

March 2024 Giving and Getting in Lent

In this Season of Lent let's use Lenten themes to lead us into prayer for our congregations and our mission throughout the U.S. and Canada.

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1 Do you give something up for Lent?

Some will give up eating meat on Fridays. I'd rather give up eating fish on Fridays! Which reminds me: Let's join Jesus today and pray about the call of Jesus to be fishers of men. "Lord, give us a heart for people!"

2 Ready to give up self-centered living?

"Lord, may my focus be on those people, events and things that YOU care about and lead me to today."

3 SUNDAY: "Give of your best to the Master..." Bring your very best attitude and spirit to worship today. With humility (and joy!) prepare to hear from the Lord.

March 4-7: Please pray for the 50 CLB participants in the Exponential Conference being held in Florida this week and which has as its theme: "The Return to Disciple Making."

4 "...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely..." (Heb 12:1)

"Lord, show me how to let my sins go, and then to be as forgiving as you are." What attitudes (personal and church-wide) do we

need to lay aside (give up) to reach our neighbors more effectively for Jesus?

5 "Give me oil in my lamp..." An old chorus with a powerful message: we are to be lights of grace in a dark world. Pray that our ministries across the U.S. and Canada will bring the light of Jesus to others.

6 "Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his name among the peoples!" (1 Chr 16:8). Pray for God's people (us!) to be active in spreading the Good News to all people (our neighbors!).

7 "Give thanks to the Lord our God and King, his love endures forever... sing praise, sing praise." (Sing it if you know it!)

8 Give up control? Greg Finke, of "Joining Jesus" fame, encourages us to "quit trying to be the Holy Spirit." Pray for the Spirit to lead *us* into his mission today. Join up!

9 Ps. 86:6 – "Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, listen to my plea for grace." Not just for me! Look around your neighborhood, region, and country. Who needs God's grace? Lord, today I pray for _____.

10 SUNDAY: "Give us this day our daily bread..." Food for the body, and food for the soul. Pray for all who worship with you today. And pray for your pastor!

11 Ps. 119:73 – "Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I

may learn your commandments." Father, lead me into an obedient life today.

For the remaining days of prayer in Lent, let's "give up" some things.

12 Father, I give up my anger... Help me live a life of forgiveness and grace toward others, as you so forgive and love me.

13 Jesus, I want to give up my lack of generosity... Grow in me a spirit of wise giving to the missions you place on my heart.

14 Spirit of God, show us how to best give up our desires to control things. Help us trust you as you lead us into ministry opportunity.

15 Lord, I give up stubbornness... Help us see our way clear to saying, "Yes!" to joining Jesus on his mission!

16 Dear God, I give up ignorance... Teach Your Church your ways; help us see how to address our neighbor's need of you.

17 SUNDAY: Father, I give up my love for this world... Help us all to see beyond our desire for comforts and riches; fill us with compassion for those who have little.

18 Father, I give up a need for revenge... Teach me to forgive and to pray for my "enemies" to become friends in Christ.

19 Jesus, give me a heart for the lost... Make your mission, my mission—our mission. We pray for congregations all across our country.



20 Lord, I give up blindness... Show us how to see others as you see them.

21 Spirit of God, I give up shyness... Make us bold to proclaim the victory of Christ over death and the devil.

22 Father, I give up weakness... In you we are strong; we lean on you for all we need to carry out your mission here and around the world. I pray for our Synod staff today.

23 Jesus, I give up pride... We have no good thing apart from your grace. We know your grace is for all; make us missionaries of your grace around the world, and at home.

24 PALM SUNDAY: Lord, the crowds cheered your coming into their world, and so we do today. Keep our hearts focused on you as we follow your journey to Calvary.

25 MONDAY: Jesus, you grieved over the ignorance of those who cheered so wildly and then quickly turned aside. Keep us faithful to you as we follow your journey to Calvary.

26 TUESDAY: Father, those who claimed to be your friends and servants did not see Jesus for who he was and is. Give us clear sight to see our Savior in your Son. Give us faith to freely share the Good News of Jesus, even as we follow his journey to Calvary this week.

27 WEDNESDAY: Lord, the days grew darker as you neared the cross. Give us light for a look at the Savior who is victor over darkness in this world. Teach us how to be ambassadors of light in our neighborhoods, cities, states, provinces, and countries.

28 THURSDAY: A day called Maundy. "Commandment Thursday." Lord, show us how to follow your commands. Teach how to love our neighbors and each other; and you most of all.

29 GOOD FRIDAY: We give thanks for the grace you gave to even die for us. Help us, to die to ourselves, take up the call and cross of Christ and go into all the world with gospel.

30 SATURDAY: A day of mystery? Of silence? Lord, quiet our hearts before you; receive our worship as your children who are so needy, so weak in faith. And yet you love us. With a most humble voice, we thank you.

31 EASTER SUNDAY: We join our voices with millions around this globe, giving thanks for the victory of Christ over death. We live because he lives! Join the celebration. Join the journey... Join Jesus on his mission that many more may be joined to him.