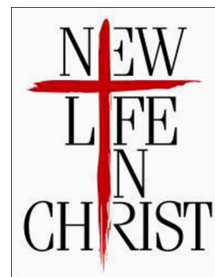


Lent Journey 2025



Day 5, Monday, March 10

THEME

Into the Wilderness, Holding onto Christ

When Jesus was led into the wilderness, He faced every temptation and stood firm for Himself and all of us. His victory in the wilderness assures us that no trial, temptation, or desolate place is beyond His reach. As we journey through our own wilderness seasons, we cling to Christ, recognizing that He has gone before us, overcome for us, and now walks beside us. His strength becomes our strength, and His triumph is our hope. Even in the wilderness, we are never alone. His vicarious humanity means He understands our struggles and has triumphed on our behalf. Let us hold on to Christ, our source of strength and hope, knowing that even in the wilderness, He leads us toward life, peace, and restoration.

Can you identify a time when you felt alone in a wilderness season? How might the truth that Christ walks with you change how you view that experience? What are some practical ways to remind yourself that Christ's triumph over sin and temptation is our triumph?

FIRST READING: PSALM 23

- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 11: 28-30

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



PRAYER FOR NEW LIFE: OUR MISSION

PRAY about living our mission statement:

We believe in the five purposes of the Church as given in the Great Commandment and in the Great Commission: Worship, Fellowship, Evangelism, Discipleship, and Ministry. In order to effectively love God, love each other, and love humanity our mission is to spiritually and physically nurture, encourage, and equip all believers to faithful servants and ministers of Jesus Christ in their daily lives and reach out to help people experience the unsurpassing and unending love and peace of Jesus Christ and the hope Father, Son, and Holy Spirit brings the world.

Does this reflect our mission now?

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Prayer for North America and the Caribbean: El Salvador, Falklands, French Guiana, Greenland

GCI MESSAGE

Stress could be defined as "Striving To Remain Extra Self Sufficient." Every single day we are given a choice to be extra self-sufficient or to trust God to be all sufficient for us. Many of us are so accustomed to striving every day to protect and provide for ourselves we end up overthinking, worrying, and feeling anxious about things we have little to no control over. God wants us to stop striving alone and experience his salvation through resting and trusting in him. Pray for uninterrupted blocks of time to intentionally tune your awareness and experience the presence of our ever-present God. Let the inner and outer noise go and simply be with God.



PRAYER FOR: SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Lord Jesus,

You who lived fully in our humanity, yet without sin— We thank You for being our strength and our hope. We pray for all believers, that we might draw from Your perfect life. Finding courage in Your victory over temptation and peace in Your steadfast love. May Your perfect humanity be our source of spiritual strength, Lifting us when we are weary and guiding us when we feel lost. And in our struggles, Your triumph may bring us hope. In Your holy name, we pray,