



Third Sunday in Lent, March 4, 2018

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

THOUGHT: Perseverance is not a long race. It is many short races one after the other. —Walter Elliot

It's not long after the first of the year that I realize my New Year's resolutions — adopted with the best of intentions — have fallen by the wayside. It's the first Sunday in March. What is *your* experience of the past eight weeks in terms of keeping resolutions? Following the advice of your doctor, you resolved to maintain a low sodium diet. You resolved to do the simple exercises recommended by the physical therapist. You resolved to pray more, read more and watch TV less. So how's this working for you?

We tend to start off with enthusiasm and end with a flourish. But the middle: that's the tough part. I am reminded of A.A. Milne's childhood poem about the stairway:

*Halfway down the stairs....
I'm not at the bottom
I'm not at the top.
So this is the stair
Where I always stop.*

Here we are, in the middle of Lent. The middle always seems to find me in a muddle. I can see where I have been and all too clearly, I can see the great distance I have yet to go. So, I plod forward and keep at it. I know those are the answers, and yet I would like to recapture that resolve and enthusiasm with which I started.

At a yoga class last week, our teacher closed our class with this thought: "Now is it." That is, if our hearts are filled with joy, be present to it. Enjoy it to the fullest while it is ours. If we're going through a time of grief, illness or just plain boredom, this time will not last forever. It might *feel* like an eternity — but now is it.

I thought of this when I looked at my calendar this morning: the middle of Lent! Already! Half way! The middle can be the hardest. So now is it. Now is the time to be renewed in our minds and hearts.

—Melanie Silva

Prayer: God of the past, present and future, we thank you for the gift of life and the opportunities we have to grow. When we find ourselves mired in muddles, remind us to breathe deeply of your sustaining love and abiding presence, now and always. Amen.

Activity Page for the week of March 4, 2018

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Leviticus 1-4
- Monday:** Leviticus 5-7
- Tuesday:** Leviticus 8-10
- Wednesday:** Leviticus 11-13
- Thursday:** Leviticus 14-16
- Friday:** Leviticus 17-19
- Saturday:** Psalms 22-24

Verse to Remember

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.
—Psalm 23:6*

1. thumb, hornet, earth	
2. little, leg, casserole	
3. rites, straw, word	
4. hat, elephant, knight	
5. arrest, plant, fly	
6. frame, perfect, this	
7. jacket, fever, journalism	
8. weight, tiger, mache	
9. picker, bomb, tomato	
10. ahead, line, away	
11. saucer, buttress, squirrel	
12. association, fall, born	
13. friend, scout, Friday	
14. eye, house, blower	
15. digger, dust, coast	

IN PRAISE *OF* PHRASES

Directions: Add one word to the beginning of each word in the series to create a phrase. For example, to the words **alert**, **carpet** and **herring** you could insert the word **red** to create **red alert**, **red carpet** and **red herring**. Write the word that is common to all in the space provided.

March 2018						
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	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Answers:**
1. green
 2. chicken
 3. last
 4. white
 5. house
 6. picture
 7. yellow
 8. paper
 9. cherry
 10. straight
 11. flying
 12. free
 13. girl
 14. glass
 15. gold



Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 11, 2018

Scripture Reading: John 3:14-21

THOUGHT: Surrender to what is. Let go of what was. Have faith in what will be. —Sonia Ricotti

In 1902, Adelaide A. Pollard, a hymn writer, was hoping to go to Africa as a missionary but found herself unable to raise the needed funds to make the journey.

Greatly discouraged, she attended a prayer service one evening, and, as she sat there, she overheard an elderly woman say, “It really doesn’t matter what you do with us, Lord, just have your own way with our lives.”

The elderly woman inspired Pollard, and she contemplated the story of the potter from Jeremiah 18:3, and upon her return home that evening, wrote all four stanzas before retiring for the night.

Five years later, George Stebbins wrote a tune titled “Adelaide” to accompany the text.

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will;
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o’er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit ’till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.*

My wife is a potter. She’s taught me a few things about throwing pots and getting clay centered on the wheel.

It takes a lot of strength to work with clay and get it centered properly. Clay often has a mind of its own, it seems. A potter must have strong fingers and arm strength.

God has these qualities. The arms of God are strong. They push and shape us.

The fingers of God apply the delicate touch needed to make us into something beautiful.

But we must yield to the Potter.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, the Potter, today I surrender my life to you to mold and make according to your will. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Activity Page for the week of March 11, 2018

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Leviticus 20-23
- Monday:** Leviticus 24-27
- Tuesday:** Mark 1-3
- Wednesday:** Mark 4-6
- Thursday:** Mark 7-10
- Friday:** Mark 11-13
- Saturday:** Psalms 25-28

VOW TO FIND A VOWEL!

We'll not only give you a vowel but we'll give you a lot of them. The words in this brain-cruncher have vowels in unusual arrangements. See if you can guess the words from the clues provided. Find the secret message by transferring the circled letters to the appropriate spaces. Remember that the circled letter may be a vowel.

1. Brave: ○ _ _ _ _ _ E O U _ _
2. A dark profile: _ _ _ ○ O U E _ _ _
3. Circular: ○ O U _ _
4. Running away: _ _ _ E E ○ _ _
5. Savage, fierce: _ _ _ I O U ○
6. Strange, odd: _ U A I _ ○
7. A person from the 50th state: _ _ _ A ○ I A _
8. Compress, push together: ○ _ _ U E E _ _
9. A large tree in California: ○ _ _ _ U _ I A
10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: _ ○ _ _ O E I _ _
11. Upright, moral and righteous: ○ _ _ _ _ U O U _
12. Lining up in a row: _ U E U ○ _ _
13. Gorgeous: _ E A U _ E ○ U _
14. Precipitation: ○ A I _

Secret Message: Write here in space provided

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

ANSWERS: 1. courageous; 2. silhouette; 3. round; 4. fleeing; 5. vicious; 6. quaint;
 7. Hawaiian; 8. squeeze; 9. sequoia; 10. canoeing; 11. virtuous; 12. queuing;
 13. beauteous; 14. rain. **Secret Message:** CHRIST IS SAVIOR



Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18, 2018

Scripture Reading: John 12:20-33

***THOUGHT: May the blessings of each day
be the blessings you need most. —Irish saying***

Yesterday was Saint Patrick's Day. Did you wear green? It is fun to celebrate this day, but it is possible we don't know how important Saint Patrick was to the development of Celtic spiritual life. Out of the churches and monasteries of Ireland, something very special emerged: *Prayers of everyday life*.

This is an important lesson we can learn. Often, we get so distracted by matters that come up in our lives, that we fail to stay alert in our spiritual lives. We were meant by God to live in two worlds — the physical world on Earth and the kingdom of God — yet, we often settle for the one world, the created world, with all its allures.

But when we learn to baptize the acts of everyday life in prayer, we stay connected to that other world, the kingdom of God, as well. Celtic prayers cover *every aspect of daily life* — the famous "St Patrick's Breastplate" prayer is a perfect example. Irish monks and nuns had prayers for milking the cows, setting out to fish, beginning the day, covering the peat fire with ash at night, and even stirring the oatmeal. Here is a prayer you can pray:

The Path

God bless the path on which you go
God bless the earth beneath your feet
God bless your destination.
God be a smooth way before you
A guiding star above you
A keen eye behind you
This day, this night, and forever.
God be with you whatever you pass
Jesus be with you whatever you climb
Spirit be with you wherever you stay.
God be with you at each stop and each sea
At each lying down and each rising up
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows.
Each step of the journey you take.

—Timothy Merrill, with help from Elyn MacInnis

Prayer: Lord, everything in my everyday life is surrendered to you. I sense your presence in all that I do and everywhere I go. Thank you for your blessings. Amen.

Activity Page for the week of March 18, 2018

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Mark 14-16
Monday: Numbers 1-3
Tuesday: Numbers 4-6
Wednesday: Numbers 7-10
Thursday: Numbers 11-14
Friday: Numbers 15-17
Saturday: Psalms 29-30



QUIK QUIZ!

Our readings this quarter have taken us through the Pentateuch, or first five books of the Old Testament.

Test your comprehension by arranging these biblical characters **chronologically**.

- ___ Joseph
- ___ Noah
- ___ Abraham
- 1 Adam
- ___ Joshua
- ___ Moses
- ___ Pharaoh
- ___ Cain
- ___ Rachel
- ___ Ishmael

THE COMPLETE ALPHABET

Use **all** 26 letters of the alphabet to complete the following 11 words, but use each letter only once. Keep track of the letters you use by crossing off the letters in the alphabet below:

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

1. ___ a ___ z
2. ___ u i ___
3. ___ u ___ ca
4. e ___ m p l e
5. ___ i o ___ n
6. ___ a ___ f u l
7. ___ r o ___
8. ___ e ___ a t
9. ___ a l a
10. ___ o l a ___
11. ___ o r c ___ p i n e

Try to Figure This OUT!

All answers end with OUT. Using the clues provided fill in the spaces. Solution below.

		O	U	T				
			O	U	T			
				O	U	T		
					O	U	T	
						O	U	T

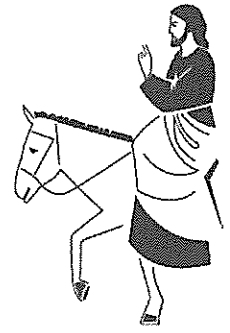
CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▶ Water can opening
- ▶ Arrangement
- ▶ Rescue from financial ruin
- ▶ Brief fainting spell
- ▶ Reversal

ANSWERS: Quik Quiz — 7,3,4,1,10,9,8,2,6,5; **The Complete Alphabet** — 1. jazz, 2. quit, 3. yucca, 4. example, 5. violin, 6. bashful, 7. grown, 8. defeat, 9. koala, 10. molar, 11. porcupine; **Try to Figure This OUT!** — spout, layout, bailout, blackout, turnaround.

"Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

—Psalm 30:5 NIV



Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-11

***THOUGHT: No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne;
no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown. —William Penn***

Some parades are planned; others are spontaneous.

For example, the Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City and the Rose Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena are planned parades. A ton of preparation goes into these parades.

Yet, other parades, by comparison, are spontaneous. Take, for example, the parade that is put together when a football team wins a state or national championship. Within days, plans for a parade materialize. This team may not be a winner again for many years.

In both types of parades, however, crowds line the streets. Perhaps you've been in such a crowd. Sometimes, confetti drizzles down like rain from the windows of skyscrapers, like those on Broadway in New York. The cheering might be so loud, it makes any chance of a conversation impossible.

On Palm Sunday, we remember that Jesus was in a parade — a spontaneous one. It wasn't planned, and in fact, for transportation, all they had for Jesus was a little donkey! People waved palm branches and cheered. For one day, Jesus was a real celebrity.

Yet how quickly the mood changed! Within days, Jesus was taken from his admirers, betrayed and seized by his enemies.

Today, I am dismayed that Jesus had to endure a phony trial. I wonder where all his supporters went. And I wonder: *Would I, too, have abandoned Jesus in the hour of his death?* Would I be brave enough today to stand up for Jesus? Do I willingly act as a peacemaker? Am I the first to identify with someone who is different and lonely? Do I do what is right, even if it is not the popular viewpoint?

—Melanie Silva

Prayer: O God, give me the courage to stand firm in what I believe with the sure knowledge that Jesus stands with me. As we journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, let me be the one who stands with Jesus. Amen.

Activity Page for the week of March 25, 2018

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Numbers 18-20

Monday: Numbers 21-24

Tuesday: Numbers 25-27

Wednesday: Numbers 28-30

Thursday: Numbers 31-33

Friday: Numbers 34-36

Saturday: Psalms 31-32

HIDDEN WORDS

Here are 10 words that can be rearranged to form another word. We've done the first one for you.

1. DECAL (laced)
2. WRONG
3. LIVED
4. LEMON
5. BURNT
6. THORN
7. LANCE
8. WASTE
9. MARCH
10. LEAST

Answers to Hidden Words (spelled backwards):

2. nworg
3. lived
4. nolem
5. tnurb
6. htron
7. naelc
8. taews
9. mrahc
10. laets

MISSING LETTER!

Find the letter that's in the first word, but missing from the second word in CAPS in each set below. Write it on the line. Then, reading from the top down, find the word the letters spell and write it on the line below. Clue: This word describes how we should respond to God's Word.

In BROAD Not DRAB _____

In BOOST Not SOOT _____

In STEAM Not MAST _____

In DRINK Not RINK _____

In DAIRY Not YARD _____

In EARTH Not HART _____

In NEVER Not EVER _____

In CROWD Not WORD _____

In HEARD Not HARD _____

