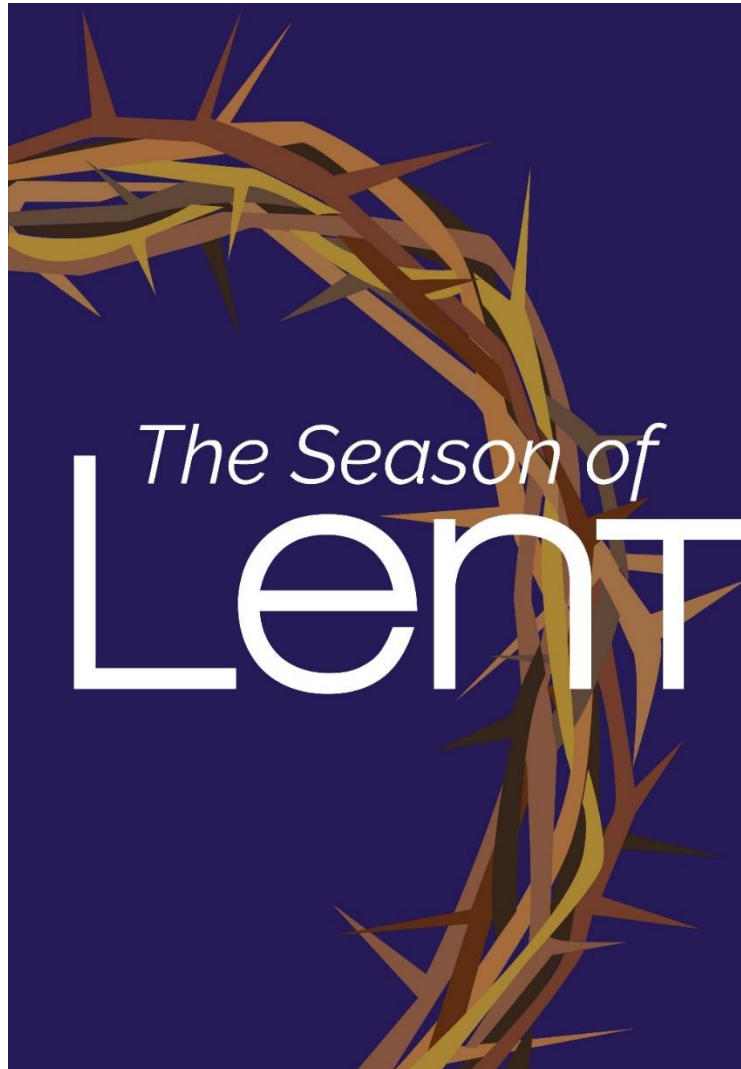


2023

Lenten Devotional



A prayer for Lent

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see more clearly the condition of my soul. If there is darkness, mean-spiritedness, egotistic pride ... or worse within, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Renew a right spirit within me and make me truly Christ-like in all my thoughts and actions. And when I begin to edge away from your will, please stir up my conscience until I am in harmony with you again. In Christ's name, Amen

The Ocean View Women in Faith invites you, during this Lenten Season, to reflect and share through an offering, some of your many blessings. As you read each day's message, may you be reminded not only of these gifts and blessings, but also all the gifts and blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon you.

Day #	Total for Day	Day #	Total for Day	Day #	Total for Day
1		15		29	
2		16		30	
3		17		31	
4		18		32	
5		19		33	
6		20		34	
7		21		35	
8		22		36	
9		23		37	
10		24		38	
11		25		39	
12		26		40	
13		27			
14		28		Total	

Thank-you for your participation.

**All funds collected will be used to support the missions and ministries listed below
~Please make checks payable to Ocean View UMW~**

2023 Ocean View Women in Faith Missions

\$ 100.00	American Cancer Society	\$ 100.00	Lump to Laughter
\$ 150.00	Brunswick Family Assistance	\$1,000.00	Marge Stuckey Scholarship
\$ 100.00	Brunswick Partnership for Housing	\$ 200.00	Matthew's Ministry
\$ 100.00	Call to Prayer and Self Denial	\$ 250.00	Methodist Home for Children
\$ 80.00	Candle Burning	\$ 40.00	Mission Recognition Pin
\$ 75.00	Card Ministry	\$ 100.00	Mothers and their Children (MATCH)
\$ 200.00	Communities in Schools	\$ 100.00	OVVIF Reading Program
\$1,200.00	District Women in Faith	\$ 100.00	Power Walking Ministries
\$ 650.00	Fundraising expenses (Chicken Pie Supplies)	\$ 100.00	UMCOR
\$ 100.00	God Heals Bag Ministry	\$ 100.00	Waves for Kids
\$ 100.00	Hope Harbor Home	\$ 100.00	World Thanks Offering
\$ 100.00	Interchurch Fellowship/ Food Pantry/Human Needs	\$ 500.00	Other Mission Organizations to support (based on fundraising goals)
\$ 100.00	Lower Cape Fear Life Care		

**Ocean View Women in Faith also supports and participates in
other ministries and activities throughout the year.**

**A special thank-you to the members of Ocean View Women in Faith who submitted devotions for the
"2023 Lenten Devotional"**



Ash
WEDNESDAY
Day 1 - February 22nd

(Imposition of ashes in the Chapel from 8am to 1pm and 5pm to 7pm)

12:00 Noon - Interchurch Fellowship Lenten Lunch Service – Trinity UMC, 209 E Nash St, Southport

Job 13:12 - Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay.

25¢ if you went to Ash Wednesday service, 50¢ if you did not.

Prayer: Heavenly Father on this Ash Wednesday we know that we are moving towards Holy Week, the Crucifixion, and celebration of Christ's resurrection. Father, forgive us our sins. Help us to keep your commandments and share your love with others. Amen.

Day 2 - Thursday, February 23rd

Isaiah 43:1 - The Lord says, "I have called you by name, you are mine."

10¢ for each letter in my first name to remind me that You call each of us by our name.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank You that You call us each by name. We come to You at the very beginning of this day to ask You to keep us in Your care until the day is ended. Help us to open our heart and feel and share the love that you give us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Day 3 - Friday, February 24th

Matthew 7:8 - Everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

25¢ for each door that leads inside my home

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for listening and hearing our calling out to you in our time of need. We know Father that you are always there for us and your love in unconditional. Thank-you Father for this love. Amen.

Day 4 - Saturday, February 25th

Genesis 28:12 - He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

10¢ for each ladder I own, including little stepladders.

Prayer: As I climb the ladder of life each day, I know you are there holding it in place for me. Let me always put my trust in you. Amen



Read - Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

Day 5 – Monday February 27th

2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

25¢ for each dollar I donated to church this past month.

Prayer: Dear Lord you ultimately provide everything I need. I want to share with others what you have made possible in my life. Help me Lord to be a cheerful giver putting your needs of helping others before my own selfish wants. Thank-you Lord for always being there for me. Amen

Day 6 – Tuesday, February 28th

2 Corinthians 1:21-23, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

25¢ for each deposit that was made in any of my bank accounts this month.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to trust that your Spirit is in our heart helping us to forgive others who have hurt us and helping us to forgive even ourselves when we have disappointed you. In Your name I pray, Amen

Day 7 – Wednesday, March 1st

*12:00 Noon - Interchurch Fellowship Lenten Lunch Service
Southport Community Building, 223 E Bay St, Southport*

John 14:2 - In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

10¢ for each room in my home

Prayer: Lord, we give thanks that your unconditional love seeks us and welcomes us into external life. Amen

Day 8 – Thursday, March 2nd

Philippians 4: 6-8 - Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable. GNT

10¢ for each "Thankful" thought I have today.

Prayer – Heavenly Father during times of uncertainty give us Your peace and remind us to always have a thankful heart. During this season of Lent, thank you for the promise of Easter which follows a time of suffering and despair. Amen

Day 9 – Friday, March 3rd

Psalms 5:3, "In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

10¢ for the hour of day I woke up, 5¢ for each minute of that hour. Example 7:45 = \$2.95

Prayer – Father, God when I pray to you, I feel inspired for that day. You give me encouragement, confidence, and I become more optimistic. But most of all when I talk to you, I feel your love.

Day 10 – Saturday, March 4th

Proverbs 17:22 - A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

10¢ for each medication I use or take.

Prayer: Lord, whatever we face today, help us to maintain a positive attitude that will strengthen our spirits and cheer our souls. We thank You for Your loving presence and guidance that enable us to overcome setbacks and meet new challenges with fortitude and faith. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.



Read Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, and John 3:1-17

Day 11 – Monday, March 6th

Psalm 90:12 - "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

5¢ for each of the days so far this year.

Prayer – Father, God our life in this place passes by so very quickly. Don't let me waste it with bitterness or on any self-pity. I want each of my day to be centered around You and your loving ways. Help me to see the needs of others as you see their needs. When my time on this earth is done and I come home to you I want my life on this earth to have been lived to Your glory. In your name I pray, Amen

Day 12 - Tuesday, March 7th

Revelation 8:1 - When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

For a solid thirty minutes no cell phones or telephone calls, no television, no PC time, no CD or radio playing and no talking to anyone but only listen to or read the words of the Lord. 30¢ for those 30 minutes of silence.

\$5 if I could not give the 30 minutes

Prayer: Lord, we want to hear from You. We expect You. But God, our ears are full of such clanging that our hearts can't even begin to grope for Your presence. Today, God, we want to purposely turn off the electronic age and choose the eternal. Give us courage to allow silence so that we can hear Your still small voice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Day 13 – Wednesday, March 8th

*12:00 Noon - Interchurch Fellowship Lenten Lunch Service
First Baptist Church Oak Island - 4608 E Oak Island Dr, Oak Island*

1 Corinthians 6:19 - Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

1¢ for each pound I weigh.

Prayer – Father, God sometimes I don't always treat my body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. I prayerfully asked that you give me guidance in helping me become more physically fit, help me to commit to changing my nutritional habits, and my exercise habits so that my physical being reflects the temple of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 14 - Thursday, March 9th

James 1:22-24 – Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

20¢ for each mirror in my house.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to be diligent in reading your word. Lead me to the passages I need each day. Help me to remember what I read and to use your messages as I go about my day. Amen.

Day 15 - Friday – March 10th

Mark 10:16 Then he took the children in his arms. He put his hands on them and blessed them.

25¢ in honor of each of my children and 50¢ for each of my grandchildren and if I'm lucky enough to have great-grandchildren \$1.00 for each of them.

Prayer: Almighty God, help us look at all people as your beloved children. Teach us not to judge others, because only you have this right. Amen

Day 16 – Saturday. March 11th

Philippians 3: 8-9 Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ and to know that I belong to him. I could not make myself acceptable to God by obeying the Law of Moses. God accepted me simply because of my faith in Christ.

10¢ for each trash container in and outside my home

Prayer: God, when we feel that we are not making progress in knowing you more fully, help us to recognize the obstacles that block our way and then to ask your help in removing them.



Read Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, and John 4:5-42

Day 17 – Monday, March 13th

Job 31:4 Does he not see my ways and count my every step?

10¢ for each step inside and outside my home.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we walk through each day guide us to do what is right and open our hearts to receive your love and forgiveness. Amen

Day 18 - Tuesday – March 14th

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

5¢ for every time today I worry about something over which I have no control.

Prayer: Loving God, please grant me peace of mind and calmness instead of anxiety and worry. Amen

Day 19 - Wednesday – March 15th

*12:00 Noon - Interchurch Fellowship Lenten Lunch Service
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 5269 Doshier Cutoff SE, Southport*

Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

25¢ for each jar of mustard or mustard spices I have in my home.

Prayer: Lord God, thank-you for your promise to be always beside us. Give us the wisdom to understand that you help us bear our burden. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Day 20 – Thursday, March 16th

Matthew. 11:28 – “Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest”

25¢ for each scale in my home that I use to weigh, be it my body or food. Let these scales remind me of the “loads” I carry that I need to turn over to you.

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, help me to release the burdens from my life that has been weighing me down. Help me let go of any hurt, anger, resentment or ungodly feelings that I have been carrying. Amen

Day 21 – Friday, March 17th

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God... This we must believe, accept by faith or none of the Bible makes sense.

25¢ for each devotional and bible I own.

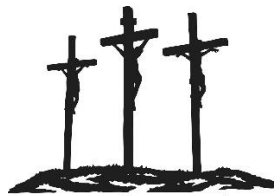
Prayer: Our Father God, we pray for stronger faith in the future and pray for opportunities to be a part helping some to have faith and grow.

Day 22 – Saturday, March 18th

Philippians 3:13 - Paul wrote, "The one thing I do ... is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead."

1¢ for each day until my next birthday

Prayer: Our Lord, I cannot change what has happened in my life in the past. Help me to let the past go and start living my life, as you would want me to. Amen.



**4th
Sunday
in
Lent
March 19th**

Read Numbers 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, and John 9:1-41

Day 23 – Monday, March 20th

Isaiah 46:4 - The Lord said, "Even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray, I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save."

10¢ for each year since my birth.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for making us exactly like You wanted us to be. Thank You that You have placed us where You want us to be. Help us to remember constantly how much You value us. Help us to remember that our lives do enhance others' lives. We are important to You in the whole plan of the universe. Thank You. Amen.

Day 24 – Tuesday, March 21st

2 Thessalonians 3:17-15 – I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

10¢ for each piece of mail, email, or text I receive today

Prayer: Lord, we confess that there are times when the letter of our lives conveys the wrong message. Forgive us and help us to be your faithful messengers.

Day 25 – Wednesday, March 22nd

12:00 Noon - Interchurch Fellowship Lenten Lunch Service
St. Philips Episcopal Church, 205 E Moore St, Southport

Psalm 139:17-18 - How precious it is, Lord to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me.

\$1.68 for the 24 hours a day, 7 days a week you think about me

Prayer: How precious it is to know that our wonderful Lord thinks about me constantly. Thank you, Lord for the promise that even though the world may have forgotten us; we are constantly in your thoughts. Amen.

Day 26 – Thursday, March 23rd

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

25¢ for each window in my home.

Prayer: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.

Day 27 – Friday, March 24th

Colossians 4:5-6 - Walk in wisdom toward those who are outsiders, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

20¢ for any salt shaker or container of salt in my home

Prayer: Lord May I always be gracious in my speech when I am talking about others, especially those whose views are different from mine.

Day 28 – Saturday, March 25th

Jeremiah 29:5 - "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

25¢ for every year that I've live in my house.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know that this world is not my permanent home; God tells us "our days are like a breath". You have given me the opportunity to unpack all my boxes and make an impact while living in my earthly home. Help me to take advantage of my time here on earth and live my life as you would have me. Amen



Read Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, and John 11:1-45

Day 29 – Monday, March 27th

Matthew 23:23 - "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law— justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

5¢ for each spice in my cabinet, 10¢ extra if you have mint, dill, or cumin

Prayer – Lord, redirect my focus to what really matters the most, the condition of my heart. I want to submit my heart and my life to you. I want to be a faithful follower. In your precious name I pray, Amen.

Day 30 – Tuesday, March 28th

Jeremiah 29:11 (NAS) 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'

40¢ for the hope that God gives me!

Prayer – Heavenly Father I know the future might not always be what I planned, but I am so glad you alone know the plans you have for me. I look back and see where your plans were much better than the ones I had in my mind. I know your plans are good for me and not for evil. My hope is always in you as you have my best in mind.

Day 31 – Wednesday, March 29th

*12:00 Noon - Interchurch Fellowship Lenten Lunch Service
Saint Peter Lutheran Church, 4843 Southport-Supply Rd SE, Southport*

Job 2:13 - "Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great."

7¢ for the seven days and 7¢ for the seven nights

Prayer – Lord, help me to quieted myself so that I can better understand my thoughts, fears, hopes, and desires and feel your presence. When a friend comes to me with pain in their heart help me to just listen to them and not to add my advice, it is your voice they need to hear. Amen

Day 32 – Thursday, March 30th

Luke 19:17-19 - Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life.

10¢ for each comb and brush I own

Prayer: Loving God I pray that I will always have the courage to be true to my Christian values even when I know that there are those that question my beliefs. Help me live my life that show your love and goodness so that others will want to seek you. In your loving name I pray, Amen

Day 33, Friday, March 31st

2 Samuel 22:29 - David said, "You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light."

15¢ for each lamp in my home

Prayer: Thank you, dear Lord, for being our lamp and for letting the light of your love shine though our many hardships. Teach us to pray as Jesus taught us, saying, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Day 34, Saturday, April 1st

Matthew 25:25 - "I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back."

1¢ on every dollar I have in any savings accounts

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know you hear me say to myself "I worked hard for my money". I need to share my abundance with others and not hoard what you helped me earn. It is only through your grace that I have what I have. Help me be a good steward of everything You gave to me. Amen



Palm Sunday

April 2nd

Liturgy of the Palms – Matthew 21:1-11 and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion – Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, and
Matthew 26:14-27 or 27:11-54

Day 35, Monday, April 3rd

Matthew 18:21-22 - Peter said, "Lord ... how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but ... seventy-seven times."

77¢ to remind me how often I need to forgive.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You always forgive me of my sins and wrongdoings help me forgive others and nurture in me a forgiving spirit. Amen.

Day 36, Tuesday, April 4th

There is a common phrase, "a labor of love". This phrase and the scripture below can be seen in action every Tuesday morning at Ocean View. We members of the Heavenly Crafters prayer shawl ministry labor hard knitting and crocheting at church and at home and we LOVE it! Our ministry is to provide hope, love, and comfort to all who receive our shawls, lapghans, and afghans.

1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

10¢ in for every blanket or afghan you have in your house.

Lord, in this Lenten season, help us to search out our individual gifts you have given us, put them into action to serve you, and be thankful for them.

Day 37, Wednesday, April 5th

Luke 22:19-20 – Then he took a loaf of bread; and when he had thanked God for it, he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper, he took another cup of wine and said, "This wine is the token of God's new covenant to save you – an agreement sealed with the blood I will pour out for you.

12¢ for each person at my dinner table to remind me of Jesus' last supper with his 12 disciples.

Prayer: How does one thank You, Lord, for the gift of the body and blood of your only Son? By his sacrifice we are cleansed of our sins. Thank You, Lord, for this gift. Help us to remember each time we partake in Holy Communion, we are renewing the covenant You made with us to save us from our sins and to make it possible for us to be with You in Heaven. Amen.

Day 38, Thursday, April 6th

(Combined Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae service – 7pm)

John 13:14-15 - Jesus said, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

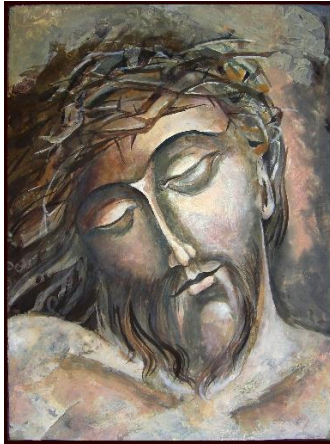
10¢ for each wash cloth in my home.

Prayer: Dear Jesus help me change my heart from enmity to love towards those I feel have hurt or betrayed me. You showed your love to Judas who betrayed you. Help me be loving, compassionate, and forgiving. Amen

Day 39, Friday, April 7th

(The Chapel will be open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon for prayer and meditation)

Luke 23:44-46- It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”* When he had said this, he breathed his last.



Lord God, Jesus cried out to you on the cross, “Why have you forsaken me?” You seemed so far from his cry and from his distress. Those who stood at the foot of the cross wondered where you were, as they saw Jesus mocked and shamed and killed. Where were you then? Lord God, we, too, ask where you are, when there is trouble and suffering and death, and we cry out to you for help. Be near to us, and save us so that we may praise you for your deliverance. Lord God, we wait, on Friday, for the resurrection of Sunday and sometimes our lives seem a succession of Fridays and we cannot see what is “Good.” Teach us to call your name as Jesus did. Make us to trust in you like little children. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

<https://www.bestdailyprayer.org/prayers/easter/easter-prayers/>

Prayer: When I think of you dying on the cross for my sins it breaks my heart and brings me to my knees. Please forgive me Father when I break your heart. I love you dearly.



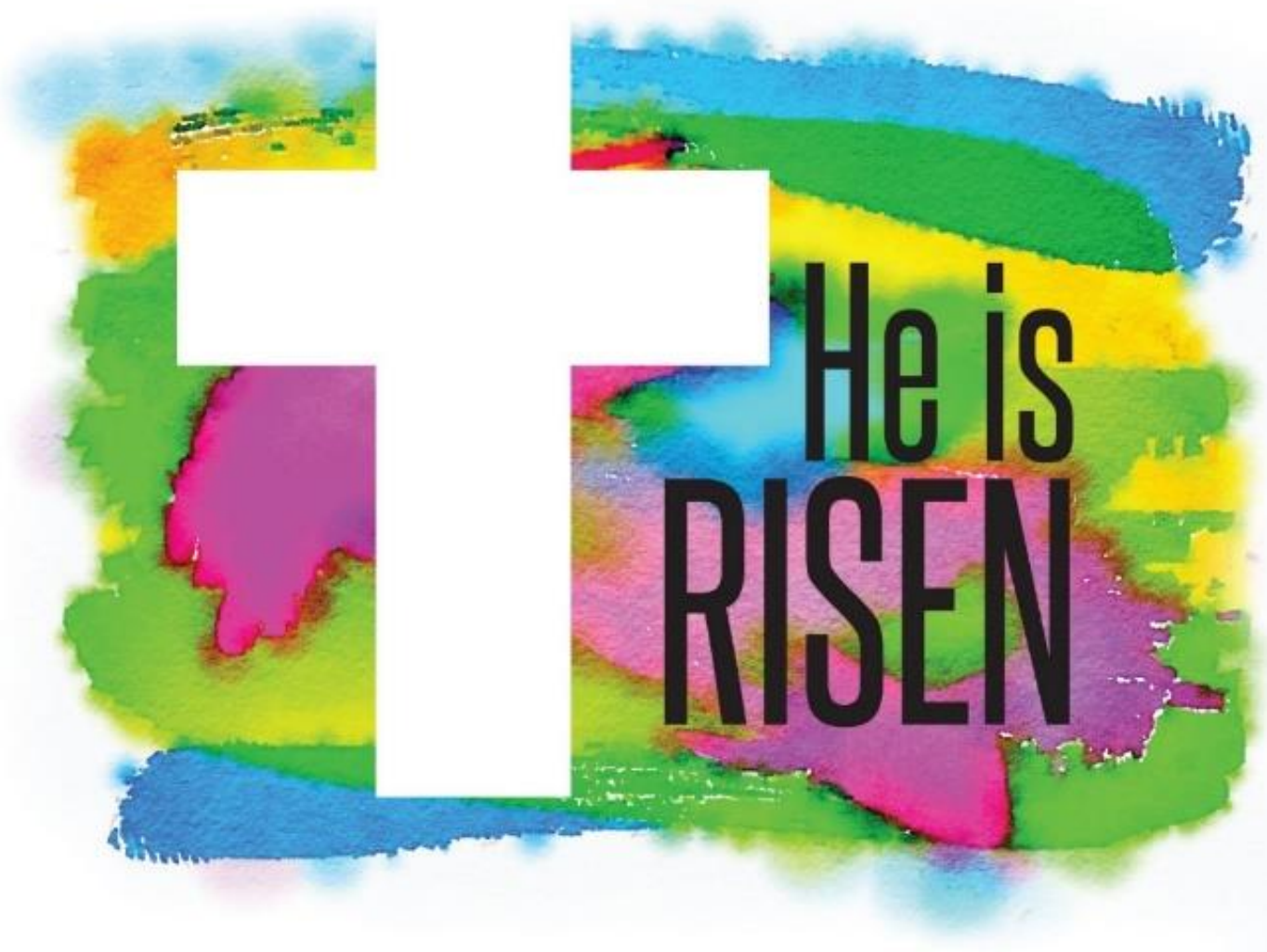
Day 40 – April 8th

Romans 5:8 – But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us.

\$¢ whatever amount you want to give for this great blessing of salvation

Prayer: Loving Father, we see God’s glorious love sent to us through Jesus. Jesus endured a horrible death for all our sins. Through Jesus death we can ask for forgiveness and know we have the promise of eternal life. Let my life show that I honor this supreme sacrifice. In his name, Amen

Easter Sunday



Draw us forth, God of all creation. Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us. Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter. Amen.

— *Author Unknown*

Thank-you for your participation!

*With love & gratitude,
The Members of
Ocean View Women in Faith*