

My Prayer Journal

Use this weekly prayer to help you begin your time with God each day. Then, pray for church requests and personal friends and needs.

Daily Prayer:

Loving God, I praise You for the gift of Jesus. Help me to surrender all other lords to follow Christ as Lord. Give me the courage and the power to invite others to follow Jesus as Lord. Guide me to fully embrace what it means for Jesus to be Your Lamb, Messiah, and Son. In the name of Christ, my Savior, Amen.

My Prayers this Week:

Family Activity:

When you're young, it seems like a lot of people get to be in charge of you, all the time. First, your parents, but also your teachers, your coaches, and leaders of other activities you do. Sometimes, it might feel like you're the only one who has people telling you where to go, what to do, and how to behave. But talk to your parents about who sets boundaries and helps guide THEIR actions – you might be surprised! One of the things Jesus taught us was that for our lives to be the very best they can be, He is the one we should let be in charge! The Bible word for that is "Lord" – but that word means "the leader of all the other leaders in our lives." Think about how you can show that Jesus is your Lord.

MONDAY 3.2.20

Genesis 22:1-19

The story of God's testing of Abraham, in which Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son Isaac in obedience, is a prototype of the story of God offering his own son, Jesus, as a sacrifice. We often get wrapped around the question, "why would God make such a demand," but it is clear God never intended for Abraham to follow through—it is a test of obedience. Abraham had been willing to sacrifice his past in obedience to God (see Genesis 12) ... would he be willing to sacrifice his future—the legacy of his promised son? Even more importantly, Isaac does NOT have to die—God provides a lamb to die in his place. John the Baptist applies the name "lamb of God" to Jesus because he has the insight to know that just as God provided Abraham with a lamb to die in Isaac's place, God has provided the world with a Lamb, Jesus, to die in our place. Abraham calls the mountain of the testing "The LORD will provide," meaning, "will provide a sacrifice." Indeed, as the story of Jesus demonstrates, the LORD *will* provide a sacrifice.

- What tests have you endured in your faith journey? How did they change you? How did you experience God's providence in that test?
- How far are you willing to go in obedience to God?

TUESDAY 3.3.20

Exodus 3:1-15

At the burning bush, God revealed his identity to Moses. Not only is this God speaking to Moses the same God his ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob worshiped, but God tells Moses, "My name is 'I AM WHO I AM' - in Hebrew, "YHWH," Yahweh. For the first time, God reveals God's *personal* name! This name of God was so holy to the Hebrews that they would not pronounce it. Instead, they used the word "Adonai," which meant "my lord." Whenever you read the Old Testament and see the word "LORD" in capital letters, it is the word "YHWH" in the original Hebrew. But rather than translate this as "I AM," English translators follow the Hebrew tradition of replacing the personal name of God with the word "LORD."

- What do you think it implies, relationally, that God tells Moses His personal name? How does knowing another person's name affect your relationship with them?
- What, though, does calling God "LORD," instead of using His personal name, suggest about how the Hebrews felt they should relate to God? What is the relationship between a person and their "lord"? Is God YOUR Lord?

WEDNESDAY 3.4.20

Psalms 116

Many of the Psalms cry out to God for compassion, for mercy, or for salvation, and many, like today's reading, give praise to God for answering those cries. The psalmist had cried out, "O LORD, save me!" (verse 4) in the midst of a close brush with death. Having experienced the reality that God hears our cries, that God really does save, the psalmist seeks ways to respond in gratitude. The Old Testament confidence that our God is the God who saves, even from the cords of death, is a confidence that carries over into our New Testament belief that Jesus, too, saves us—even from death.

- Notice in verse 10, the psalmist says, "I believed, therefore I said 'I am afflicted.'" Why does the psalmist's belief in God allow him to declare his affliction? Do you feel the need to sugarcoat reality in prayer to God? Or do you openly declare your feelings, in faith?
- Thinking back to yesterday's discussion of what it means to call someone "Lord," look again at verse 16. Why does the Lord's act of salvation reinforce the psalmist's sense of servanthood? How do you seek to live out your sense of gratitude for your salvation?

THURSDAY 3.5.20

Acts 2:14-39

On the day of Pentecost, the disciple Peter stood up before the crowds in Jerusalem and gave the first Christian sermon. The story of Jesus is told in continuity with the Old Testament prophecies of Joel and two of the psalms of David. Jesus was God's messenger, crucified, dead and buried, but resurrected to life, and exalted to the right hand of God. Astonishingly, Peter proclaims at the end of his sermon, "Therefore, God has made Jesus Lord"! The name the Jews had always applied to God, "Lord," God had now applied to Jesus! For Jesus to be called Lord in this way implied that just as GOD saves, Jesus saves. And just as we saw yesterday that awareness of God's salvation evokes a response from us, salvation in Jesus does as well. Peter says, "Repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit!"

- What all do you think is included in calling Jesus "Lord"?
- How is your life demonstrating that you have accepted the reality of the Lordship of Jesus?
- Is there more you could be doing?

FRIDAY 3.6.20

Romans 10:1-13

In this portion of Paul’s letter to the Romans, he teaches what became one of the very earliest Christian creeds—the simple declaration, “Jesus is Lord.” Paul links salvation to the basic confession, “Jesus is Lord,” and to belief in Christ’s resurrection, which relates to the other early Christian creedal statement, “Jesus is risen.” Although much of value was added to the Christian creedal belief statements during church history, the essence of Christian faith remains these two declarations: “Jesus is risen”; “Jesus is Lord.” So important are these belief statements, Paul says, that a deep conviction of their truthfulness is a prerequisite for salvation.

- How are the two statements about Jesus related? Think about how in yesterday’s reading from Acts, Peter connected the Resurrection to God making Jesus Lord. Can you believe one without the other?
- Have you confessed “Jesus is Lord”? If so, how is your life bearing that out? If not, what will encourage you to?

SATURDAY 3.7.20

Philippians 2:1-11

Just as in yesterday’s passage, Paul repeats the earliest Christian creed, here, in his letter to Philipp, he recites part of one of the earliest Christian hymns. In poetic verse, the hymn proclaims Jesus’ divine nature, his incarnation into human form, his obedience to God the Father, his humiliating death on the cross, and his exaltation. The hymn ends by proclaiming the only conceivable response—every tongue in the universe should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Acknowledgement of what God has accomplished in Jesus, and proclaiming that God has made Him Lord, brings glory to God the Father—fulfillment of our created purpose.

- Do you agree that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,” or that “every tongue” should “confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”? Why or why not?
- How extensive is the Lordship of Christ? Are you invested in proclaiming his Lordship to the world? What response do you expect the world to have to this proclamation?



Daily Study Guide

March 1-7, 2020

Sermon Series: This Changes Everything

Week One: “From Jesus to Lord” - Rev. J. David Israel

Scripture for Sunday, March 1: John 1:29-34

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one about whom I said, “He who comes after me is really greater than me because He existed before me.” Even I didn’t recognize Him, but I came baptizing with water so that He might be made known to Israel.’ John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on Him. Even I didn’t recognize Him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” I have seen and testified that this one is God’s Son.’” (CEB)

Things that really impacted me from today’s sermon:

Prayer Requests

- John Palmer
- Michael Fink
- Todd & Jana Hirshbranner
- Alex Failoni
- Doug Nash
- Steve Knott
- Wayne Workman
- Charlotte Ottley
- Darryl Bueker
- Laura Nurre
- Nellie Cook
- Vicki Robinson
- Duke Goodwin
- Al Sappington
- Delaney Digman
- Bill Reichter
- Jan Reichter
- Bob Vincent
- Peggy Cruse
- Bill Cruse
- Sophia Miller
- Judy Hoffman
- Nini Schneider

The Hediger, Margreiter,
and Emshoff families
on the loss of
Mary Margreiter Heidger

**Share prayer requests online
at livingwordumc.org**