



SHUTTERSTOCK

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

### Seen Jesus lately?

If you want to “see” Jesus, you know where to look, right? Just stop in at your neighborhood church and the Lord will be there during Mass on the altar in the consecrated bread and wine, or in the tabernacle, or in a monstrance during adoration or benediction of the blessed sacrament. But he is to be seen in other places as well. Scripture and the church teach us that God is present in others, in the poor, and in the image and likeness that looks back at us in the mirror. Church is a great place to see Jesus. So is the rest of the world.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31)*. “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

## MONDAY, MARCH 27 LENTEN WEEKDAY

### What’s done is done

An inexhaustible source of human unhappiness is the tendency to recall and relive painful past events. In no time at all you can find yourself digging up regrettable past events, painful memories, and long-held resentments. Fortunately spring reminds us that God is forever looking forward. Bulbs are ready to burst forth. New blades of grass emerge. Buds appear on tree branches. All of creation moves forward; shouldn’t you as well?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (244)*. “The things of the past shall not be remembered or come to mind.”

## TUESDAY, MARCH 28 LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Put on your walking shoes

If it has been a while since you took a walk, this is a reminder that walking has much to commend it! There are the well-documented physical benefits of course, but walking offers powerful spiritual rewards as well. Something about the rhythm of breathing and movement quiets and clears the mind. Before you know it, you are free of repetitive, unhelpful thought patterns. You open to new ideas and fresh perspectives. Often a profound sense of optimism sets in. A good walk also can induce prayer. Saint Augustine summed it up best when he wrote, “*Solvitur ambulando*”: “It is solved by walking.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245)*. “Take up your mat and walk.”

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Do you get the message?

Before any gospel was written, the apostles preached a nugget of faith we call the *kerygma*—the “proclamation”: *Jesus Christ . . . rose from the dead, and was raised to God’s right hand in heaven. Faith in this Good News will bring you salvation.* It takes all of Lent to absorb this heady message and what it means to be baptized into Christ. We enter the season and the heart of the Good News with fresh eyes and ears, as if the daffodils sprouting around us had never been seen before, as if Jesus were the new beauty and new fragrance in the air.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246)*. “For just as the Father . . . gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes.”

## THURSDAY, MARCH 30 LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Give us your best imitation of Christ

Jesus was not interested in human praise because he saw that there is often an element of self-interest in praising others. But imitation? That’s a different kind of praise—the highest form—and Jesus was on board with that kind. He calls you to follow him, to imitate him, in thought, word, and deed, rather than merely pay him lip service. We gather together in worship not because that is sufficient to fulfill our calling but to gather strength and support to follow through on our vocation once we walk out the church doors. Do your best imitation of Jesus today!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247)*. “I do not accept human praise.”

## FRIDAY, MARCH 31 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### Uncovering the cornerstone

Though we’d like to think the cornerstone of our life is our faith, the actual foundation of our lives may be something far less permanent. Maybe our world pivots on one person, whose existence is as precarious as ours. Maybe our trust is really in our bank account, our career or position, our power of attraction or personal cleverness. Those things may sustain us through a lot of hard times, but they can also change overnight. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. No one and nothing is more reliable.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248)*. “The one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true.”

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1 LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Dare we fiddle with tradition?

As Tevye reminds us in *Fiddler on the Roof*, there is something to be said for tradition. At the same time there needs to be room for innovation as well, lest rich traditions become ossified museum pieces. Jesus was a radical trailblazer, much to the distress of the Jewish community’s deeply entrenched leadership. A living faith such as Christianity must seek anew with every generation the proper mix of tradition and change. Be part of the conversation in your own faith community by getting involved, listening and learning from others, and letting your own voice be heard.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249)*. “So the Pharisees answered them, ‘Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?’”



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

©2017 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and app available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com.