: as a sign of humility and mortality; and as a sign of sorrow and repentance for sin. While this is the purpose of the ashes, it is also the purpose of the actual service. The time on Wednesday is used to contemplate not only death, but also sin. As we think about our "Journey to the Cross," Ash Wednesday has a lot of meaning. Take the illustration used earlier about reading the last few chapters of a book ... well, in many ways, contemplating our own sin and how it leads to death are the opening chapters of our story. If we don't understand our own sin and its consequence of death, we will never understand why Jesus would even

be on a journey towards his own death. So it's fitting that our 40 day Journey would start here on Ash Wednesday.

What is Good Friday?

Good Friday is the Friday before Resurrection Sunday, memorializing the day of Jesus' death on the cross. It is typically a very somber day. But just like Ash Wednesday, Good Friday is a day that reminds us of why Sunday is such a great day. There are many traditions and customs that have been passed down through the years, and we encourage you to be a part of our Good Friday evening this year.

Do I have to fast?

Traditionally, fasting and prayer have been central components to the season of Lent. Fasting is the discipline of abstaining. In a fast, the believer chooses, for a set time, to do without something that is hard to do without. When we understand and use fasting in the right way, it can open up pathways to growth that are unique. While we believe that fasting will posture you to hear from God, it should never be required or forced.

What do I fast from?

You can fast from practically anything! Most common is a fast from food. But the Bible speaks about fasting from things that are sinful, things like sexual immorality, slander, greed, etc. Whatever you choose to fast from, it should lead to a deeper intimacy with God through prayer. In its very nature, fasting can lend itself to a works oriented faith (thinking that we can somehow work our way to God). But this is not the purpose of fasting. Fasting should be a way to posture ourselves to experience the love of God more richly. The whole idea behind fasting is that when you desire what you are fasting from, you would instead turn to God in prayer.

Things you could fast from

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| Swearing | Coffee | Consumerism | Sugar |
| Internet | Alcohol | Tobacco | Movies |
| TV | Fast Food | Snacking | Envy |

Tuesday, March 30th **Matthew 18:21-32**

What is Jesus teaching about forgiveness?

Wednesday, March 31st **Romans 13:8**

Jesus paid your debt. What "debt" do you still have and what will you do about it?

Monday, March 29th
John 19:31-37, Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Consider that Jesus was under God’s curse...for you.

“Amazing Love”

I'm forgiven
because you were forsaken
I'm accepted,
You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your spirit is within me
Because you died
and rose again

Amazing love how can it be?
That you, my king,
would die for me
Amazing love I know it's true
It's my joy to honor you
In all I do
I honor you

Amazing love, how can it be?
That you, my king,
would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor you

You are my king
You are my king
Jesus, You are my king
Jesus, You are my king

Daily Reading Guide & Journal

As you read, may you encounter the Living God, consider His Heart, and consider our part in His story. And may that cause you to reflect on the goodness of Jesus and the Journey to the Cross.

Below you will find a daily reading guide and journal beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 17th) and concluding on Good Friday (April 2nd).

Below each scripture we have left some space for you to journal your thoughts. We have added questions, prayers, quotes and songs to help stimulate your time in the Word.

Wednesday, February 17th
Isaiah 53:1-5

Consider your sin and consider Jesus, the remedy for your sin.

Thursday, February 18th
Isaiah 53:6-9

Consider your sin and consider Jesus, the remedy for your sin.

Friday, February 19th
Isaiah 53:10-12

Consider your sin and consider Jesus, the remedy for your sin.

Sunday, March 28th
John 19:28-30

Jesus literally said, "the debt is paid in full."
Consider what Jesus for you.



“Jesus Messiah”

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become
His Righteousness
He humbled himself and
carried the cross
Love so amazing
Love so amazing

His body the bread
His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled
And the veil was torn
Love so amazing
Love so amazing, yeah

Jesus Messiah
Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners
The ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah
Lord of all

All our hope is in You!
All our hope is in You!
All the glory to You, God!
The light of the world!

Friday, March 26th
Matthew 25:34-40

How can you give Jesus something to drink?

Saturday, March 27th
Proverbs 25:21

Who is someone that you need to “give water to”?

Saturday, February 20th
Romans 3:9-21

What is the state of humanity and of YOU, prior to trusting in Jesus?

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
His family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride;
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives.

Sunday, February 21st
Luke 23:2-41

“Forgive them.” What might you have said if you were the one on the cross?

“Forgiven”

Well the past is playing
with my head
And failure knocks me down again
I’m reminded of the wrong
That I have said and done
And that devil just won’t
let me forget

My mistakes are running
through my mind
And I’ll relive my days,
in the middle of the night
When I struggle with my pain,
wrestle with my pride
Sometimes I feel alone, and I cry

In this life
I know what I’ve been
But here in your arms
I know what I am
I’m forgiven, I’m forgiven
And I don’t have to carry
The weight of who I’ve been
Cause I’m forgiven

When I don't fit in and I don't feel
like I belong anywhere
When I don't measure up to much
in this life
Oh, I'm a treasure
in the arms of Christ 'cause

Forgiven—Sanctus Real

“Take me to the Cross”

Savior I come Quiet my soul
Remember redemption's hill
Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom
Everything I once held dear
I count it all as lost

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Lead me, lead me to the cross

You were as I
Tempted and trialed, You are
The Word became flesh
Bore my sin and death
Now you're risen

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Lead me, lead me to the cross

- Chris and Conrad

Thursday, March 25th
Psalm 107:1-9

Praise God for His Goodness.

Tuesday, March 23rd
Psalm 42:1-2

Ponder the first part of this Psalm.

Wednesday, March 24th
John 4:1-14

In this story, what is Jesus saying?

Monday, February 22nd
Colossians 3:12-14

Why is forgiveness an important trait of a Christ follower? What other traits are you called to live out?

Tuesday, February 23rd
Ephesians 4:29-32

Look at the commands that we are to live by. What is said about forgiveness?

Wednesday, February 24th
Matthew 6:9-18

What does Jesus teach about forgiveness?



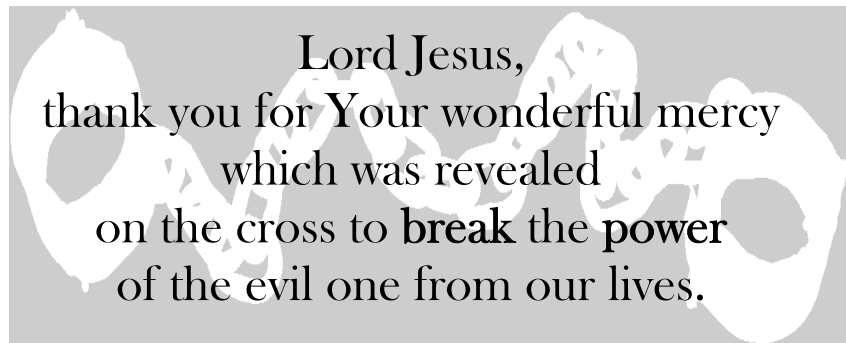
Sunday, March 21st
Matthew 5:6

What are some things you hunger and thirst for?



Monday, March 22nd
Revelation 7:16-17

Consider the greatness of an eternity with God.



Saturday, March 20th
Psalm 40:1-3

Take some time to thank God who hears your cries.

Thursday, February 25th
Matthew 18:21-35

Read this story. What application can you make for yourself?

Friday, February 26th
Psalm 32:1-11

What does it feel like to have unconfessed sin?

Saturday, February 27th
I John 1:8-10

Take some time to acknowledge to God, your sin. There is forgiveness in Jesus!

Sunday, February 28th
Luke 23:42-43 and Psalm 23:1-6

“Paradise,” with God forever. How does this Psalm speak to you?



Thursday, March 18th
Psalm 22:19-21

Consider Jesus on the cross, thinking through this Psalm.

Friday, March 19th
Psalm 22:22-31

Consider yourself standing at the cross, hearing Jesus cry out the start of this Psalm. He knows the ending of this Psalm. What do these last verses say?

Wednesday, March 17th
Psalm 22:12-18

Consider Jesus on the cross, thinking through this Psalm.

“Blessed be Your Name”

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

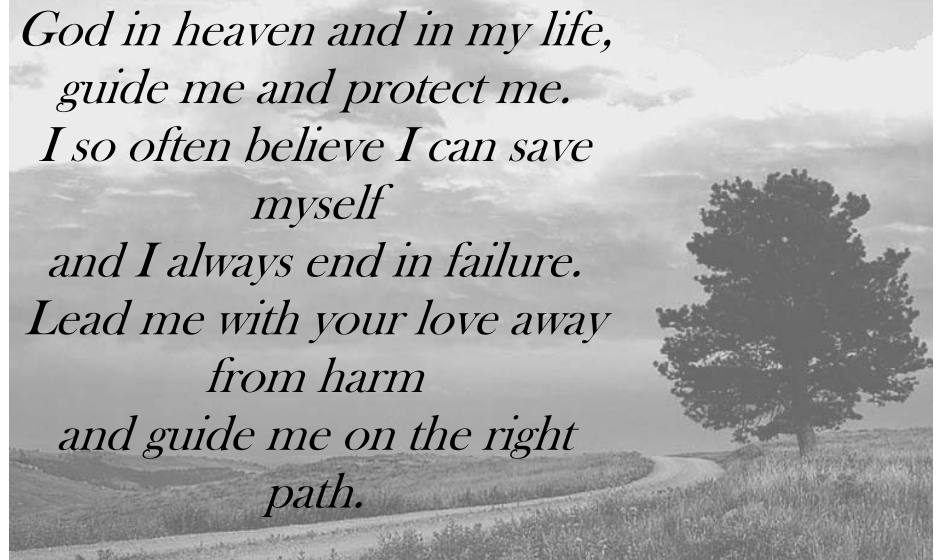
Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away, You give and take away
My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be Your name



Monday, March 1st
II Peter 3:9-13

Jesus promised paradise. What do we know about God's promises?

Tuesday, March 2nd
Philippians 3:17-21

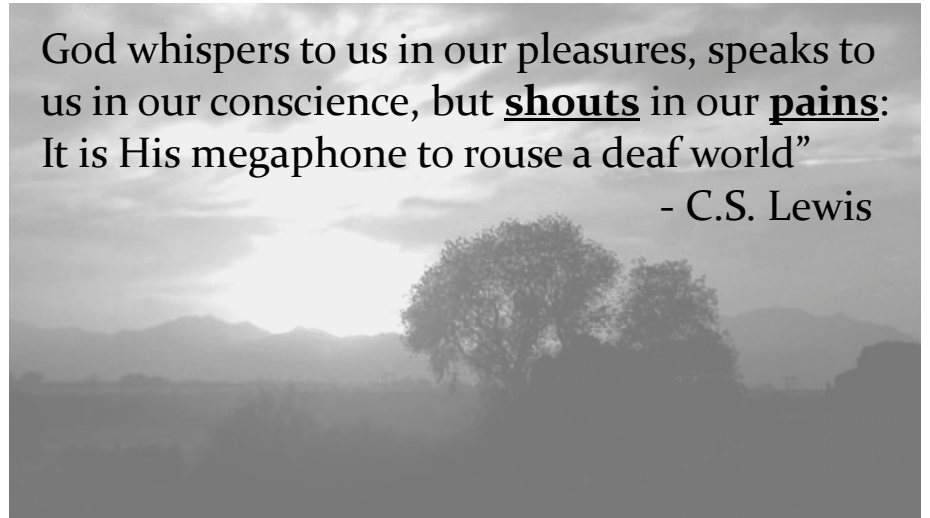
As a Christ follower, where is your home, your citizenship? Thank God for that promise.

Wednesday, March 3rd
Hebrews 8:10-12

Consider the covenant, the promise that God has made to us.

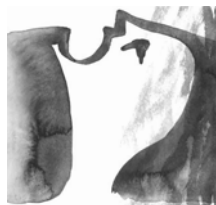
Tuesday, March 16th
Psalm 22:6-11

Consider Jesus on the cross, thinking through this Psalm.



Sunday, March 14th
Matthew 27:45-51

Thank Jesus for taking the Journey to the Cross for you.



Monday, March 15th
Psalms 22:1-5

Jesus cried out these words. Do you ever feel forsaken?

Thursday, March 4th
1 Peter 1:3-7

Compare your current sufferings to the promises of God.

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood
of Christ.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

**Friday March 5th
Revelation 21:22-27**

Consider the beauty of an eternity with God. Is your name written in the Book of Life?

“I can only imagine”

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes will see
When your face is before me
I can only imagine

I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory,
what will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you, Jesus, or
in awe of you, be still?
Will I stand in your presence or to
my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah,
will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine

I can only imagine
When that day comes
When I find myself standing in the
Son
I can only imagine
When all I will do is forever
Forever worship You
I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory,
what will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you, Jesus, or
in awe of you, be still?
Will I stand in your presence or to
my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah,
will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine

-Mercy me

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Savior, like a shepherd lead us
Much we need thy tender care
In thy pleasant pastures feed us
For our use thy folds prepare
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us, thine we are
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us, thine we are

Thou hast promised to receive us
poor and sinful though we be
Thou has mercy to relieve us
grace to cleanse and power to free
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee

We are thine, thou dost befriend us
Be the guardian of our way
Keep thy flock from sin defend us
Seek us when we go astray
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Hear thy children when we pray
Blessed Jesus, oh blessed Jesus
Hear thy children when we pray

Early let us seek thy favor
Early let us do thy will
Blessed Lord and only Savior
With thy love our bosoms fill
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Thou hast loved us, love us still
Blessed Jesus, oh blessed Jesus
Thou hast loved us, love us still

**Saturday, March 13th
Ephesians 5:15-21**

What stands out to you in this passage?

Thursday, March 11th
Ephesians 5:1-7

As members of God's family, what stands out to you?

Friday, March 12th
Ephesians 5:8-14

What pleases the Lord? What doesn't?

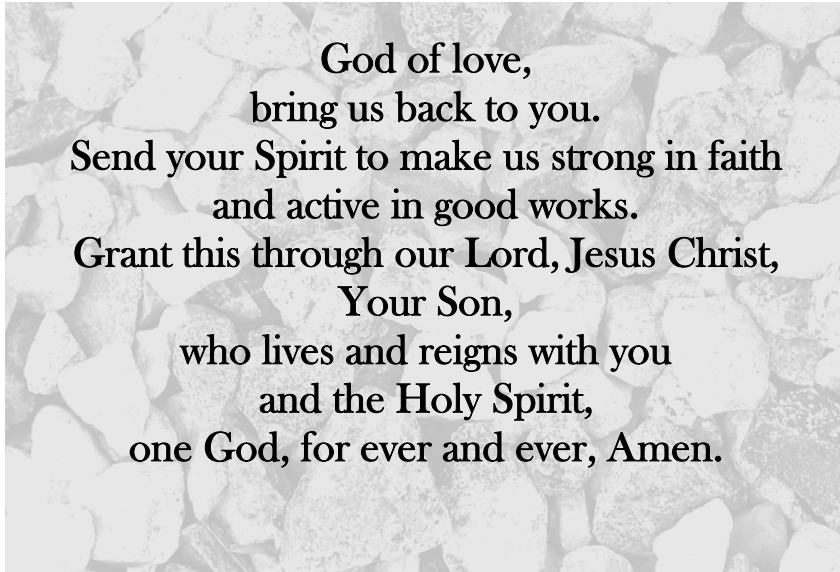
Saturday, March 6th
John 19:1-27

Read the story of Jesus being led to the cross.
What are your thoughts?

Sunday, March 7th
I Timothy 5:1-8

What strikes you in this passage about relationships?





Monday, March 8th
Ephesians 1:1-5

Praise God the Father for who He is and what He does.

Tuesday, March 9th
Ephesians 1:6-10

What are some benefits of being in God's family?

Wednesday, March 10th
Ephesians 1:11-14

Consider more benefits of being in God's family.
