

*Prayers for*   
*Lent*

### **Opening Days of Lent (February 14-17)**

We thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for the love you showed us.  
You brought abundant life to a broken world.  
You brought light to those in darkness.  
And in the great sign of love,  
you allowed your heart to be pierced,  
that all might be one.

And so, Lord,  
as we remember your opened heart,  
we offer you our lives.  
Send us into the world as you were sent.  
May our hands and hearts be yours:  
standing with those who are broken or despised,  
sharing the fullness of grace we have received,  
and showing the love you have given the world.  
Amen.

### **First Week of Lent (February 18-24)**

Lord Jesus,  
you call us to repent and to believe,  
for God's reign has come near.  
You teach us to do God's will.  
You invite us to follow you  
on the way to the cross.

Lord,  
renew in us the grace of our baptism  
and help us to sanctify this day.  
Transform our thoughts, words and deeds.  
We offer them to you today.  
May they become a gift of love to God  
for the people I encounter today.

Amen.

### **Second Week of Lent (Feb. 25-March 2)**

God, you are rich in mercy.  
You so loved the world  
that you sent your Son  
to be lifted up on the cross as healing Savior  
and redeeming Lord.  
Yet time and time again,  
the world has scorned you.

Be with us today. Cleanse us from our sins,  
so that we may turn to you and live.  
Write your covenant on our hearts,

so that we may love one another  
as your Son commanded us.

Gracious God,  
moved by the open heart of Christ,  
we offer ourselves to you.  
Send us forth as heralds of your love  
which never tires,  
and never grows cold.

Amen.

### **Third Week of Lent (March 3-9)**

God, our Father,  
in the early days of the covenant  
you spoke to Moses in the burning bush.  
You told him that you would be with your people  
as a liberator and a savior.  
You raised up prophets who denounced injustice  
and who called people to cease doing evil  
and learn to do good.

At the appointed time,  
Jesus, your Son, came to bring good news  
to the poor.  
He called his followers  
to follow him,  
to set their hearts on heavenly treasure  
and to live for others here on earth.

(continued)

God,  
in this time of the Church,  
we offer you our lives.  
We ask you to make us available  
to live in solidarity with your people,  
to promote justice,  
and to be a sign in the heart of the world  
that your love abides in Christ.

Amen.

#### Fourth Week of Lent (March 10-16)

God of kindness,  
you sent your only Son,  
that all might believe  
and have abundant life.  
Through Jesus' open heart.  
we see your boundless love for the world.

God of love,  
baptize our humanity  
in the blood and water  
that flowed from his pierced side.  
So may we proclaim the goodness of  
Christ to all,  
especially to those who believe  
they have no access to your mercy.

God of mercy,  
we bring to you all that we are,  
all that we have,

and all that we do.  
Make us a sign of your never ending  
tenderness.  
Receive our offering in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

#### Fifth Week of Lent (March 17-23)

Lord Jesus,  
in union with your mother and your  
beloved disciple  
at the foot of the cross,  
we gaze at your open side  
and contemplate the depth of mercy  
with which you handed yourself over  
to us sinners.

As we behold your pierced heart,  
may we be transformed by your compassion  
for those wounded and humiliated by evil.

Take our hearts, often weary and discouraged,  
and make us servants of reconciliation  
and messengers of love  
to a world which hungers for your peace.

Amen.

#### Prayer during Holy Week (March 24-30)

Gracious God,  
in Gethsemane  
Jesus prayed to be spared the cup of suffering.  
Then he said:  
"Not my will, but your will."  
On the cross he cried out:  
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"  
He received no answer,  
yet he trusted in your love  
and accomplished your will,  
even when it meant death  
and the apparent destruction of his work.

God of mercy,  
we remember the mysterious ways of your love.  
In this time of new birth,  
we recall the way of the cross  
and we offer you our hearts.  
We want to do your will in all things  
in the way that Jesus did.  
In all the circumstances of our lives,  
may our confidence in you never falter.

Amen.

Adapted from *This Day of God*, the Community Prayerbook of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.  
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