

Praying with Scripture during the Easter Season

Praying with Scripture during Lent

Reflecting on a passage of Scripture each day allows you to encounter the Person of Jesus and to go deeper in your friendship with Him. You will come to know how much He loves you, that He is faithful and that you can trust Him. Follow the steps that are listed below.

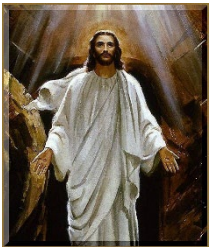
Sign of the Cross

The Sign of the Cross affirms our belief in the three Persons of the Triune God and that we are saved by Jesus' death on the cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

- (Pray together aloud when praying with others.) Jesus, please give me the grace to quiet down inside so as to become aware of Your love for me. Jesus, I want to spend this time with You. Help me to give You my full attention & to pray from my heart
- Read one Scripture passage each day, beginning with Day 1. After Day 7, start over with Day 1.
- **EXPRESS** silently your sorrow for any sins you committed, remembering that all sin offends God.
- **READ** the same Scripture a second time, silently more slowly than the first time, from the heart.
- **CHOOSE a word** or phrase from the Bible passage that stood out for you. Silently think about it, speak with God about it, (and share it aloud with those with whom you are praying.)
- **THANK** our Heavenly Father in your own words for a blessing received. (Share this aloud.)
- **ASK** the Lord for any request that is in your heart. (Share this aloud.)

Close this time of prayer with the Sign of the Cross



Day 1: Jesus' Resurrection

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. Early on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" Looking up, they saw that the very large stone had been rolled back. Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. He said, "Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. Go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you." They fled from the tomb, for astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (*Mark 16: 1-8*) *What stood out?*

Day 2: Tale of the Guards and Chief Priests

Some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. When they had

assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. (*Mt. 28: 11-15*)

Day 3: As Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him, "Teacher." Jesus said, "Do not cling to Me, for I have



not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that He had said these things to her. (*John 20: 11-18*) *What stood out?*

Day 4: Two of them were going to Emmaus. As they discussed the things that had happened, Jesus drew near and went with them. Their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. He said, "What is this conversation you are holding?" In distress, Cleopas answered Him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a Man who was mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers crucified Him. We had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. It is now the third day since these things happened. Some women of our company were at the tomb, and when they did not find His body, they came back saying that they had seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. Some went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see." He said, "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if He were going farther, but they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening." So He stayed with them. When He was at table, He took the bread, pronounced the blessing and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?" (*Luke 24: 13-33*) *What stood out?*

Day 5 Jesus appeared again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. Peter said, "I am going fishing." Thomas, Nathanael, and two others said, "We will go with you." That night they caught nothing. As day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. He said, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." He said, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they

cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard it was the Lord, he dove into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. When they got out on land they saw a fire, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish." So Peter hauled the full net ashore, 153 large fish and the net was not torn. Jesus said, "Come and have breakfast." They knew it was the Lord. Jesus took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" Peter said, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love you." He said, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" Peter responded, "Lord, you know everything; You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. (*John 21:1-19*) *What stood out?*

Day 6 Jesus' Ascension Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into Heaven. They worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. (*Luke 24: 50-53*) *What stood out? Why?*

Day 7 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were together in one place. Suddenly there came from Heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house. Divided tongues as of fire rested on them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under Heaven. At this sound they gathered in a large crowd together, and they were confused, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 2: 1-6, 38*)

