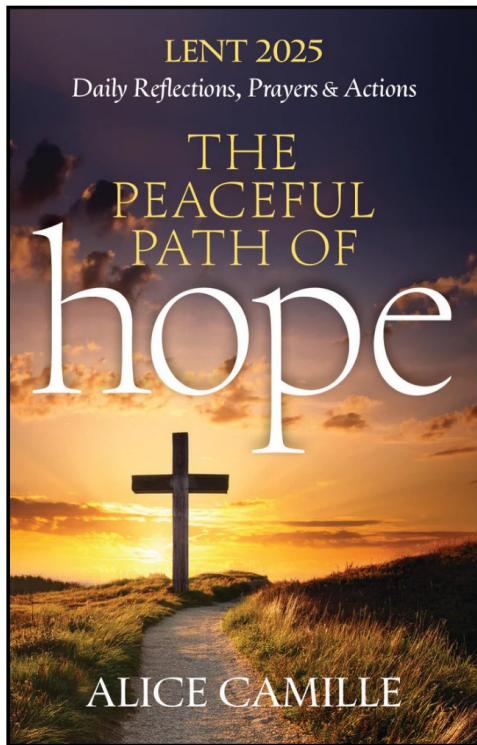




Lent 2025 Journal



First Sunday of Lent

March 9, 2025

Just Ask

It's easy to be nice to the nice, to love those who love us back, to be generous with those who are lavish in return. But our hearts may narrow precipitously when it comes to the stranger, the cold fish, or the downright nasty sort of person. If someone's not our cup of tea, giving a hoot about their welfare is not an automatic response.

Isn't it a relief to know God's not like us, expecting a mutual return on the bountiful divine investment? So, here's my confession: I'm glad God's not like me. Because on a recent flight, a woman was remarkably rude, unusually demanding, deeply inconsiderate. She behaved like she was the only person trying to get somewhere and the rest of us were in her way. And after she used the restroom, she came out with a toilet paper tail trailing over her jeans. I saw it—it was hard to miss—and didn't tell her. Because I didn't want to rescue that particular woman from embarrassment. God, on the other hand, will save anyone. All we have to do is ask.

Alice Camille, The Peaceful Path of Hope: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2025).

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Questions To Ponder:

Describe a time when you found it hard to be kind, to do the right thing, because the person was rude or disliked by you for some reason. How did this situation make you feel?

How can you deepen your compassion for your friends as well as your enemies?

Lectio Divina: Read Luke 4:9-13

Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you, and:

With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him in reply, "It also says,

You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you begin your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

As you begin this journey of Lent, think about and write down what tempts you.

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025

This Train Is Bound for Glory

Chances are the most criticism you'll ever get about you is from you. We learn early from parents, peers, or social cues what we lack or what isn't quite right about us. As a result, we learn how to appraise ourselves in the mirror, searching for every imagined flaw. Rejection is such a painful event, we do all in our power to hide each bump or freckle so as to merit acceptance.

Maybe this is why the idea that a glorified body awaits us in eternity is such a relief. No more fretting about size and shape, the bend of your nose or my lumpy knees. Forget also the arthritic shoulders, hammer toes, back pain, migraines. Disability, disease, weakness, malfunctioning organs: all banished forever, and good riddance. In the meantime, perhaps we might show a little kindness and forbearance to each other as we soldier on in these fragile, mortal bodies with all their crooked imperfections. It really is okay for you to come as you are.

*Alice Camille, *The Peaceful Path of Hope: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions* (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2025).*

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Questions To Ponder:

What do we like most about how God created us? What do we least appreciate?

What are some concrete ways that we can take care of our body better over these days of Lent?

Lectio Divina: Read Luke 9:33-36

*“Master, it is good that we are here;
let us make three tents,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
But he (Peter) did not know what he was saying.
While he was still speaking,
a cloud came and cast a shadow over them,
and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.
Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
“This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”*

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Create a plan to glorify your body a little more this week. Write down ways that you will exercise more, eat better, and rest adequately.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025

There's Still Hope

The purpose of this Jubilee Year 2025 is to recover and reinvigorate our hope as we journey through this challenging generation. The pandemic years took the stuffing out of optimism for many people. But even before that, hope was in serious decline for reasons we can all list in our sleep: environmental Armageddon, the clergy abuse crisis, loss of confidence in government and financial institutions, pervasive racist structures, the growing sense that we've been lied to over and over about so many things.

The parable of the gardener defending the fruitless tree reminds us that there's always room for hope. More time, more patience, more care, more tilling—and who knows? Even a barren tree can rally with fresh life. Even the dead can rise. So, water your garden of relationships and influence, whatever they are. Smile. Encourage. And, most of all, believe.

Alice Camille, *The Peaceful Path of Hope: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions* (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2025)

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Questions To Ponder:

What causes you to have a pessimistic view of our world?

What gives you hope?

How can the garden of your relationships be watered and nourished?

When you look at the bigger picture of 2025 and this Jubilee Year of Hope, what do you want your life to look like at the end of the year?

Lectio Divina: Read Luke 13:6-9

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Make a list of the various relationships that most affect your life. How can you cultivate a better relationship with each person, not merely maintaining it, but helping it thrive.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

Halfway Home

We're in the middle of Lent now. The closer we come to Holy Week, the more new life seems to sprout through the readings we hear. The parables from Luke—including the reprieve of the fruitless tree, the forgiving father, and the forgiven woman—remind us of God's boundless compassion and care for us even when we feel far off and forsaken. The stories we share from John's gospel—the woman at the well, the man born blind, the raising of Lazarus—burst with healing, restoration, and possibility. These are especially significant to the Elect who will join us as full members of the church at the Easter Vigil.

All of these gospel stories raise questions: Who has offered us hope and healing when it seemed impossible to go on? Who has accepted us when we felt undeserving or unjustly rejected? How do we restore hope and belonging to others who may feel lost?

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Questions To Ponder:

Who has offered us hope and healing when it seemed impossible to go on?

Who has accepted us when we felt undeserving or unjustly rejected?

How do we restore hope and belonging to others who may feel lost?

Lectio Divina: Read Luke 15:20-24

*While he was still a long way off,
his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion.
He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.
His son said to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you;
I no longer deserve to be called your son.'
But his father ordered his servants,
'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him;
put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
Take the fattened calf and slaughter it.
Then let us celebrate with a feast,
because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again;
he was lost, and has been found.'*

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Who needs healing in your life right now? Pick up the phone and share words of comfort. Better yet, make a personal visit!

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

Under New Ownership

To be self-possessed is generally considered a good thing. It means to be calm, confident, and in control of your most personal real estate: you. Self-possession stands in stark contrast to the freak-out artists we meet in public spaces, at the office, or maybe in our own living rooms. “Possess your souls in patience,” Jesus counsels his disciples in times of tribulation.

Saint Paul acknowledges another kind of self-possession that is less beneficial. When we embrace the notion that we’re large-and-in-charge of our own destinies, we may perceive ourselves as masters of the universe and lords of fate. The worldly may make such a mistake; disciples ought to know better. In biblical terms, this form of self-ownership can be a quick skip to demon possession outright. Meanwhile, those surrendered to Christ Jesus are securely possessed by the Spirit of holiness and rest in the arms of grace.

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Questions To Ponder:

Did you ever fall to the temptation of being “large-and-in-charge”? How did that turn out for you?

When and where have you needed more patience with your-self and others? What helped you to take possession of your own emotions and desires?

There are just a couple weeks of Lent remaining. What do you still need to surrender to Christ to be able to rest in the arms of grace?

Lectio Divina: Read John 8:6-11

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Look back over the last month. Think about the ways you have grown this Lent and which areas of your life you still need some work. Create an action plan for these final two weeks to fully cultivate your garden of growth.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

April 13, 2025

The Problem With Authority

I've always appreciated a workplace with a great boss. When the boss is competent, I have no trouble falling in line behind him or taking marching orders from her. The problem many of us have with authority is in those situations when we can't muster any confidence that the one in charge is leading in the right direction or that they even know what they're doing. When I'm pretty sure I know better than the boss does, it won't be long before I go rogue and do things my own way.

Saint Paul has complete confidence in his boss. He clarifies the splendid authority of Jesus in this wonderful hymn to Christ in Philippians. When it comes to Christ Jesus, all must bend, bow, and obey. Jesus alone submits utterly to God, so his authority is trustworthy. Notice how trust comes up a lot in matters of faith? Trust is what faith is about. We imagine that religion is about believing things, when Christianity actually means trusting Jesus. Our boss is supremely qualified!

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Used with permission.

Questions to Ponder:

Who is the best boss or supervisor that you have ever had? What were qualities that he or she brought to their leadership role?

Have you ever thought of Jesus as your boss? If you think that way, what are qualities of Jesus that you admire and want to emulate in your own life?

How have you grown through these past six weeks of Lent?
How will you take this growth into the Easter Season?

Lectio Divina: Read Luke 19:33-38

And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying this colt?" They answered, "The Master has need of it."

So they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks over the colt, and helped Jesus to mount. As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. They proclaimed:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you prepare for the most sacred celebrations of our faith?

Challenge for the Week: As you enter this holiest of weeks, keep your eyes, ears, and heart open for those in need of having their feet washed. What will your response be? Bring all of this to Mass on Holy Thursday.

Finding Abundance in Simplicity

Find all Lenten resources online at
www.gbres.org/lent



Becoming Pilgrims of Hope: Reflections on The Peace Prayer of St. Francis A Parish Mission with Fr. Ed Shea, OFM

Sunday, March 16 | 6:30PM

Monday, March 17 | 8:45 AM or 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 18 | 8:45 AM or 6:30 PM

Continuing our parish exploration of "Praying Always and In All Ways," Fr. Ed Shea, a retreat facilitator from Chicago and Gary, returns to Resurrection. This three-part parish mission will focus on "The Peace Prayer of St. Francis" and transform how you pray this prayer. Receptions by The Women's Guild will follow each evening and the evening programs will be live-streamed.

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving Through the Lens of Laudato Si'

Tuesdays, March 25, April 1, and April 8

8:45 AM or 6:30 PM

Presented by Angela Senander

Lent means Spring, a time of growth and preparation to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. During this season, we strive to grow in love through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We will reflect on each of these Lenten practices through the lens of Laudato Si', which invites us to an ecological conversion to care for all of creation.

Electronics Recycling Drive

Saturday, April 12

9:00 AM - 12 Noon

Rain or shine! Recycle anything with a plug as we simplify our lives and clean out our closets.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays, March 7 & 28, April 4 & 11

4:30 PM

Each week will offer a different interpretation of the Stations of the Cross.

Mondays, March 10 - April 14

8:35 AM

Pray the traditional, scriptural-based Stations of the Cross after daily Mass.

Lenten Fish Fry

Fridays, March 7 & 28, April 4 & 11

5:00 - 7:00 PM | School Cafeteria

Menu and ordering options can be found at:
www.gbres.org/fishfry

Small Group Opportunities

www.gbres.org/smallgroups

Resurrection has many types of small groups to support you on your Lenten journey and beyond. Consider joining one that fits your life.

Anointing Mass

Thursday, March 20

1:00 PM

Celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for healing, strength, and support. A reception will follow in the Gathering Area.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, April 2

6:30 PM

Celebrate an encounter with the reconciling love and healing graces of our Lord. Opportunity for individual confessions available.

Busy Person's Retreat

www.gbres.org/bpr

Register to receive a daily email containing a short reflection, a link to the One Word Lectio Divina recording, and daily Scripture readings. A respite for busy people!

One Word Reflections

www.gbres.org/oneword

Reflections on the Gospel reading using a simplified Lectio Divina format. Access recordings via the Resurrection website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel. Produced by Spirit Way & Whatsoever You Do, Inc.

Taize Prayer

Mondays, March 10, 24, 31, April 7 & 14

6:30 PM

Prayer through the singing of simple chants with periods of silent reflection, sacred scripture, and intercessions. Available in person and online.

Auditio Divina Reflections

www.gbres.org/ad

Katie and Tony will break open a song that relates to the Sunday Gospel each week using a four-step reflective process. Produced by Spirit Way and Whatsoever You Do, Inc.

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

April 17

7:00 PM

Good Friday

April 18

1:00

abbreviated service at

7:00 PM

Holy Saturday

April 19

8:15 PM

Easter Sunday

April 20

8:30 & 10:30 AM



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333 Hilltop Drive
Green Bay WI 54301
920-336-7768