

Lent 2025

Seeking the Divine Source



IT'S YOUR TURN TO REFLECT

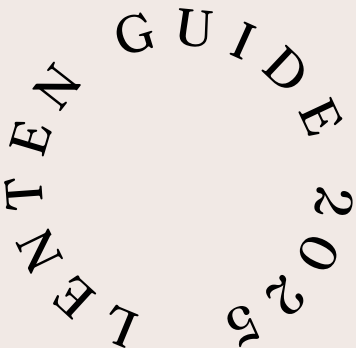
Lent is a season of repentance, a turning toward God. Repentance does not mean groveling to an angry God or professing a sense of our deepest worthlessness.

We are reminded of Luke's gospel, and particularly the story of the prodigal sons. Yes, the younger brother runs off in a fit of wanderlust. And when he's spent his money, and he's living in a pigsty, he remembers the dignity, and authenticity, and generosity of his Daddy. And he turns around. And he heads home. And when his Daddy sees him on the horizon, his Daddy sprints to enfold his boy in his arms.

A little while later, the dutiful older brother seethes in anger – his little brother is getting a party for shirking responsibility. And it seems accountability goes unrewarded in his household. And in his rage, big brother storms out of the banquet hall. And his Daddy gently calls him back: “Don't you know? All that is mine is yours!!!”

We are not u-turning into the teeth of God, exposing our flank to a zapper and a flamethrower. We are being called home to a loving source. One who yearns for us, welcomes us, and celebrates us.

Our Lenten worship will seek a return to this good source by focusing on ancient but timely rituals. We hope this devotional guide will serve as a safe space for introspection in the season ahead.



Journal & Reflections

Take time to explore your source.

Who is Our Source?

The psalmist reminds us that in the presence of the Shepherd God, we lack nothing. (Psalm 23:1). Isaiah proclaims that God is everlasting, renewing each of us in such a way as to run without weariness (Isaiah 40:31). Paul reminds us that God's love for is inseparable. (Romans 8:39). Best of all, Jesus assures us that we'll never know darkness if we believe in God's light (John 12:46).

God is our source. God is security. Provision. Strength. Consistency. Affection. Light.

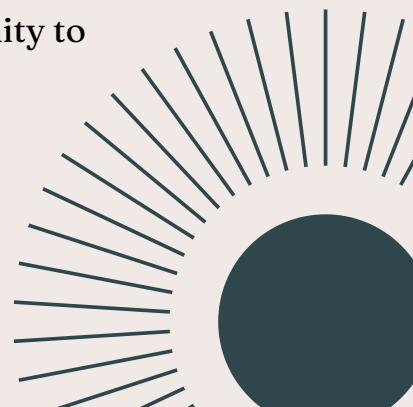
How often we fail to connect with our source! How often we seek security and affirmation beyond God.

When Jeff Bezos created Amazon Prime, his vision was to create something that would be indispensable to American life, though he framed it in a negative way. Lacking Prime would be an utter inconvenience. Ask yourself, "How much of my sense of security is invested in my access to convenience?"

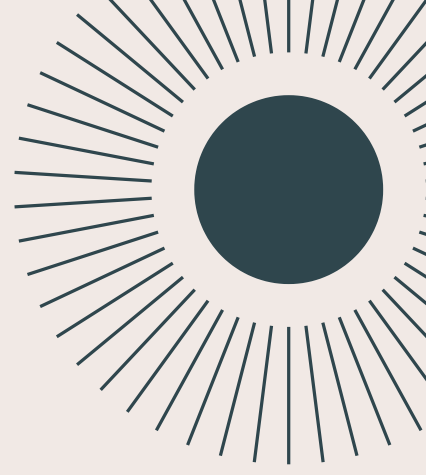
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik-Tok have created a culture whereby our self-worth and affirmation are determined by likes and views. And life is filtered. If we can just project the perfect image, all will be well.

Segmented media tells us how to feel about the world. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, the margin in the House of Representatives, the next shut-down deadline, jobs numbers, the price of eggs determine the trajectory of our lives.

We believe the upcoming Lenten season offers an opportunity to get back to our source, to pay attention and become better attuned to how God sustains our daily living.



To help us in this endeavor, we will be focusing on five ancient Christian rituals. Each Sunday, we'll reach back to our roots to reconnect with the divine source by paying extra attention to a specific liturgical component.



The Congregational Psalm

- Ancient congregations sang and spoke the psalms in community worship. How might this practice inform/remind us of God's continual goodness in the world?

Contemplative Silence

- Yes, we talk a whole lot about God every week! But where are we listening for God?

Words of Confession, Assurance, and Peace

- We bring to God our longings and shortcomings; we hear of God's love for us, no matter what. Having confessed our vulnerabilities and having been assured of God's affection, we share in Christ's peace. What might it feel like to be intentional in this three-fold process?

Eucharist

- We are together; we are attuned; we know assurance and peace – therefore we gather at the table. How might this preparation sturdy us for a world beyond our tables?

The Lord's Prayer

- We leave the table speaking the words of calling; we look to connect to our source as the scattered community. What would it really mean to bid God's kin-dom come, God's will be done?

source noun

sors

a generative force : cause

a point of origin or procurement: beginning

one that initiates: author



Psalm

Psalm 100 (MSG)

On your feet now—applaud God!

Bring a gift of laughter,

sing yourselves into his presence.

Know this: God is God, and God, God.

He made us; we didn't make him.

We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

Make yourselves at home, talking praise.

Thank him. Worship him.

For God is sheer beauty,

all-generous in love,

loyal always and ever.

[illegible]



Silence

1 Kings 19:11-13 (NRSV)

He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

notes

[illegible]



Assurance

Numbers 6:22-27 (NRSV)

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites,
and I will bless them.

notes

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a template for writing or drawing. The margins are consistent on all sides.



Eucharist

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NRSV)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

notes

[illegible]



Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (NRSV)

Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (MSG)

With a God like this loving you, you can pray

very simply. Like this:

Our Father in heaven,

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what's best—

as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving
others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

You're in charge!

You can do anything you want!

You're ablaze in beauty!

Yes. Yes. Yes.

notes

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SEASON OF LENT, 2025

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20						

- Ash Wednesday, 3/5
- Communion Fridays @ Noon, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28
- Palm Sunday Cantata, 4/13
- Maundy Thursday Communion Supper, 4/17
- Good Friday, 4/18
- Easter Sunday, 4/20

