

Prayer Calendar April 2021

Reading Paul's Letters to the Church in Corinth

This prayer calendar accompanies the Bible Reading Plan throughout April. Our scripture readings include Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday and I Corinthians through 2 Corinthians 4. I hope you will use this Prayer Calendar as a companion to your daily bible readings and they both will be a blessing to your continued spiritual formation and discipleship.

The Season of Lent is not about giving something up, instead it is about confession and dying to self so that we may be a part of the new life and resurrection of the Christ.

Thursday, April 1 | Maundy Thursday

John 13:34 | A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

~ Lord Jesus, on the last night with your disciples you gave a new commandment that would change the world, to love one another in the same way Jesus loved us. Help us share in this sacrificial and faithful love for one another .

Friday, April 2 | Good Friday

Hymn | [O Sacred Head Now Wounded](#)

~ Loving God, today, I sit in silence before the cross and worship as I listen to the words of this hymn.

Saturday, April 3 | Holy Saturday

Luke 23:55-56| The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

~ Lord God, on the Sabbath, Jesus rested. He was in the grave and he had finished his work. To most people's eyes, It looked as if it were all over. He was dead and buried, but only as a seed dies when it is planted in the earth, not to decay, but to spring to new life. Teach us to take refuge in you when we are afraid; teach us death is not our end. Teach us to hope always in you and in the resurrection, the making of all things new, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Easter Sunday, April 4

Matthew 28:6,7| "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

~ God of Love, the resurrection of your Son gives us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people pursuing Jesus Christ in holiness of heart and life. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

Hymn | *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* | UMH 302

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfNwvNhpK4>

Monday, April 5

1 Corinthians 1:4 | I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

~ Lord God, we thank you for the grace, love, forgiveness and new life given through the Christ. May every day be a new day for my life in Christ!

Tuesday, April 6

1 Corinthians 2: 10b | The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

~ Holy Spirit, you search our hearts and reveal to us the goodness and graciousness of God.

May your gracious Holy Spirit guide us in the week ahead and keep us mindful of your action in our lives.

Wednesday, April 7

1 Corinthians 3:16 | Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

~ Holy God, your Holy Spirit lives within us, dwells, resides within us your beloved children. We forget this truth. Help us remember and live in a fullness of life that reflects your glory and treat each person with dignity and honor, knowing your Spirit resides within them.

Thursday, April 8

1 Corinthians 4:20 | For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

~ Lord, your life and ministry witnessed the kingdom of God is at hand. Your power was evidenced in the scriptures. I wonder, as your disciples, are we all talk in our Christian life and show none of the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ? Give us renewed power as your disciples to be your hands and feet, your voice in the world.

Friday, April 9

1 Corinthians 5:12 | (Paul states) What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church?

~ Loving God, Sometimes we become self-satisfied and self-righteous when we judge people outside the church, when we judge the sins of people who are not Christians. We forget, we sin, also. We forget we are to hold each other accountable in love and help one another deal with the sin in our lives. Help us stop judging the sins of the world and allow you to deal with the world's challenges.

Saturday, April 10

Rest | Take a walk, play, sing, dance, have a nap. Be good to yourself today and receive the gifts of creation around you.

Sunday, April 11

Reflect | Reflect on your readings from last week. What verses or themes from the readings stood out to you? How might the scriptures read from last week be applied in your own life? In what ways did the Holy Spirit convict you? In what ways will you pray this week?

Monday, April 12

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?

~ Glorious God, help me remember I need to care for my temple, my body, and treat it with honor and respect for my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I need to make repairs and care for this body with love and respect. You call me to honor you with my body; may I do so.

Tuesday, April 13

1 Corinthians 7: 17 | And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital status, defines your life. The Message

~ Faithful God, so often we want more, or we want less, and it is rare we are not satisfied with where we are in life. Help us trust you have placed us where we need to be right now. Show us a way through our current situation and trust you will guide us with the best help and guidance.

Wednesday, April 14

1 Corinthians 8:9 | Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

~ Loving God, as your disciple I know my 'freedom' may be someone's else's 'stumbling block.' Help me pay attention to those around me and be an example of temperance and wisdom so that I may be an encouragement and support to another who struggles.

Thursday, April 15

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 | To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

~ Holy One, help me listen without being critical, observe without judgement, and guide through your Holy Spirit. You know the hearts of people, I do not. Help me continue, in love, to live and speak the gospel to each one I meet.

Friday, April 16

1 Corinthians 10:17 | Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

~ My Lord, the image of the one loaf of which we all partake helps me remember we are one people, one church, one body in Christ. Help us in our divisions and arguments. Show us how-to live-in unity as the Body of Christ, all feasting from the one loaf.

Saturday, April 17

Rest | Take a walk, play, sing, dance, have a nap. Be good to yourself today and receive the gifts of creation around you.

Sunday, April 18

Reflect | Reflect on your readings from last week. What verses or themes from the readings stood out to you? How might the scriptures read from last week be applied in your own life? In what ways did the Holy Spirit convict you? In what ways will you pray this week?

Monday, April 19

I Corinthians 11:23 | For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks; he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

~ God of Love, every day, in every meal, help us give thanks for the bread broken and the cup drunk in remembrance of you. Help us take your presence into our bodies and souls to love one another as you loved us.

Tuesday, April 20

I Corinthians 12:4-6 | There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people.

~ Holy Spirit, we the Body of Christ are given different gifts for different purposes, but all with the same mind of Christ, to build up, renew and share the love of God in the world. We are so grateful for these gifts. Help us recognize them, use them for your glory and be your agents in the world for the good of all.

Wednesday, April 21

I Corinthians 13 | Read Chapter 13 several times. Consider in the text, replacing the word "Love" with your own name. In what ways does this change the passage for you? How might you live this chapter in your own day to day relationships with others?

Thursday, April 22

I Corinthians 14:12 | ...Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."

~ Loving Lord, sometimes we feel inferior or not as good as others we see, admire and respect. It seems they have their act together, they are more effective leaders, or their faith seems stronger than ours. Help us not to dwell on what others have and we do not. Help us instead to use our gifts as we have been given, not for our own esteem, but for the building up of the church and the glory of God.

Friday, April 23

I Corinthians 15:58 | Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

~ Holy God, sometimes it seems that our efforts are empty and incomplete. Sometimes we grow weary with our labors and wonder if we will ever see fruit from our work. Keep us encouraged and focused in what you have called us to do.

Saturday, April 24

Rest | *Take a walk, play, sing, dance, have a nap. Be good to yourself today and receive the gifts of creation around you.*

Sunday, April 25

Reflect | Reflect on your readings from last week. What verses or themes from the readings stood out to you? How might the scriptures read from last week be applied in your own life? In what ways did the Holy Spirit convict you? In what ways will you pray this week?

Monday, April 26

1 Corinthians 16:13,14 | Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all you do be done in love.

~ Holy God, we need to be reminded to stay alert to your action and grace, and be firm in our faith, working in the light of love and in so doing we will stay fresh and encouraged. Help us remember Paul's admonition to all in service to you.

Tuesday, April 27

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 | Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

~ Father of mercies, we are grateful for your mercy, comfort and encouragement in our lives. Help us respond to others who need your consolation with the consolation we received from you. Like love, consolation, comfort, and encouragement are to be given to others, for we have been given so many mercies. May the Holy Spirit lead us!

Wednesday, April 28

2 Corinthians 2:14 | (Paul says) But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

~ Merciful God, you offer the world the sweet fragrance of Christ through our activity and our prayers in your name. Therefore, we must be careful of what we say and do, for as Christians it always reflects back on you, O God. We can be a lovely fragrance or a terrible stench to the world in our speech and actions.

Thursday, April 29

2 Corinthians 3:2,3 | You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tables of stone but on tables of human hearts.

~ Living God, Paul's admonition to us is that our lives are like a letter of recommendation to the kingdom of God, to the life of a disciple, to a witness of the mind of Christ within us. Help us imagine how we present ourselves as a daily witness of Christ to the world, in our everyday lives.

Friday, April 30

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 | We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our bodies.

~ Lord of All, we live in a hard world and sometimes life is a struggle. Through your love of us, your ever-lasting mercy, forgiveness and grace we are able to begin anew with energy and hope. We carry the power of Christ Jesus within us.

Read the scripture for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an “ear of the heart” to a word or phrase that strikes you.

Reflect on that word or phrase asking yourself the question: “What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?” Spend time in silence with this scripture mulling it over in your mind and heart.

Allow God to speak to you in the silence. Offer a prayer out of your reflection.

Thank God for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.

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