

resources for lent and easter

• devotionals •

BREAD AND WINE: Readings For Lent And Easter. Wendell Berry. Plough Publishing House, 412p, paper, Orbis Books 2005, 978-1570755729, \$18.00

Six separate sections—Invitation, Temptation, Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection and New Life—guide readers through the essential elements of spiritual preparation and feature writings from some of Christendom's most celebrated masters. Classic thinkers such as Martin Luther and John Donne share space with 20th-century theologians like C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton and Dorothy Day. "Has there ever been a more hard-hitting, beautifully written, theologically inclusive anthology of writings for Lent and Easter? It's doubtful." *Publishers Weekly*

A CLEARING SEASON: Reflections for Lent. Sarah Parsons. 111p, Upper Room 2005, 978-0835889171, \$12.00

This devotional is beneficial for someone who has never observed Lenten practices or has experienced Lent as a long, seemingly purposeless time of self-denial. *A Clearing Season* shows you how to: clear space in your life for God, identify obstacles that keep you from God and choose a Lenten practice to help you remove these obstacles. Using this book, readers are shown how to welcome the Lenten season as an opportunity to clarify their relationship with God.

GIFTS FROM WITHIN: Women's Meditations for Lent. Women of Brigid's Place. Morehouse Publishing 2002, paper, 112p, 978-08192318957, \$13.00

This volume eschews the negative, penitential focus of Lent, recognizing the needs of women who already struggle with issues of worth and self-esteem. Instead, it uses the words of women from various backgrounds to explore their uniqueness and the gifts of their feminine spiritual nature. Through this approach, Lent becomes a time of inspiration.

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT WITH MARK: Daily Meditations. Gregory Weyrauch. 64p, paper, Augsburg 1999, 978-0806639505, \$6.99

This devotional guide includes forty-six meditations based on a passage from Mark's Gospel with reflection questions and a prayer. For individual reading and meditation each day between Ash Wednesday and Easter, it includes an optional study guide for six weeks of small-group discussion. Especially for congregations that follow the Revised Common Lectionary. *From the publisher*

LENTEN PRAYERS FOR BUSY PEOPLE: A Forty-Day "Retreat" Wherever You Happen To Be. William O'Malley. 287p, paper, Orbis Books 2004, 978-1570755620, \$16.00

Drawing from the Bible, literature, lyrics, and original prayers, William O'Malley has composed an inspiring collection of prayers and meditations for the Lenten season and reflection year round. Instead of giving up something for Lent, he suggests we enrich our faith through the morning, daytime, and evening prayers for each day of the season. The sessions contain psalms and other scripture passages, prayers of dedication to God, and readings from such diverse sources as the sonnets of William Shakespeare and lyrics of Bob Dylan. Each of the three prayer periods could be completed with adequate reflection in about 15 minutes, more with deeper meditation. Those who are really pressed might commit to one prayer period a day and continue through the book beyond Lent. This is a good Lenten resource for small church communities. *Amazon Review*

LISTENING AT GOLGOTHA: Jesus Last Words From The Cross. Peter Storey. 93p, paper, Upper Room 2004, 978-0835898843, \$10.00

Rather than skip ahead to the rejoicing of Easter Sunday, *Listening at Golgotha* confronts us with suffering and death on Good Friday in ways that will transform our lives. These meditations were born in nearly four decades of ministry in South Africa, where the church had to learn a cross-shaped ministry under the shadow of apartheid.

LIVING LENT: Meditations for These Forty Days. Barbara Hawthorne Crafton. 112p, paper, Morehouse Publishing 1998, 978-0819217561, \$10.00

For centuries the words and poetry of our hymns have spoken to us of God. Many people, in fact, find that what is heard in poetry and music sinks more deeply into the soul than anything else. And so it is to the beautiful seasonal hymns that Barbara Hawthorne Crafton turns for inspiration for daily meditations during this great devotional season of the church year. Crafton writes, "I hope that you find yourself humming familiar tunes to yourself as you read, and that this condition persists for the rest of the day." Those who have known the hymns forever, as well as those who are new to these verses will find them, and Crafton's meditations on faith, prayer, forgiveness, healing and more, an excellent companion for this important season of the year.

LIVING THE DAYS OF LENT 2008: Reflections on the Psalms. Anita M. Constance, ed. 64p, paper, Paulist Press 2007, 978-0809144617, \$4.95

Paulist's best selling series of daily Lenten devotions uses scripture, prose, reflections, and original prayers and poems to center readers' minds and souls and gently brings them to readiness for Easter. With these daily meditations, readers learn to open themselves to the risks and rewards of living a fuller life, of finding compassion from themselves and others, and of resting more deeply in God's loving care. *Living the Days of Lent* runs daily from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday and ends each day's selection with the daily lectionary citations including pointed challenges for one's thoughts and actions and comes in a tear out, page-a-day format for handy use.

LIVING WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST: A Lenten Study for Adults. James A. Harnish. 64p, Abingdon Press 2005, 9780687496518, \$5.50

This study includes 7 sessions, one for each Sunday in Lent, including Easter Sunday. Each session features a Scripture reference, a personal reading, and questions for personal reflection or group discussion. Suggestions for ways to deepen the Lenten journey or a focus for the coming week are also included.

ON THE PASSION OF CHRIST: According to Four Evangelists; Prayers and Meditations. Thomas a Kempis, translated by Joseph N. Tylenda, Ignatius Press 2004, paper, 168p, 978-0898709933

From the author of the most widely read book in Christian spirituality after the Bible, *The Imitation of Christ*, comes this jewel of spiritual insights on the Passion of Christ. The 14th Century German monk, Thomas a Kempis goes through the four Gospels. *On the Passion of Christ* provides profound meditations and beautiful insights on what Christ suffered, and how we can and should respond to this incredible love. Thomas a Kempis gives short to medium length meditations in 35 chapters, covering all aspects of the Passion, and concludes each chapter with a wonderful little prayer. This book has never been in English before! A wonderful meditation book, perfect for Lent.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE CROSS: Devotionals to Celebrate the Lenten Season. C. Neil Strait and Stan Toler. 100p, Beacon Hill Press 2002, 9780834119482, \$10.99

Readers will begin an exciting journey to freedom and victory and knowing Christ better with these warm, thought-provoking Lenten devotionals. This book brings a new celebration to Easter, reflecting on the many joyous aspects of Christ and His cross.

A SEASON FOR THE SPIRIT: Readings For The Days Of Lent. Martin L. Smith. 192p, paper, Seabury Classics 2004, 978-1596280069, \$14.00

Forty daily meditations for lent, leading a journey of discovery in which it is found that Christ, through the Spirit, embraces every aspect of our humanity. Fr. Smith's journey in and with the Holy Spirit is not an exercise in escaping from the world around us, but an invitation to become more aware of how the Reign of God is active here and now. Although geared towards Lent, the readings are well worth perusing any time of the year.

SHOW ME THE WAY: Reading for Each Day of Lent. Henri Nouwen. 187p, paper, Crossroads Classics 1992, 978-0824513535, \$16.95

The late Henri Nouwen was one of the most influential spiritual writers of the last century. His writings are rarely academic and often quite personal. These selections are taken from many of Nouwen's writings and are paired with the appropriate Scripture reading of the day, and concluded with a prayer from Nouwen. Each day is two pages long. Nouwen's own foibles make all the more poignant the struggles he expresses during Lent.

WERE YOU THERE? Finding Ourselves At The Foot Of The Cross. Erik Kolbell. 163p, paper, Westminster John Knox Press 2005, 978-0664227784, \$16.95

In the Passion of Jesus we hear the story of one person but also the echoes of many, writes Erik Kolbell, for although we read it to find out who Jesus was, it is in the reading of those other characters that we find out who they were.

▪ pocket devotionals ▪

NOT BY BREAD ALONE: Daily Reflections for Lent 2008. Anita M. Constance, ed. 104p, paper, Liturgical Press 2007, 978-0814631799, \$2.00

So often I find myself in conversation with friends troubled about today's state of affairs that ends with a discouraged cry: but what can we do?! Sr. Katherine Howard's *Not by Bread Alone* offers a concrete response to that generic question: 'Start here and now, with those I regard as "other." Reach out in love and concern. Be aware of my own incapacity. Trust that Christ will enable the actions for which I have insufficient strength and wisdom.' Specific suggestions are presented throughout for meditation, action and prayer, rooted in the appointed Scriptures and blossoming outward toward individual, as well as community and national concerns. *Norvene Vest, Spiritual Director and Author*

SACRED SPACE FOR LENT 2008. Ireland Jesuit Communication Center. 121p, Ave Maria Press 2007, 978-1594711602, \$2.25

The Sacred Space for Lent 2008 book provides prayers for every day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. It is suitable for use as a guide for personal prayer or with faith-sharing groups. The Web site for *Sacred Space* has a steady worldwide following. Started by Alan McGuckian and Peter Scally, two Irish Jesuits, the site offers prayer suggestions based on the daily Mass scriptures used in the Catholic Church and the basic methods of Ignatian prayer but is ecumenical in its approach. The site also offers seasonal retreats and newsletters to better help people pray. People can sign up to receive newsletters, participate in online retreats, and share feedback. People can also log on to use the daily prayers. Visit <http://www.sacredspace.ie/>

▪ additional lent & easter resources ▪

BENEATH THE CROSS: The Stories of Those Who Stood at the Cross of Jesus. Patricia A. Pingry and Julie K. Hogan, eds. Ideals Publications 2005, 160p, 9780824958817, \$24.95

Jesus' death and resurrection is retold in the voices of those who literally stood beneath his cross. Includes the fictional, first-hand accounts of the six women, Barabbas, Pilate, Caiaphis and Annas, Simon of Cyrene, the repentant thief, the soldiers, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathaea, Judas, Peter, and John. Their moving stories are interspersed with Bible passages and illustrated with art masterpieces and photos of the modern-day sites where Jesus walked.

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST: A Mel Gibson Film (DVD). 126 min, 20th Century Fox 2004. \$19.98

Who isn't familiar with this powerful reenactment of love and sacrifice depicting the last twelve hours in the life of Jesus Christ? This is not a film for children due to its singular purpose which is to graphically detail the scourging, the pounding of nails pinning Jesus to the cross, and his final hours until his last breath brings an end to the film. The film's controversy over its alleged anti-Semitic slant may prevent some churches from wanting this in their libraries. Rated R for long sequences of graphic violence.

RESURRECTION: The Message (audio book). Eugene H. Peterson. Oasis Audio 2006, 3 hrs on 2 CDs, 978-1-59859-123-1, \$17.99

The Message is Eugene Peterson's modern paraphrase translation the Bible, written to be read aloud, setting it apart from other audio Bibles. This audio book contains the four Gospels from his Bible and includes other relevant Scriptures that make know and fulfills the prophecies of God. Read by Kelly Ryan Dolan, the powerful resurrection message comes alive.

WHY JESUS DIED. Gerald S. Sloyan. Fortress Press 2004, paper, 154p, 978-0800636937, \$7.00

Jesus died on a cross at the hands of Roman justice around the year 30 C.E. Thousands of others perished in the same way. Why then is Jesus remembered for his suffering death? This widely acclaimed Biblical scholar and historian discusses the why, how and by who questions. With discussion questions, this short book is perfect for individual or group use for a Lenten study.

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