



Scripture Devotional

Ash Wed – 1st Sun after Trinity

About the Season of Lent

The term “lent” comes from an old English word meaning “spring” (similar to *lengthen* – as in the daylight hours are getting longer each day). In church language it refers to the forty *weekdays* before Easter: As Jesus fasted forty days in the wilderness before embarking on his ministry, so Christians have long undertaken a forty-day preparation for the Easter celebration.

The services and traditions of Lent are a time-honored way to help us more fully appreciate the significance of Jesus’ sacrifice and truly rejoice in his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

At the beginning of Lent we are called to undergo a period of **self examination** – asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to us areas of our lives where we have fallen short of God's perfect will. The first day of Lent, “Ash Wednesday,” gains its name from the ashes Christians receive on their foreheads as a sign of penitence.

In our Anglican tradition, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are specifically set aside as **fast** days, and all the weekdays of Lent as days “on which the church requires such a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion” (*1928 Book of Common Prayer*, p. li). We are all encouraged to make some sacrifice for the Lord during this season (“giving up something for Lent”).

This serves as a small reminder of what Jesus did for us—not a way to “earn his favor,” but a tool to help us more fully appreciate his grace.

Lent is also a time when Christians have generally sought to undertake additional **acts of charity** and **religious devotion**. You are encouraged to set aside additional time this season for Bible reading, prayers, attending services and serving others. Perhaps a routine you start this year to draw nearer to God can be one that you will continue and benefit from the rest of your life.

*Call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you...
When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you,
says the LORD.* (Jeremiah 29.12-14a)



Prayer for the Lenten Season

Almighty and eternal God, you who hate nothing that you have made, and who forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ash Wed Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 *Return to the LORD*
Thu Isaiah 58 *True and False Fasting*
Fri Matthew 6.1-24 *Prayer, Fasting & Priorities*
Sat Psalm 51 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Prayer for the First Sunday in Lent

Lord Jesus Christ, you who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights: Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may always obey your godly discipline in righteousness and true holiness, to the honor and glory of your Name; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



Sun Matthew 4.1-11 *The Temptation of Jesus*
Mon Hebrews 12.1-17 *Do Not Grow Weary*
Tue Genesis 3 *The Fall*
Wed Genesis 15 *God's Promise to Abraham*
Thu Exodus 12.1-14 *The Passover*
Fri Exodus 14.10-15.1 *The Red Sea Deliverance*
Sat Exodus 20.1-21 *The Ten Commandments*



Prayer for the Second Sunday in Lent

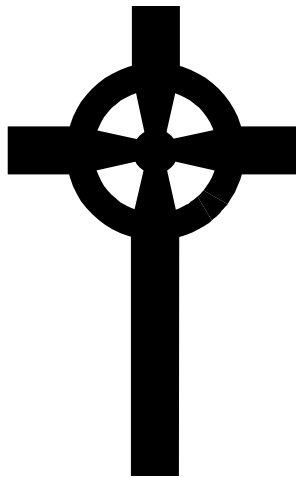
Almighty God, you who see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, so that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sun Deuteronomy 8 *Remember the Lord Your God*
Mon Joshua 24.14-28 *Choose Whom You Will Serve*
Tue Lamentations 1 *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*
Wed Lamentations 2 ”
Thu Lamentations 3 ”
Fri Lamentations 4 ”
Sat Lamentations 5 ”

Prayer for the Third Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, consider the sincere desires of your humble servants, we humbly pray, and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sun	Ezekiel 37.1-14	<i>The Valley of Dry Bones</i>
Mon	Jeremiah 31.31-34	<i>The New Covenant</i>
Tue	Isaiah 42.1-9	<i>The Servant Songs of Isaiah</i>
Wed	Isaiah 49.1-7	”
Thu	Isaiah 50.4-10	”
Fri	Isaiah 52.13-53.12	”
Sat	Psalm 22	<i>Why Have You Forsaken Me?</i>



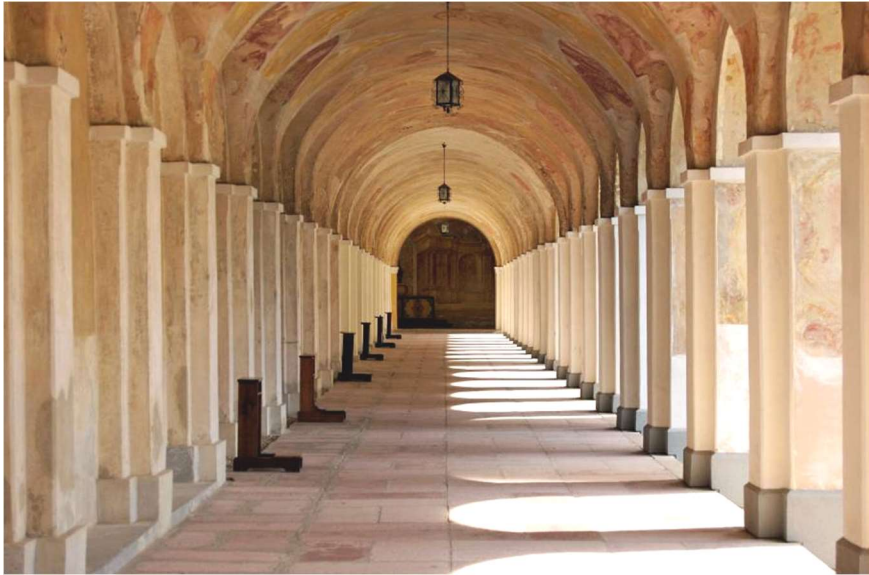
Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, grant, we humbly pray, that we, who deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, may by your grace and mercy be spared; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sun	Job 19.21-27a	<i>My Redeemer Lives</i>
Mon	Psalm 42	<i>Why Are You Cast down, O My Soul?</i>
Tue	Zephaniah 3.11-20	<i>Israel's Joy and Restoration</i>
Wed	Luke 10.25-37	<i>The Good Samaritan</i>
Thu	Luke 15.11-32	<i>The Prodigal Son</i>
Fri	Luke 16.19-31	<i>The Rich Man and Lazarus</i>
Sat	Luke 18.10-14	<i>The Pharisee and Tax Collector</i>

Prayer for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, look mercifully, we humbly pray, upon your people, so that, by your great goodness, we may be always governed and preserved both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

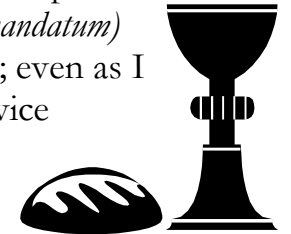


About Holy Week

As the season of Lent draws to a close and the Easter celebration approaches, the church enters into the events of the week of our Lord’s passion beginning with **Palm Sunday**. The traditional “re-enactment” begins with the reading of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a blessing of palm branches and procession into the church singing songs of praise as the disciples celebrated Jesus’ entry into the Holy City. After the procession, however, the theme of the day turns from triumphal entry to bewilderment and horror as we read of Jesus’ betrayal, conviction and death. Upon conclusion of the day’s of observance, worshippers traditionally depart the church in silence as the disciples themselves left Calvary in confusion and dismay.

As meaningful as Palm Sunday is to Christians, the heart of the Holy Week observance is during the *Triduum Sacrum* or “Three Sacred Days” of **Maundy Thursday**, **Good Friday** and **Holy Saturday**.

Thursday night’s service gains its name from the Latin word *mandatum* (“mandate” or “commandment”). On the night before he died, Jesus washed his disciple’s feet and said “A new commandment (*mandatum*) I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you” (John 13.34). This service reminds us of our Lord’s example of loving sacrifice after which we are to model our own lives.



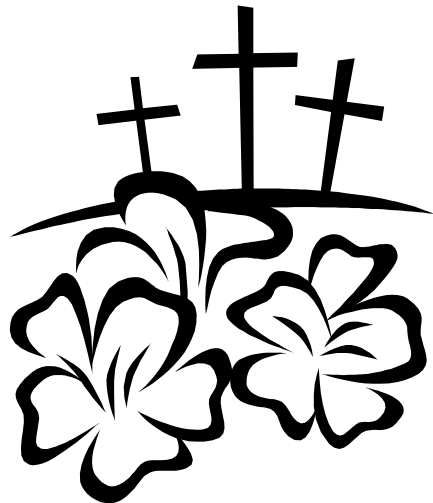
Sun	Psalm 130	<i>My Soul Waits for the LORD</i>
Mon	Psalm 103	<i>Bless the LORD, O My Soul</i>
Tue	John 3.1-21	<i>You Must be Born Again</i>
Wed	John 8.1-11	<i>The Woman Caught in Adultery</i>
Thu	John 11.17-57	<i>Jesus Raises Lazarus</i>
Fri	Matthew 23	<i>Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees</i>
Sat	Psalm 24	<i>The King of Glory</i>

The **Good Friday** observance provides a time to reflect upon our Lord’s Passion—the most painful day of his life and the “hour” for which he came (John 12.27). Ironically,

Jesus tells us not to weep for him, but for ourselves (Luke 23.28). As one priest has written: “The sorrow of repentance that leads to newness of life is the sorrow of Good Friday.” All Christians should observe this day with special devotion.

On **Holy Saturday** we commemorate the resting of Jesus’ body in the tomb. During this time we are given an opportunity to contemplate our own mortality as well as the Good News of Jesus bringing the message of salvation to all the souls who had departed this life in the centuries before his coming (1 Peter 3.18-20; 4.6).

Just as the dessert that satisfies best is taken after dinner, the Easter celebration will mean the most to those who have delved into the depths of Holy Week. Christians are encouraged not to approach the great feast casually, but with reverence, gratitude and a healthy dose of Holy Fear (Psalm 111.10, Proverbs 19.23).



Prayer for Palm Sunday

Almighty and eternal God, you who of your tender love towards the human race sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our human nature and flesh upon himself, and to suffer death upon the Cross, that we all should follow the example of his great humility: In your mercy grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

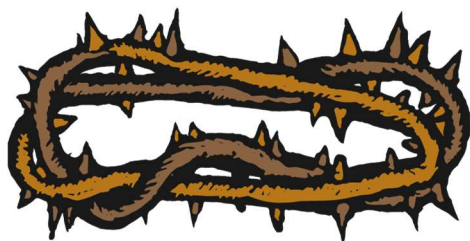


Sun	Matthew 21.1-17	<i>The Triumphal Entry</i>
Mon	John 13.1-20, 34-35	<i>Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet</i>
Tue	John 14.1-14	<i>Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life</i>
Wed	John 17	<i>Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer</i>

Prayer for Maundy Thursday

Lord Jesus Christ, you who in this wonderful Sacrament have given us a memorial of your passion: Grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood, that we may know within ourselves the fruits of your redemption; who are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Maun Thu Matthew 26.17-75 *The Last Supper and arrest*



Prayers for Good Friday

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to look on this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the Cross; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: Receive our petitions and prayers which we offer to you for the various members of your holy Church, so that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Merciful Father, you who have made all peoples, and neither hate anything that you have made nor desire the death of sinners, but rather intend that they should be

converted and live: Have mercy upon all who do not know you as you are revealed in the Gospel of your Son. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt for your Word, and bring them home to your sheepfold, so that they may all become one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Good Fri Luke 22.66-23.56 *Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial*



Prayer for Holy Saturday

Grant, Father, that we, who have been baptized into the death of your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; so that we may pass through the grave, the gate of death, to our joyful resurrection through his merits who died, was buried, and rose again for us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Holy Sat Matthew 27.62-66 *The Guard at the Tomb*

About Easter

Easter is the celebration of the founding act of the Christian faith—the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21). As such it is the most ancient and primary feast of the Church year. Because of this greatest event in world history, the sting of death has been removed for all time for those who trust in the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 15.55).



Services are marked by an abundance of joy and the ancient acclamation: “Alleluia” (Praise the Lord). You will also find in the sanctuary a “Paschal” candle symbolizing the light of Christ. The term “Pascha” denotes Easter as the Christian “Passover.”

Traditionally, the first service of **Easter** begins after Sundown on Saturday night. As Jesus rose from the dead sometime *before* sunrise on Sunday morning (John 20.1), it has been the custom of the Christian church to begin the celebration of his resurrection after sundown on Saturday night. The observance begins with a series of Old Testament lessons bringing to mind God’s promises of salvation and concluding with the first Communion of Easter.

Easter Sunday is a “floating” holiday—always the Sunday after the first full moon of Spring. As such it can occur anytime between March 22 and April 25. The season of

Easter lasts for 50 days to commemorate the time of our Lord’s appearing to his disciples following his resurrection (Acts 1.3) as well as their days of waiting with anticipation for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24.49).



Prayers for Easter Sunday

Almighty Father and ever-living God, you who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death, and opened to us the gate of eternal life: We humbly pray that, through your grace going before us, good desires will enter into our minds, and, by your continual help, we shall be enabled to bring them to right fulfillment; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Gracious God, you who make us glad with the yearly remembering of the resurrection from the dead of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we who celebrate this paschal feast may die daily unto sin, and live with him forever in the glory of his endless life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Easter Sun Mark 16 *Mark’s Resurrection Narrative*



Mon	Matthew 28.1-15	<i>Matthew's Resurrection Story</i>
Tue	Luke 24.1-49	<i>Luke's Resurrection Narrative</i>
Wed	John 20	<i>John's Resurrection Narrative</i>
Thu	John 21	”
Fri	1 Corinthians 15	<i>Paul's Resurrection Story</i>
Sat	Psalm 98	<i>Make a Joyful Noise to the LORD</i>

Prayer for the First Sunday after Easter


Almighty Father, you who gave your only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant that we may put away the old yeast of malice and wickedness in order always to serve you in sincerity and truth; through the merits of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sun	Acts 1	<i>The Ascension and a New Apostle</i>
Mon	Acts 2	<i>Pentecost and Peter's First Sermon</i>
Tue	Acts 3	<i>A Healing and Peter's 2nd Sermon</i>
Wed	Acts 4	<i>Peter and John on Trial</i>
Thu	Acts 5	<i>Signs, Wonders, Arrest and Acquittal</i>
Fri	Acts 6	<i>The First Deacons and Stephen's Arrest</i>
Sat	Acts 7	<i>Stephen's Testimony and martyrdom</i>



Prayer for the Second Sunday after Easter

Almighty Father, you who have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: Give us grace that we may always receive with thankfulness the immeasurable benefit of his sacrifice, and also try daily to follow in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sun	Acts 8	<i>Philip's Preaching and Many Conversions</i>	
Mon	Acts 9	<i>The Conversion of Saul</i>	
Tue	Acts 10	<i>Peter and Cornelius</i>	
Wed	Acts 11	<i>Peter's Report and the Church in Antioch</i>	
Thu	Acts 12	<i>James' Martyrdom and Peter's Escape</i>	
Fri	Acts 13	<i>Saul's 1st Journey (with Barnabas)</i>	
Sat	Acts 14	<i>Iconium, Lystra and Antioch</i>	

Prayer for the Third Sunday after Easter

Almighty Father, you who show the light of your truth to those in error, so that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may shun everything that is contrary to their profession, and follow whatever is in agreement with it; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sun	Acts 15	<i>The First Church Council (Jerusalem)</i>
Mon	Acts 16	<i>Paul's 2nd Journey (with Silas)</i>
Tue	Acts 17	<i>Thessalonica, Berea and Athens</i>
Wed	Acts 18	<i>Corinth and Antioch</i>

Thu	Acts 19	<i>Paul's 3rd Journey and a Riot In Ephesus</i>
Fri	Acts 20	<i>Macedonia and Greece</i>
Sat	Acts 21.1-36	<i>Paul's Return to Jerusalem and Arrest</i>

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday after Easter

Almighty Father, you who alone can order the unruly wills and emotions of sinful people: Grant unto your elect people, that they may love the thing which you command, and desire that which you promise; so that among the many and varied changes of the world, our hearts may firmly be established where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sun	Acts 21.37-22.29	<i>Paul's Testimony to the Jewish People</i>
Mon	Acts 22.30-23.35	<i>Paul is taken into Roman Custody</i>
Tue	Acts 24	<i>Testimony Before the Governor</i>
Wed	Acts 25	<i>The Appeal to Caesar</i>
Thu	Acts 26	<i>The Testimony Before the King</i>
Fri	Acts 27	<i>Paul Sets Sail and is Shipwrecked</i>
Sat	Acts 28	<i>Malta and Rome</i>

Prayer for the Fifth Sunday after Easter

Lord God, from whom all good things come: Grant to us your humble servants that, by your holy inspiration, we may think those things that are good, and, by your merciful guidance, may put them into practice; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sun	I Peter 2.11-end	<i>Submission to Authority</i>
Mon	I Peter 4.1-10	<i>Stewards of God's varied grace</i>
Tue	James 2.14-26	<i>Faith and Works</i>
Wed	James 3	<i>Taming the Tongue</i>

About the Feast of the Ascension

On the 40th day after Easter (always a Thursday) the Church commemorates Jesus' bodily **Ascension** into heaven (Acts 1.9) where he has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14.2) and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty (Matthew 26.64, Colossians 3.1, Hebrews 12.2).



Prayer for Ascension Day

Almighty Father and ever-living God, we truly believe that your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ has ascended into heaven: Grant, we pray, that we may also in heart and mind ascend there, and continually dwell with him: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Thu	Hebrews 4.14-5.10	<i>Jesus the Great High Priest</i>
Fri	Ephesians 6.10-20	<i>The Whole Armor of God</i>
Sat	I Timothy 3.1-13	<i>Qualifications for Bishops and Deacons</i>

Prayer for the Sunday after Ascension Day

Father Almighty, the King of glory, you who exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: We desire that you do not leave us desolate, but pray that you will send your Spirit to strengthen us, and to exalt us to the place to which our Savior has already gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god now and forever. *Amen.*

Sun	Isaiah 65.17-end	<i>New Heavens and a new Earth</i>
Mon	Isaiah 61	<i>The Year of the LORD's Favor</i>
Tue	John 16.7-15	<i>The Work of the Holy Spirit</i>
Wed	Ezekiel 36.22-28	<i>I will Put My Spirit within you</i>
Thu	Ezekiel 47.1-12	<i>Water Flowing from the Temple</i>
Fri	Joel 2.21-end	<i>The LORD Will Pour Out His Spirit</i>
Sat	1 Corinthians 12	<i>Spiritual Gifts</i>

About the Feast of Pentecost

The feast of **Pentecost** (Acts 2.1-13) occurs ten days after the Ascension (on Sunday). Pentecost, which is often referred to as the “Birthday of the Church,” ranks next to Easter in importance and marks the day on which our Lord fulfilled his promise to send the Holy Spirit to his followers (John 16.7). The first fruits of the infant Church’s mission to the world produced through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit are recounted in the second chapter of the book of Acts.

Prayers for Pentecost

Almighty God, you who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant that by the same Spirit we may judge all things rightly and always rejoice in his holy strengthening and protection; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

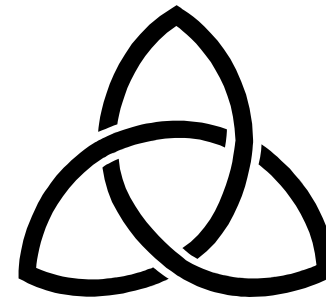
Gracious God, you who make us glad with the yearly remembering of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon your disciples in Jerusalem: Grant that we, who celebrate before you the Feast of Pentecost, may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit, until we come to your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Sun	1 Corinthians 13	<i>The Way of Love</i>
Mon	1 Corinthians 14	<i>Prophecy and Tongues</i>
Tue	Romans 8	<i>Life in the Spirit</i>
Wed	Romans 12	<i>A Living Sacrifice</i>
Thu	Galatians 5.16-26	<i>Walk by the Spirit</i>
Fri	Isaiah 6.1-8	<i>Isaiah’s Vision of the Heavenly Throne</i>
Sat	Revelation 4	<i>St. John’s Vision of the Heavenly Throne</i>

About Trinity Sunday

On **Trinity Sunday** (one week after Pentecost), we bring to a close the roughly half-year cycle where the Church rehearses the events of Jesus’ life: his birth through his death, resurrection, ascension and the giving of the Holy Spirit. On this day we celebrate that we have now been given the full revelation of God to humankind as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28.19)—one God in three persons.



Prayer for Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose gift your servants, in confessing the true Faith, acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and adore the Unity in the power of your Majesty: Grant that by steadfastness of the same Faith, we may always be defended from all adversities; through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns, with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sun	Matthew 28.16-20	<i>The Great Commission</i>
Mon	Colossians 3.1-17	<i>Put on the New Self</i>
Tue	Philippians 2.1-11	<i>Every tongue confess</i>
Wed	Matthew 5.1-16	<i>The Beatitudes</i>
Thu	Ephesians 4.1-16	<i>Unity in the Body of Christ</i>
Fri	Psalms 133	<i>When Brothers Dwell in Unity</i>
Sat	Psalms 8	<i>How Majestic is Your name</i>

Prayer for the first Sunday after Trinity

Lord God, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and, because through the weakness of our human nature we cannot do anything good without you, grant us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sun	Psalms 148, 150	<i>Praise the LORD!</i>
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