

## Our VISION

The gospel to all the world beginning from us, by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

## Our MISSION

- ◆ Proclaiming the gospel of Christ, through rigorous mission, evangelism and church planting. Luke 4:18
- ◆ Aggressive discipleship through structured bible study, scriptural education and fervent prayer. Galatians 4:19, Ephesians 4:13
- ◆ Growing and empowering of different sub-groups in the Church. Matthew 25: 34-40, Galatians 5:13,
- ◆ Engagement with government at levels to ensure community development. Ezra 1:1-3, Luke 2:1-2.

### Our Victory Shout

**Priest:** Faith in God

**Congregation:** Holiness in self

**Priest:** Charity to others

**Congregation:** That is who we are



**DIOCESE OF LAGOS  
SOUTH WEST**  
CHURCH OF NIGERIA  
ANGLICAN COMMUNION

# 2026 LENTEN SERMONS OUTLINE

**TRANSFORMATION**  
2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

## FOREWORD

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Beloved brethren in Christ, grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto you through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is with deep appreciation to God and a strong sense of pastoral responsibility that I present this Lenten Sermon Manual to the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Lagos South West. Our chosen theme for the year 2026, “Transformation” inspired from 2 Corinthians 3:18, captures the very heartbeat of God for us at a time like this - a progressive, Spirit-driven change into the image of Christ from glory to glory.

Lent is not merely a period on the Church calendar; it is a divine invitation to intentional reflection, repentance, renewal and revival. We must relate seriously with God’s eternal plans and purposes. In a world marked by spiritual complacency, and deepening darkness, the call to genuine transformation has never been more urgent. The Apostle Paul reminds us that transformation is not self-produced but is the work of the Holy Spirit as we behold Christ with unveiled faces.

The carefully selected topics in this manual provide a rich, balanced, and progressive journey through the Lenten season. From “Repentance that brings transformation” to “Total Victory in Transformation” and ending in “The Empty Tomb and Its Implication,” we are led through the full redemptive narrative of Christ; His call, His cross, His suffering, His triumph, and His power to transform lives, families, churches, and society.

This manual examines key areas of Christian spiritual growth and discipleship, guiding us on how to overcome spiritual darkness, endure trials, and pursue holiness in every aspect of our lives and relationships. The topics remind us that there is no crown without the cross and no true transformation apart from wholehearted obedience to God’s will. I therefore urge every reader to engage deeply with the contents of this manual, for only through careful attention can its purpose be fulfilled: to lead each of us into Christlike transformation, from glory to glory.

I applaud the team of Clergy and Laity, under the able leadership of Rev. Canon Dr. Adeyinka Faloyin, for their excellent work in bringing this manual together. I pray that the Lord, who has called each of you, will continue to make you faithful, dependable, and fruitful in all your endeavours, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Brethren, I commend this manual to all ministers, preachers, teachers, and congregations in our Diocese and to all believers worldwide, it as a spiritual tool for teaching, preaching, prayer, and personal devotion throughout this Lenten journey. May the Holy Spirit breathe upon every message preached and transform every life to the glory of God.

As we walk this path together, may we truly behold Him and be changed into His likeness, until Christ is fully formed in us.

Yours in His service,

+Ajayi  
Bishop, Diocese of Lagos South West  
Anglican Communion

January 2026

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.” Job. 32:8.

To God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be all the glory for making this assignment accomplishable by His divine inspiration. Halleluyah!

The gospel to all the world beginning from us, by the Power of the HOLY SPIRIT; Aggressive discipleship through structured lenten study, scriptural education and fervent prayer as stated in the vision and mission statement of the Diocese of Lagos South West, through our father, our prophet and mentor, the Diocesan, the Rt. Rev'd Ebenezer Ajayi Adewole Ph.D as a sign of his conviction and commitment to propagation of the WORD of GOD in this Diocese and beyond.

We acknowledge and appreciate our team of writers for their commitment and prompt response amid tight schedule to assemble the Lenten Study Manual for the year 2026 in the Diocese of Lagos South West.

The Lord bless and prosper your ministry in Jesus Christ name. Amen

The Ven. Ibikunle Fatuyi

The Canon David Afeni

The Canon Moses Okafor

The Rev. Canon Emmanuel Okwuchi

The Rev. Ayodeji Agbaje

The Rev. Ayodeji Fadero

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The Revd. Gideon Anuo  
 The Revd. Simon Nwogu  
 The Rev. Menkiti Chude  
 Mrs. Aderonke Blessing Oshinowo Admin. Manager  
 We are grateful for your labour of Love

2026 LENTEN SERMON OUTLINE  
 (WEDNESDAYS)

THEME FOR THE YEAR 2026: TRANSFORMATION EXODUS 14:15

**The Rev. Canon Adeyinka Bunmi Faloyin Ph.D**  
 Team Leader

DATE	TOPICS	READING TEXT	AIM
18/2/2026 ASH WEDNESDAY	REPENTANCE THAT BRINGS TRANSFORMATION	PS. 51, JOEL. 2:12-17, JAMES 4:1-10, MATT. 6:16-21	TO TEACH GENUINE REPENTANCE
25/2/2026 2ND WEDNESDAY IN LENT	PREVAILING OVER SPIRITUAL DARKNESS	PS. 18:20-28, ISA. 60:1-10, 1JOHN 1:1-6, JOHN 1:1-5	TO TEACH HOW TO CONQUER DARKNESS
4/3/2026 3RD WEDNESDAY IN LENT	POSSESSING GODLY IDENTITY THROUGH TRANSFORMATION	GEN. 66:5-12, ROMANS 1:15-20, JOHN 1:1-12	TO TEACH HOW TO EMBRACE GODLY IDENTITY
11/3/2026 4TH WEDNESDAY IN LENT	DWELLING IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST	GEN. 2:1-7, 2COR 3:10-18, JOHN 8:30-36	TO REMAIN FAITHFUL WITH GODLY IDENTITY
18/3/2026 5TH WEDNESDAY IN LENT	FAITH: KEY TO TRANSFORMATION	DAN. 3:16-20, HEB.11:1-12, JOHN 8:30-36	TO TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH IN TRANSFORMATION
25/3/2026 6TH WEDNESDAY IN LENT	EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION THROUGH HOLINESS	LEV. 11:40-44, 1PET. 1:10-16, LUKE 1:45-49	TO TEACH THE VALUE OF HOLINESS

**2026 LENTEN SERMON OUTLINE  
(HOLY WEEK)**

**THEME FOR THE YEAR 2026: TRANSFORMATION EXODUS 14:15**

DATE	TOPICS	READING TEXT	AIM
30/3/2026 HOLY MONDAY	BEWARE OF THE SPIRIT OF DECEPTION	ISA. 42:1-7, HEB.2:7-18, MK. 14:3; END	TO TEACH HOW TO BE WATCHFUL
31/3/2026 HOLY TUESDAY	BE YE TRANSFORMED	ISA. 49:1-6, PS. 55:18-26, ROM.12:1-5, MATT. 26:31- END	TO TEACH CHRIST LIFE PATTERN
1/4/2026 HOLY WEDNESDAY	THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION IN DIFFICULT SITUATION	ISA. 52:13-15, PS. 70, 1PET. 2:9-15, LK. 23:1-49	RISING ABOVE DIFFICULT SITUATION
2/4/2026 HOLY THURSDAY	DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME: A COMMAND TO TRANSFORMATION	EXOD. 12:1-14, PS. 116:11-18, 1COR. 11:23-29, JOHN 13:1-15	TO ESTABLISH THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION
3/4/2026 HOLY FRIDAY	SUFFERING PAIN BEFORE TRANSFORMATION	ISA. 53:1-12, PS. 22:1-22, 1COR.11:23-29 JOHN 18:1-19, 37	TO TEACH ENDURANCE
4/4/2026 HOLY SATURDAY	TRANSFORMATION CRUSADE	JOB. 14:1-14, PS. 16, 1PET. 3:17-23, MATT. 27:57-66	TO TEACH THAT MAN CANNOT HOLD BACK GODS' TRANSFORMATION

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 18TH FEBRUAR Y, 2026 (ASH WEDNESDAY)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: REPENTANCE THAT BRINGS TRANSFORMATION**

**TEXT: PS. 51, JOEL. 2:12-17, JAMES 4:1-10, MATT. 6:16-21**

**AIM: TO TEACH GENUINE REPENTANCE**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Repentance is a profound spiritual concept, meaning a sincere change of mind and heart about sin, leading to a decisive turning away from wrong actions, involving remorse, confession, and a commitment to new, righteous behavior (Joel 2:12-17). Repentance is a fundamental concept in Christian theology, signifying a profound change of mind and heart that leads to a transformation of life. It is not merely an emotional response or a fleeting regret for past actions, but a decisive turning away from sin and a turning towards God. This transformative process is central to the Christian experience and is deeply rooted in biblical teachings. In the Bible, transformation means a profound, internal change of heart, mind, and spirit, moving from sin to righteousness by God's power, not just outward behavior; it's a spiritual renewal, becoming more like Christ through the Holy Spirit, often described as being "conformed to the image of His Son". Key passages like Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18 highlight this inward renewal and gradual growth in likeness to Jesus.

**THE BODY:**

Repentance brings transformation by involving a change of mind and action, leading to spiritual renewal, freedom from guilt, restored relationship with God, and positive life changes, moving one from an old way of life to a new path aligned with divine purpose and growth. It's not just feeling sorry, but turning away from sin and towards God, producing "fruits" of changed behavior, such as honesty, compassion, and justice. The book of James (4:7-10), emphasizes the importance of genuine repentance and its transformative power, calling every one of us to resist the devil and all his works which creates enmity between us and God, for us to draw near to God and submit to Him in humility, then He will lift us up. Genuine Repentance is the first step in transformation; it is an

awakening in the heart. When we are convicted that the ways we are living are deadly and we begin to reject them by embracing the Holy Spirit, then we can be truly transformed. Repentance is not about shame or punishment, it's about transformation. It's the process by which we turn away from sin and toward God, allowing His Spirit to renew and grow us. True repentance is not just sorrow, it's surrender. And when we surrender, God begins a deep work of change in our hearts.

#### **APPLICATION:**

##### **Repentance Leads to Transformation**

The call to repentance is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. This sermon focuses on calling people to turn from sin towards God, emphasizing that it's more than just feeling sorry. In the Old Testament, the prophets consistently urged the people of Israel to repent and return to the Lord. For instance, in Ezekiel 18:30-31, God implores, "Therefore, house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to your ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your offenses, so that sin will not be your downfall. Cast away from yourselves all the transgressions you have committed, and fashion for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit."

In the New Testament, John the Baptist and Jesus Christ both began their ministries with a call to repentance. John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2). Similarly, Jesus declared, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). This call to repentance is not only an invitation but a command that requires a response.

**Have you truly repent of all your sins?** Echoing the call for Genuine repentance by the prophet (Joel 2:13), David speaks about A broken heart and a contrite spirit which God will not despise, (psalm 51:17). How do you portray your repentance, by a sincere fast or by pretense (Matt. 6:15-18)? Take advantage of this Lenten season and turn to God, He will not cast you away.

##### **Repentance and Faith**

Repentance is intrinsically linked to faith. It involves a recognition of one's

sinfulness and a sincere desire to turn away from sin, coupled with faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Acts 20:21 encapsulates this dual aspect: "I have testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance to God and faith in our Lord Jesus." The transformative power of repentance is evident in the life of the believer. When one repents, there is a renewal of the mind and spirit, resulting in a changed life. Romans 12:2.

This transformation is not a one-time event but an ongoing process of sanctification. As believers continue to repent and seek God's will, they are progressively conformed to the image of Christ. While there's an initial change, it's also a gradual journey of sanctification, growing closer to God (2 Corinthians 3:18). The fruit of repentance is evident in a life that bears the marks of the Holy Spirit, as described in Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

##### **Repentance in the Early Church**

The early church understood the importance of repentance as a precursor to transformation. In Acts 2:38, Peter addresses the crowd at Pentecost, saying, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

##### **Key Sermon Points**

**It's God's Gift:** The ability to repent comes from God through the Holy Spirit, not self-effort.: It brings forgiveness, releasing burdens of shame and guilt, allowing for a fresh start.

**Action & Behavior Change:** True repentance shows up in changed behavior, not just words or feelings. It results in tangible changes, like abandoning bad habits, seeking justice, and showing love to others.

**Restored Relationship with God:** It mends broken connections, allowing for deeper faith and experiencing God's renewing power.

**Spiritual Growth:** It opens the door to continuous spiritual development, renewal, and becoming more Christ-like, guided by the Holy Spirit. It

offers a new outlook on life, providing purpose and enabling believers to become agents of positive change. It brings forgiveness and healing; God forgives sin and heals the land/person (2 Chronicles 7:14).

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Repentance is a vital aspect of the Christian faith, leading to a profound transformation in the life of the believer. It is a continuous journey of turning away from sin and turning towards God, resulting in a life that reflects the character and love of Christ. Through repentance, believers experience the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, enabling them to live in accordance with God's will and purpose. Demonstrate Christ's love to the world by treating others with kindness, compassion, and respect. Repentance isn't optional; it's the necessary first step to faith and salvation. The call to repentance is urgent, immediate-resolute decision and action must be taken, not procrastination.

#### **PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to take away from us every heart of stone and draw us to yourself, in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ. Almighty and merciful God, grant unto us true repentance, that we may forsake our sins and turn to you in total submissiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**DATE: SUNDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2026 (LENT 1)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: OVERCOMING TEMPTATION**

**TEXT: GEN. 2:7-9, 3:1-7, PS 119:1-8, JAM.1:2-19, MATT. 4:1-11**

**AIM: STAND AGAINST TRIALS AND TEMPTATION**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Temptation is a universal experience that touches every human life. No one is beyond its reach. It confronts the young and the old, the weak and the strong, the believer and the unbeliever. Temptation often comes quietly, appealing to natural desires, emotional needs, or moments of weakness. At other times, it comes forcefully, challenging our faith, integrity, and obedience to God.

Many people fall into sin not because they intended to rebel against God but because they underestimated the power of temptation. It promises satisfaction, pleasure, and relief, yet it conceals its destructive end. However, the good news of the gospel is this: temptation does not have the final word. In Christ, there is power to overcome, forgiveness for failure, and restoration for the fallen.

To overcome temptation is to respond to God's call to holiness and salvation.

#### **THE BODY:**

The story of temptation begins in Genesis 3:1–7. Adam and Eve lived in a state of innocence and fellowship with God, yet they fell when the serpent questioned God's word and distorted His truth. Temptation entered through doubt, progressed to desire, and resulted in disobedience. This fall brought separation from God and suffering into the human story.

Yet even in humanity's failure, God's redemptive plan was already unfolding. The gospel message begins here: humanity's need for a Saviour.

Psalm 119:9–11 points us toward God's solution. The psalmist declares that purity and faithfulness are preserved by living according to God's Word. The Word of God convicts, corrects, and strengthens the heart. It

reveals God's standard and His saving grace.

James 1:12–15 explains that temptation itself is not sin. Rather, sin occurs when desire is allowed to rule the heart. This passage also offers a promise: “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial.” God rewards those who endure temptation with the crown of life.

Jesus Christ stands as the perfect example and the Saviour of sinners. In Matthew 4:1–11, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after forty days of fasting. He faced temptation to satisfy the flesh, to seek power without obedience, and to gain glory apart from the cross. Yet He overcame by standing firmly on God's Word. More importantly, He succeeded where Adam failed, opening the way for humanity's redemption.

The gospel assures us in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that God is faithful. He does not abandon us in temptation but provides strength and a way of escape. Through Christ's death and resurrection, believers are empowered to live victorious lives.

### **APPLICATION**

This message calls us to personal examination. Are we living in obedience, or are we entertaining hidden compromises? The gospel invites sinners to repentance and faith in Christ. Victory over temptation begins with surrendering one's life to Jesus. Those who fall are not rejected but invited to return to God's mercy.

Believers must remain vigilant, prayerful, and rooted in Scripture. Temptation loses its power when Christ reigns in the heart.

### **CONCLUSION**

Overcoming temptation is possible because Jesus has already overcome sin and death. The call today is clear: turn from sin, trust in Christ, and walk in holiness. God desires salvation, not destruction.

### **PRAYER**

Holy and Merciful God, we confess our sins and our struggles with temptation. Draw us back to You through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Cleanse our hearts, renew our minds, and empower us to live in obedience. May we walk in victory and inherit eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: PREVAILING OVER SPIRITUAL DARKNESS**

**TEXT: PS 18:20-28, ISA. 60:1-10, 1JOHN 1:1-6, JOHN 1:1-5**

**AIM: TO TEACH HOW TO CONQUER DARKNESS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Spiritual darkness is one of the oldest enemies of humanity. From the moment sin entered the world, darkness followed—darkness of the mind, darkness of the heart, darkness of direction, and darkness of destiny. Many people today love God sincerely, attend church faithfully, and pray passionately, yet still struggle with invisible battles—confusion, delay, fear, stagnation, repeated failure, and spiritual heaviness.

Darkness is not merely the absence of light; it is the presence of forces that resist God's purpose. Yet Scripture reassures us that darkness is never permanent when God steps in. From the first chapter of the Bible, “God said, Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3), and darkness obeyed immediately. This same God is still speaking light into lives today.

David boldly declared, “For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness” (Psalm 18:28).

This Lenten period proclaims that no matter how deep the darkness, God's light is deeper still.

### **THE BODY:**

#### **1. The Reality Of Spiritual Darkness**

Spiritual darkness manifests in many ways:

Lack of spiritual sensitivity

Repeated cycles of defeat

Loss of joy and passion for God

Moral compromise

Fear and hopelessness

In Egypt, darkness became a weapon of judgment. Exodus 10:21 tells us that the darkness was so thick it could be felt. Yet in Goshen, where God's people lived, there was light. This teaches us that darkness does not affect everyone equally—covenant determines coverage.

## **2. God Is The Source Of True Light (Psalm 18:20–28)**

David's testimony is powerful because it was born out of adversity. He faced Saul's persecution, betrayal from close allies, and long seasons of uncertainty. Still, he testified:

“The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness.”

Righteousness attracts illumination. Verse 28 says, “You will light my lamp.” A lamp in ancient times symbolized:

Direction in the night

Protection from danger

Hope in darkness

When God lights your lamp, He exposes hidden traps, reveals divine direction, and restores confidence. Darkness thrives where righteousness is compromised, but light reigns where obedience is embraced.

## **3. Arise Because Light Has Come (Isaiah 60:1–10)**

Isaiah spoke during a time of national despair. The people were surrounded by “gross darkness”—a darkness that covered the earth and the people. Yet God issued a divine command:

“Arise, shine; for your light has come.”

Notice this truth: You do not wait for darkness to disappear before you rise; you rise because light has already come.

When Israel returned from exile, God's glory restored their dignity. Kings and nations came to the brightness of their rising. Light not only removes shame; it attracts divine helpers.

Joseph is a perfect example. From the pit to prison, darkness tried to define him. But when God's light shone, Pharaoh saw it and declared, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?” (Genesis 41:38).

## **4. Jesus Christ: The Light That Conquers Darkness (John 1:1–5)**

John introduces Jesus not merely as a teacher, but as eternal Light: “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Darkness fought Jesus from birth—Herod's murderous decree, rejection by His own people, betrayal by Judas, and the cross. Yet verse 5 declares a timeless truth:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

At the tomb of Lazarus, death and darkness had ruled for four days. But Jesus stood and said, “Lazarus, come forth!” Light spoke, and darkness surrendered. Whatever has been buried in your life can hear the voice of light today.

## **5. Walking In The Light Is A Responsibility (1 John 1:1–6)**

John makes it clear that victory over darkness is not accidental.

“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship...”

Walking implies consistency. Many want the benefits of light without the discipline of obedience. Samson lost spiritual illumination not suddenly, but gradually—through compromise. Judges 16:20 says, “He did not know that the LORD had departed from him.” Darkness often begins when spiritual sensitivity is lost.

Yet God is merciful. When Samson prayed again, light returned. This assures us that repentance restores illumination.

### **APPLICATION**

Beloved brothers and sisters, prevailing over spiritual darkness begins with attentive living before God.

First, we are called to examine our hearts regularly, allowing the Holy Spirit to search us gently, not to condemn us, but to cleanse and restore us. As we often pray in the liturgy, “Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit.”

Second, we must remain faithful in the means of grace—daily prayer, the reading of Holy Scripture, and reverent participation in the Sacraments. These are not burdens; they are lamps God places in our hands for the journey of life.

Third, let us walk honestly before God and one another. Darkness thrives in isolation, but light flourishes in godly fellowship. When we confess our faults and bear one another's burdens, healing light flows freely.

Finally, we are called to be bearers of light in the world—in our homes, our workplaces, our communities. Through patience, kindness, integrity, and compassion, we reflect Christ's light to a world longing for hope.

## **CONCLUSION**

Dearly beloved, darkness may visit, but it does not have permission to remain. The Light of Christ has already entered the world, and that Light now dwells within you. Therefore, do not fear the night. Walk confidently, live faithfully, and shine humbly, knowing that “the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining” (1 John 2:8).

## **PRAYER**

O Lord, our Light and our Salvation, we thank You for calling us out of darkness into Your marvellous light. Shine upon our paths, restore our vision, and strengthen our faith. Where we have stumbled, lift us; where we have grown weary, renew us. Grant that our lives may reflect the light of Christ, to the glory of Your holy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DATE: SUNDAY, 1ST MARCH, 2026 (LENT 2)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: SEEKING AND FINDING THE LOST**

**TEXT: ISA. 53:1-12, PS.33:17-21, 1JOH.3:1-10, LK.15:1-10**

**AIM: TO TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOUL**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The experience of losing precious items—whether at home, in the office, or elsewhere—can be deeply distressing and frustrating. Recall the day you misplaced your office or house key, or an outfit already prepared for a very important occasion. Such moments are often filled with confusion, anxiety, fear, suspicion, emotional pain, and mental destabilization.

However, when the missing item is eventually found, the relief and joy that follow are indescribable. One common factor in every such experience is this: conscious and intentional effort is made in seeking before finding occurs.

To seek is to intentionally and persistently take action toward restoring what has been lost.

In our context, the lost refers to those who have been alienated from God, those who have lost sensitivity and fellowship with Him, and those who have wandered away from divine direction.

## **THE BODY:**

In Luke 15:1, Jesus was actively teaching His disciples and the multitudes who gathered around Him. These were people burdened by life, seeking rest for their souls. They came in search of hope, meaning, and restoration. This longing is vividly expressed in Psalm 42:1, where the psalmist compares his deep desire for God to a deer panting for streams of water—a picture of intense spiritual thirst.

Among those who came to Jesus were tax collectors and sinners—categories of people despised by the Pharisees and scribes. These religious elites treated them with contempt, viewing them as morally contaminated, leprous, and irredeemable.

Contrary to this attitude, Jesus declared His mission clearly: He came to seek and to save that which was lost. The Pharisees and scribes, in their hypocrisy, criticized Him for welcoming sinners and eating with them. In response, Jesus taught them through three parables, explaining the very reason for His coming into the world:

**The Parable of the Lost Sheep:** Though the shepherd had ninety-nine sheep, he did not ignore the one that was lost. Instead, he left the ninety-nine and made every effort to find the missing sheep.

**The Parable of the Lost Coin:** One coin out of ten was lost, yet the woman searched diligently, using every means available until it was recovered.

**The Parable of the Lost Son:** A son who wandered away was lovingly received and restored when he returned in repentance.

These three parables, recorded uniquely by Luke, communicate one powerful truth: God is willing to go to any length to seek and restore the lost because of His great love for them.

Scripture affirms that it is not the will of God that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9b). Ezekiel 18:23 and 33:11 further emphasize that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked; rather, His desire is that they turn from their ways and live.

All these truths flow from the depth of the Father's love for us, as declared in 1 John 3:1, despite our sins and transgressions.

## **APPLICATION**

No matter how sinful, broken, or unworthy we may feel before God, He remains deeply interested in us. He does not give up on the lost. The call still echoes: "Return, O sinner."

Jesus invites the weary and burdened to come to Him for rest. No sin is too great for His forgiveness. As Isaiah declares, "All we like sheep have gone astray," yet because of God's love for us, the burden of redemption led Jesus to the cross, where His blood was poured out for our salvation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus is still in the business of seeking and finding the lost. Do not persist in a state of spiritual loss, nor resist His searching light. Respond to His love while the invitation still stands.

## **PRAYER**

Eternal God, Your desire remains our full restoration and redemption. Grant us the grace to respond to the love You have poured out through Jesus Christ. May we never continue in ways that lead to eternal loss. Help us to embrace Your love and, in the end, share in the kingdom You are preparing for us in eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2026**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: POSSESSING GODLY IDENTITY THROUGH TRANSFORMATION**

**TEXT: GEN. 66:5-12, ROMANS 1:15-20, JOHN 1:1-12**

**AIM: TO TEACH HOW TO EMBRACE GODLY IDENTITY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The concept of human identity can be traced to the in-depth understanding of God's creation and humanity's relationship with God as documented in the holy scriptures. The bible affirms that human identity comes from God as seen in **Genesis 1:27**; but due to the sin of disobedience committed by Adam and his wife Eve (**Genesis 3:17**), man lost the inherent value and the dignity of his identity in God, thus the loss of man's identity to sin and Satan led to the emergence of Jesus Christ in the world, for the restoration and transformation of mankind on the cross(**Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:8**).

### **THE BODY**

In the New Testament, after the resurrection and the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, one of the major characteristics that differentiates the early Christians from the Roman world was the fact that godly identity was exhibited through their conduct and lifestyle. No wonder people refer to them as Christians in Antioch. (**Acts 11:19-30**). Godly identity is not defined by the world standard such as accomplishments, status, appearance and possessions (**Luke 12:15**) but rather it is our identity in Christ and how the unbelievers in the world sees God through us. (**Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3**). Godly identity cannot be faked (**Acts 19:11-20; 7 sons of Sceva**), neither can it be inherited from birth or through the Spiritual status of our earthly parents (**1 Samuel 2:12; Eli's sons; John 1: 13**); nor purchased with money (**Acts 8:20-21; Simon**), but rather it is the gift and the power of God to those who received him, even to them that believe on his name (**John 1:12**). Paul, a well-known persecutor of the gospel of Christ acquired godly identity by the transformational power of God on his way to Damascus. (**1 Timothy 1:13**).

### **APPLICATION**

As Laities of the Diocese of Lagos Southwest, journeying through another Lenten season is a divine privilege to see the need for embracing godly identity (**Matthew 5:16**). The transformation to God's identity we all desire this year as a Diocese is attainable only if we can accept and embrace the transformational principles of God which include: (a) confessing and forsaking all our evil ways (**Isaiah 55:7**); (b) Believing and accepting the work of redemption through Christ (**John 1:12**); (c) Developing a well rooted relationship with God. (**James 4:8**). (d) Studying and applying God's word to our lives (**James 1:22**); (f) Imitating God on daily basis. (**Ephesians 5:1**). (g) Being watchful and prayerful (**Matthew 26:41**); (h) Engaging ourselves more with the work of evangelism. (**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**); (i) Daily self-awareness that godly identity is not an option but a command. (**Peter 1:15-17**)

### **CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, the fundamental identity, self-worth, purpose and the security of every Christian in the world is not rooted in the worldly status, achievements and human opinions but rather rooted in the identity of God they profess. "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (**Matthew 7:16-20**). We are defined by godly identity and not by the world therefore let us be a shining light in the midst of the darkness of this world.

### **PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, help me to represent what you represent, and give me the power to keep your identity in me through Jesus Christ I pray. Amen

**DATE: SUNDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2026 (LENT 3)**  
**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**  
**TOPIC: NO CROSS, NO CROWN**  
**TEXT: GEN. 7:17-24, PS.115:1-7, COL. 24:24-29, LK. 9:18-27**  
**AIM: TO TEACH TO ENDURE PAIN FOR TRANSFORMATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Many Christians in this generation desire transformation without process. There is a growing belief that spiritual change can be prayed into existence without personal effort of obedience or discipline. While prayer is essential, it is not a substitute for growth. True Christian transformation is not magical, it is intentional. Scripture presents transformation as a journey that involves sacrifice, commitment and endurance. This truth is captured clearly in the topic: No Cross, No Crown.

### **THE BODY**

Transformation in the Christian faith is best understood through the imagery of refinement. Gold in its raw state has little value. It must pass through intense heat to remove impurities before its true worth is revealed. Without the furnace experience, gold remains ordinary. In the same way spiritual transformation is impossible without seasons of testing, trial, discipline and self-denial.

Genesis 7:17-24 revealed that Noah endured the flood before entering a new world. The flood was uncomfortable, destructive and frightening; yet it was necessary for God's plan of renewal. There is no new beginning without endurance. Likewise, Luke 9:23 reminds us of Jesus' words that anyone who desires to follow Him must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Him. The cross represents discipline, obedience, sacrifice and perseverance.

Many believers desire the crown of glory without embracing the cross. The crown symbolizes victory, honour and eternal reward which are the end result of a faithful journey. Col. 2:24-29 teaches that spiritual maturity comes through labour, struggle and steadfast commitment to Christ. Growth is intentional and demanding. It requires effort guided by grace.

### **APPLICATION**

Rom. 12:2 clearly outlines the pathway to transformation. It states that believers are transformed by the renewing of their minds. This renewal does not happen instantly. It involves deliberate rejection of worldly patterns and intentional alignment with God's truth. Renewing the mind requires consistent study of Scripture, prayer, obedience and the willingness to unlearn old habits.

The cross experience also involves humility. Psalm 115:1-7 reminds us that glory belongs to God alone not to human effort or self-exaltation. Transformation is not about outward appearance but inward change that reflects Christ.

Believers must embrace discipline as part of their faith journey. Prayer must be accompanied by obedience. Fasting must be matched with self-control. Church attendance must lead to Christ like living. When trials come we must see them as refining moments not punishments.

### **CONCLUSION**

There is no shortcut to spiritual transformation. The cross is not optional for the disciple of Christ. It is the pathway to glory. The crown awaits those who endure faithfully. No cross, no crown.

### **PRAYER**

Lord, give us the grace to embrace the cross daily. Renew our minds, strengthen our resolve and lead us into true transformation through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2026**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: DWELLING IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST**

**TEXT: GEN. 2:1-7, 2COR 3:10-18, JOHN 8:30-36**

**AIM: TO REMAIN FAITHFUL WITH GODLY IDENTITY**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Identity defines destiny. While the world tries to label us based on our past or our performance, God has already given us a blueprint. To **dwell** in the image of Christ is to make our permanent home in the truth of who God says we are. Today, we look at how to move from being "formed" by God to being "transformed" into the likeness of His Son.

## **THE BODY**

Our identity begins with God's intentionality. In **Genesis 2:1-7**, we see that man became a "living soul" only when God breathed His own life into him. This reveals that our true value is tied to His breath, not our earthly origins. Because we were created to represent God's character (**Gen. 1:26-27**), we must stay connected to our Source. If we forget who made us, we will eventually forget who we are.

In the New Covenant, dwelling in this image requires continuous transformation. **2 Corinthians 3:10-18** explains that when we turn to the Lord, the "veil" of confusion is removed. As we focus on Christ through the Word and Spirit, we act like a mirror, being "transformed into the same image from glory to glory." This means faithfulness to our identity is a matter of focus; we eventually become like whatever we spend our time beholding.

Finally, this identity is secured through our commitment to the Truth. In **John 8:30-36**, Jesus teaches that "continuing in His word" is the mark of a true disciple. He distinguishes between a slave and a son: sin enslaves us, but the Son gives us a permanent place in the Father's house. True freedom is the power to live as God intended. When the Son sets you free, you are free to be your true self without the chains of the past.

## **APPLICATION**

- ♦ **Look Intently:** Use the Word of God as your daily mirror to remember your true identity (**James 1:25**).
- ♦ **Change Your Label:** Refuse to answer to your past mistakes; embrace being a "new creation" (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
- ♦ **Reflect Christ:** Let your actions at home and work show others the character of God (**Matthew 5:16**).
- ♦ **Guard Your Heart:** Protect your mind from influences that dim your reflection of Jesus (**Proverbs 4:23**).

## **CONCLUSION**

Remaining faithful to our God-given identity is our highest calling. It isn't about "trying harder," but about "dwelling deeper" in Christ. We were created by His breath, transformed by His Spirit, and freed by His Truth. Let us walk as sons and daughters who reflect the King.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for calling us Your own. Remove every veil from our eyes so we may see Christ clearly and be transformed into His likeness. Help us to abide in Your truth and reflect Your glory in all we do. Amen

**DATE: SUNDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2026 (LENT 4)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: RAISING GODLY FUTURE GENERATION TODAY**

**TEXT: EXOD. 34:29-35, PS 18:27-38, COL. 3:4-18, MATT. 17:1-13**

**AIM: TO ESTABLISH GODLY ATMOSPHERE AT THE CENTER OF OUR HOME**

## **INTRODUCTION**

"Younger generation people are regarded as wet cement; Whatever falls on them makes an impression."

So clean parenting efforts are needed to create a beautiful future.

One of the greatest tools for propagation of Godliness is home. Therefore, "establishing a Godly atmosphere at the center of our home is equal to raising the Godly future generation today"

As Moses was set to mentor the people of Israel according to the command of God, the evidence of his meeting with God was clear to them on his face. Parents are expected to be close to God, to be able to understand the mind of God towards their children and then nurture them in the way of the Lord. Children must be equipped to navigate the world with discernment and a strong personal relationship with Jesus. It requires consistent effort in both teaching and living out biblical principles, understanding that actions speak louder than words, and trusting God with the outcome.

## **THE BODY**

### **Parents And Leadership Should Understand The Principles Of Christian Living**

1. **MORTIFY YOUR MEMBER.** Means we should consider ourselves dead and now unresponsive to evil ways of life as listed in Colossians 3:5. We must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit; by this the younger generation emulates us.
2. **EFFECTIVE FAMILY ALTAR.** The kind of teaching the process requires demand that we constantly implant Godliness in the upcoming generation, according to Col. 3:16 & 17.

### **3. PREPARE THEM FOR THREE MAJOR FORMS OF RELATIONSHIPS**

- (a) Husband and Wife Relationship; Col. 3: 18 &19.
- (b) Parents and Children Relationship Col. 3: 20 & 21.
- (c) Master and Servant Relationship Col. 3:22-25.

### **Practical Bible Guide Parenting**

- 1) **Teach & Talk:** Integrate faith into daily routines through Bible reading, discussions, and prayer, teaching God's word, not just rules.
- 2) **Discipline with Love:** Use discipline (Proverbs 29:17) to transform behavior and guide, following God's loving correction, never unleashing anger.
- 3) **Show Grace & Forgiveness:** Model repentance and forgiveness, essential for healthy relationships and spiritual growth (Matthew 6:14-15).
- 4) **Cultivate Contentment & Adaptability:** Teach peace in Christ, not worldly success only, helping kids find security in God through trials (Philippians 4:11).
- 5) **Prioritize Spiritual Needs:** Focus on children's spiritual maturity as more vital than earthly achievements, equipping them to be disciples (Proverbs 22:6).

## **CONCLUSION**

Humility is a virtue, it is hereditary. Children of the humble gain higher chances of getting raised for a better future Psalm 18: 26, says; "for thou wilt save the afflicted people, but wilt bring down the high looks".

The most pleasant place the atmosphere of the holy Spirit, if we make our younger once spirit conditioned, they will enjoy ever cooling life all through. When Peter experienced this on the hill of transformation, he didn't want to depart the vicinity for life... Matt. 17: 4; "then said Peter unto Jesus, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make three tabernacles; one for Thee, one for Moses and one for Elias."

We should therefore put every possible effort to make everything Godly interesting to the generations behind us and the effects shall be Raising a Godly Future Generation Today.

### **PRAYER**

Father, may we carry the value of your presence to be able to convince and convert the younger generations into the principles of eternity, that they may abide in you and never be a cast away, in Jesus name.

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 2026**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: FAITH: KEY TO TRANSFORMATION**

**TEXT: DAN. 3:16-20, HEB.11:1-12, JOHN 8:30-36**

**AIM: TO TEACH THE IMPORTANT OF FAITH IN TRANSFORMATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Transformation is essential if we desire to impact the world and have outstanding results as believers. Transformation is like a door and it responds to keys, one of the keys that unlock transformation is Faith. If we as believers despise faith or refuse to strengthen it, transformation will be hindered and it will affect our effectiveness and productivity.

### **THE BODY**

It is replete in scriptures that Faith is *the spark that ignites transformation* in our lives; it is the fuel that drives transformation. If we desire transformation in any area of our Christian life, faith is key. Faith is the foundation of our closeness with God and without faith the power of God cannot be unlocked in our lives. Any transformative process that starts outside faith does not last, but a transformative process that begins with faith will stand the test of time.

Our texts reveal to us several examples of those whose faith transformed their lives from no one to national celebrities; The three Hebrew boys; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 3:16-20) refused to bow to the pressure of their days but stood in faith until they saw the mighty hand of God to deliver them. Hebrews 11 is a rich catalogue of “faith walkers or doers” who through their faith walk had their names written on the sand of time. These ones rode on the spring of faith and their testimonies were undeletable and compelling. Other examples of transforming faith in the Bible are; Abraham’s faith (Genesis 12:1-4), the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34) and the faith of Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52).

## **The Nature Of Faith**

1. Faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 12:3)
2. Faith is a Choice (Genesis 12:1-4, Hebrews 11:8-10)
3. Faith is an action (James 2:17-18, Hebrews 11:1)

## **How Faith Transforms Us**

1. Through faith there is hope and we can scale through the hurdles of life (Romans 5:2)
2. Faith empowers our obedience (Romans 1:5, Hebrews 11:1-40)
3. Faith changes our perspective (Romans 8:28, 2 Cor. 5:7)

## **Application: The Steps To Activate Transforming Faith**

1. Hear the word of God (Romans 10:17)
2. Believe His word and confess His name (Romans 10:9-10)
3. Act on your faith (James 2:26)

## **CONCLUSION**

Faith is not just a feeling or a thought; it is a powerful force that transforms our lives, as we look up to God in this Lenten season, let us exercise our faith, so we can experience God's transformative power and presence in every area of our lives.

## **PRAYER**

Father help me to believe you the more and to exercise my faith in you on a daily basis.

**DATE: SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2026 (LENT 5)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: THE MULTIPLYING POWER OF SURRENDERING**

**TEXT: JER. 31:31-34, PS 22:23;29, HEB. 9:11-14, JOHN. 12:20-32**

**AIM: TO TEACH THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF CHRIST SACRIFICE FOR SALVATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

All through the Old Testament, the Bible details different efforts of man to get the undivided attention of God since the fall in the Garden of Eden. After leaving Egypt, laws were given during the exodus for the atonement of various sins and transgressions committed by the people. At a point and, due to unbridled exposure to the evil practice of the nations around Israel from among whom they had married, even human sacrifice was explored among the Jews yet, salvation could not be obtained until Jesus came and offered Himself as the one, only and sufficient sacrifice for the salvation of man.

## **THE BODY**

Following from the introduction above, one thing that clearly stands out is that all other attempts to gain salvation failed and will continue to fail. Only the death of Christ through the shedding of His unstained and untainted blood guarantees the salvation of man. How do we know that the blood of Jesus is incomparable or even sufficient for the salvation of man?

- ◆ It is greater and more perfect [Heb. 9:11]; speaks better than the blood of Abel [Heb. 12:24]; A once and for all sacrifice [Heb. 9:28]; purifies man's conscience from dead works [Heb. 9:14].
- ◆ It removes bitterness and the determined (canal man's) call for vengeance [Rom. 12:19]
- ◆ It grants man unhindered access to God [Hosea 2:23; Eph. 2: 11-13, 18]
- ◆ It confers victory over Satan, death and the grave [Rev. 12:11]
- ◆ It is a proof that Jesus loves man [John 15:13; 10:11]

How does man access and appropriate the benefits of this incomparable sacrifice?

- i. Acknowledge your sinfulness and separation from the Holy God [Rom. 3:23]
- ii. Seek the One whose sacrifice is sufficient for your salvation [Acts 4:12]
- iii. Accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour [Rom. 10:9/10]
- iv. Live a life of obedience to Him and His word [1 Sam. 15:24]
- v. Follow in His footsteps [John 12:26]

## CONCLUSION

God's love for humanity is so great and eternal that He had to take on human form and be born as man, live as man and die as man so that the original plan for salvation and eternity with God in paradise can be reinstated after the initial loss in Eden. As the lyrics of one of our popular songs go:

*He paid a debt He did not owe, I owe a debt I could not pay  
I needed someone to take my sin away;  
Now I can sing a brand-new song: Amazing grace!!!  
When Jesus paid the debt, I could never pay.*

If indeed you acknowledge and appreciate this sacrifice of Jesus for your salvation, surrender your life to His lordship today without any further hesitation and receive the assurance of being with Him in paradise for eternity.

## PRAYER

Most gracious and ever-loving Father, I thank You for the incomparable sacrifice made on my behalf by the shedding of Your precious blood. Grant me the grace to live a life worthy of the sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour. Amen

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2026**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION THROUGH HOLINESS**

**TEXT: LEV. 11:40-44, 1PET. 1:10-16, LUK 1:45-49**

**AIM: TO TEACH THE VALUE OF HOLINESS**

## INTRODUCTION:

Experience, they say, is one among the greatest teachers. Our personal experience worths more and remain indelible mark in our lives. So as well to any Christian that have personally experience the power of transformation of Jesus that translate to Holy Living. This transformation power comes through the Holy Spirit, renewing our mind from old to new things of God as it is written in (II Cor. 5:17, Rom 12:1-2). Every step toward transformation of life and character eventually build a virtue of Holiness in the life of a believer.

This life and character of Holiness have been God's heart desire even throughout the Old Testament time; according to Leviticus 11:44-45, God demands their separation from all manner of uncleanness and to set themselves apart to Himself.

## THE BODY

**Definition:** Experiencing the power of transformation is an act which involves a deep, internal change that involves change in action through God's Word and energy of Holy Spirit.

Our text in (1 Pet 1:10-16) Peter's interest is centred on the ultimate way of Salvation to mankind through Jesus which all the prophets of the old has been prophetically pointing to, even with intense search for the meaning, the time and circumstances which the Spirit will unveil the manifestation of Christ; He went further in preparing the believers heart for the need of eternal hope through Jesus final revelation, noting that the possibility for experiencing and enjoying the final hope is by no longer conforming to evil desires of this world but instead, to pursue holy living which is the nature and life of God (1 Pet 1:15-16).

This injunction is set before us this year to pursue the living of Holiness which is one of our slogans in our Diocese; "**Holiness Itself, That's What We Are**".

**"Holiness in Self" Starts with a Journey of Faith:**

- ◆ **i)** Faith in God alone, He exists and rewards our believe in Him: **Heb 11:6**.
- ◆ **ii)** Confession and rejection of sinfulness (**1 Jn 1:9**).
- ◆ **iii)** Acknowledgment of the Lordship of Jesus Christ (**Rom 10:9**).
- ◆ **iv)** Develop heart desire for more of Jesus in the inside heart and soul (**Matt 22:37**).
- ◆ **v)** Willingness to be made conformable to God's Holy will for our life (**Rom 12:1-2**).
- ◆ **vi)** Deliberate choice to go Jesus way above all odds. **Matt 16:24**.

All these and others are journey of faith towards experiencing the power of transformation is the Main theme for Diocesan theme: **TRANSFORMATION**.

Further attaining the transformation that leads to Holiness includes:

1. Daily examining oneself through the Scripture (**Heb 4:12; II Timothy 3:16, 17**).
2. Living a life of prayer which also has a transforming power. **Lk 11:5-13**.
3. Continuous practicing the truth we know from the Scripture **Jn 3:21**.
4. Always in fellowship and in good relationship with Holy Ghost and not to grieve Him for any reason. **LK 11:13; Eph 4:30; I Thess. 5:19**.

God is always at work through the power of His word and Spirit to bring a transformation to our Lives through our active faith in Him (**Phil. 1:6**). This transformation will facilitate the bearing of life pattern of Jesus which includes: Love for God and others, striving to be at peace with all people and willingness to serve God with all he has bestowed in us.

All and others scriptural measures of Christian transformation leads to Holy Life made easy, life set apart from sin, the world and Satan but

dedicated to God alone. All believers in Christ have been called unto life of Holy Living and God Himself is capable to work it out in us. (**I Thessalonians 5:24**).

**CONCLUSION:**

This is our year of transformation. Expectation is that all parishioners will queue in on the team in making sure that this it doesn't begin and end in banner display, paper card and church bulletins but further to produce a divine effect to our Lives and ministries; Remember: **FAITH IN GOD, HOLINESS IN SELF**.

**PRAYERS**

Lord, help me grow daily into the person you've called me to be. May I embrace change and develop character that reflects Your love. Heavenly Father, break the chains of past habits. Replace them with new behaviors that align with Your will and help me to move forward. God, transform my mind and fill it with Your wisdom. May my thoughts align with Your purpose and bring glory to Your name. Amen

**DATE: SUNDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2026 (LENT 6)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY**

**TEXT: ISA. 50:4-9A, ZECH.9:9-12, PS 24, PHIL. 2:5-11. MATT.**

**21:1-13**

**AIM: TO TEACH THE RELEVANCE OF HUMILITY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Jesus Christ as the son of God and God himself rode into Jerusalem on a donkey as against riding on Chariot of horses. This action of His demonstrated the spirit of humility which is the hallmark of Jesus' ministry.

### **THE BODY**

Humility is simply putting the needs of others above one's own and avoiding pride and arrogance. Jesus' acts of humility can be traced to His birth, when He was given birth to in a Manger which signifies Jesus' meek arrival as the king (Luke 2:7). Furthermore, Jesus Christ example of humility was also demonstrated when He washed the feet of His disciples, a duty that is regarded as an act of servitude usually performed by servants for their masters or their guests. (John 13:1-7). In another instance, during the passion of Jesus Christ right from His arrest up to His crucifixion, Jesus did not complain nor reacted angrily despite that fact that He was mocked, beaten, spat on and a crown of thorn was placed on His head. Jesus Christ accepted the death on the cross with utmost humility. (Luke 23: 44-47).

### **APPLICATION**

Being a follower of Jesus Christ, we must strive to put on every virtue of Him in our lives and one of such virtue is humility. An attitude that God detest in man is pride, James 4:6 and 1Peter 5:5 say- "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble". Peradventure, you have been battling with the seeds of pride in your life, you need to be transformed by the renewing of your mind and embrace humility as practiced by our saviour Jesus Christ (Rom.12:2).

### **WHAT TO DO TO BE HUMBLE**

1. Recognize that whatever you are/ have is a gift from God- 1Cor. 4:7
2. Don't boast about your achievements instead give thanks to God
3. Accept that you are not the best at everything; there is always someone who can do it better.
4. Give credit where it is due and compliment others.
5. Apologize sincerely when wrong and learn from it.
6. Ask God through prayers and studying of the word to transform you into a humble person.
7. Be thankful for what you have; counting blessings help.

### **BENEFITS OF HUMILITY**

1. Improver mental health that is less anxiety and depression leading to more happiness.
2. Humility cuts off selfish ambitions
3. Humility allows us to submit to God and others.
4. Humility brings more grace to our life.

### **CONCLUSION**

The key to receiving more grace from God is humility. To be humble you must be so consumed with the character of God.

Remember, God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, increase in me to zeal to grow in the virtue of humility every day and grant to me the grace to overcome pride, grant me the grace to put the needs of others before my own and to love you with all my heart in Jesus' name. Amen.

**DATE: MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2026 (HOLY WEEK)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: BEWARE OF THE SPIRIT OF DECEPTION**

**TEXT: ISA. 42:1-7, HEB.2:7-18, MK. 14:3; END**

**AIM: TO TEACH HOW TO BE WATCHFUL**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

As we journey through Lent; a season of sober reflection and stock taking, a season of repentance, and renewal, it is imperative to remember that spiritual vigilance is crucial. We live in the times described by Paul as "time of great apostasy (1 Tim. 4:1-5), perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1-9) & when they will not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:5). The activities of the spirit of deception is increasingly worrisome.

Our today's topic reminds us not only to draw nearer to God but also to guard our hearts against deception. The spirit of deception is subtle, often masquerading as truth (2 Corinthians 11:14), seeking to lure us away from God's path into eternal damnation. Today's scriptural readings: Isaiah, Hebrews, and Mark remind us of Christ's mission, His suffering, and the spiritual battle we face. Let us open our eyes and hearts to learn how to be watchful & to overcome the spirit of deception.

### **THE BODY:**

1. The Servant of the Lord—A Light Against Deception (Isaiah 42:1-7)

Isaiah describes God's servant as a gentle but strong light, bringing justice and opening blind eyes, bring out prisoners from the prison. Christ, the Servant, reveals truth and exposes the lies of deception. Yet, He also suffered to liberate us from the power of sin and deceit. In this Lenten season, we are called to follow His light, not the darkness of deception.

2. Jesus Overcame Temptation and Deception (Hebrews 2:7-18).

Hebrews reminds us that Jesus Himself was tempted and suffered, yet remained without sin. He became our merciful high priest, who sympathizes with our weaknesses. Because He has overcome deception and death, believers are given strength to resist the lies that seduce us away from faith and truth. Jesus, our suffering Redeemer incarnated for the purpose of destruction of the devil (curving his works in the life of

believers) and deliverance from the fear (deception) of death (1 Cor. 15:54-57).

3. Be Watchful Even in the Face of Betrayal (Mark 14:3-end)

In Mark, Jesus is anointed with expensive perfume; an act preparing for His burial. Immediately afterward, Judas's betrayal begins. Jesus warns His disciples to stay awake and pray, for the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. The spirit of deception works more in moments of weakness, luring even close companions to betray & deny Christ. We too must be spiritually alert, especially during testing and trying times.

### **APPLICATION:**

How Do We Stay Watchful?

Watch and pray: Regularly seek God's strength to resist temptation through watching and praying (Mk 14:38; Matthew 26:41).

Study the Scripture: Know God's Word as the ultimate truth against lies (John 17:17, Lk 4:4,8,12).

Fellowship with Saints: Stay connected with fellow believers for accountability and encouragement (Hebrews 10:25).

Covet the gift of Discernment: Test the spirits & reflect before accepting influences or beliefs (1 John 4:1, 1 Cor. 10:12).

### **CONCLUSION:**

Lent calls us to repentance and renewed faith, but also vigilance. The spirit of deception is real and dangerous, but Christ's light shines brightly to expose it. Let us follow the Servant's example, remain fervent in prayer and scripture, and keep watch over our hearts. Only then can we escape deception.

### **PRAYER:**

Lord Jesus; our way, truth, life, Light and Savior, we thank You for Your victory over sin, death, and deception. Help us to stay awake, watchful and alert, guarding our hearts and minds. Strengthen us through prayer, guide us by Your Word, and surround us with faithful believers who encourage us. Keep us from the snares of the enemy and lead us in Your truth. May Your Spirit illuminate our path, that we may walk in truth through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**DATE: TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2026 (HOLY WEEK)**  
**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**  
**TOPIC: BE YE TRANSFORMED**  
**TEXT: ISAIAH 49:1-6, PS. 55:18-26, ROM.12:1-5, MATT. 26:31-  
END**  
**AIM: TO TEACH CHRIST LIFE PATTERN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

When one hears, 'be transformed', what erupts on one's mind is, from what to what?

To be transformed means coming out of one's old shell to become sanctified; coming out of a conformed world to renewing one's mind to the perfect will of God; to change completely from bad to good.

This leads to letting God do the changing of appearance (replacing a heart of stone with that of flesh) Ezekiel 36:26-27.

Talking about not being conformed to the patterns of this world, but being transformed' by the renewing of our minds- How? By digging deep and absorbing oneself in the word of God, which will make impact on one's life.

To be transformed is a process of letting go; leaving behind old/unnecessary weight (Hebrews 12:1). We don't transform ourselves; God does it in us, only with our cooperation.

### **THE BODY**

Apostle Peter was one of the disciples of Jesus. The Bible records in Matthew 26:69-75 where he denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed twice. He even invoked a curse on himself in verse 74 just to make the accusers believe he had no association with Jesus, but immediately he had the crow of the cock, he remembered what Jesus told him in Matthew 26:33-34.

This same Peter got sobered up, repented and was transformed by the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4. A once timid, impulsive and fearful Peter in Acts 2:14ff through his preaching gained about three thousand souls for Christ in a single day.

### **APPLICATION**

Have you ever considered what the Holy Spirit can do in your journey of transformation? You are a unique, uncommon creation of God with certain traits which He wants you to have. Looking at the life of Apostle Peter, and how the Holy Spirit transformed him. Don't forget, he was an ordinary person like you.

There is a difference between the Peter 'before' Pentecost and the Peter 'after' the Pentecost. Please note that you cannot be just be ordinary in this dispensation as a Christian like Peter 'before' Pentecost who was with Jesus but was still empty, not having the indwelling Spirit.

He was very timid, not outspoken. He was weak-willed, impulsive and was afraid (Matt. 14:28-30; Matt. 16:22-23; John 18:10; Matt. 26: 69-70). Be like the Peter 'after' the Pentecost who was verbally-gifted (Acts 2:14), had a changed temperament and whose weaknesses were transformed.

### **CONCLUSION**

As we are transformed, or as our minds are renewed, we will be able to know and live in God's will.

A change is needed here - both outward and inwards (from the heart) and a chance in character and attitude.

All are only achievable through:

1. Accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior
2. Repent, confess your sins and get baptized
3. Receiving the Holy Spirit
4. And daily living out God's will.

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, I surrender my identity to You and I ask that You shape me into Your image and Likeness through the same Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Amen

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2026 (HOLY WEEK)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION IN DIFFICULT SITUATION**

**TEXT: ISA 52:13-15, PS 70, 1PET. 2:9-15, LK. 23:1-49**

**AIM: RISING ABOVE DIFFICULT SITUATION**

**AIM:**

To make us know that God is working out His purpose for us, that we can learn to live Christ-like lives, and shine in difficult situations.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Transformation means radical change, in inner character, condition, or nature. It is the supernatural change worked in the character or nature of the believer according to Romans 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18, and Phil. 3:21.

Transformation can also mean a superficial change intended to disguise one's true identity or nature (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

The power of transformation connotes the profound ability to bring about fundamental, internal change, moving from an old stage to a new, often a superior one, driven by renewed spiritual alignment, or powerful ideas, leading to personal and spiritual growth, dictated through searching and studying of the scriptures.

### **THE BODY:**

The power of transformation in difficult situations, is a process of metamorphosis, that makes one become a better version of one self, through divine guidance and aligning with the truth, but the truth and still shine and stay above board in difficult situations.

Apostle Paul affirms in Romans 12:2, that believers, should not be confirmed, either inwardly or in appearance, to the values, ideals, and behaviours of a fallen world. Christians are to continually renew their minds through prayers and the studying of God's Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and so be transformed and be made like Christ (2Cor. 3:18). When He, Christ return, will " transform our lowly body....." (Phil.3:21).

Transformation in a difficult situation may be a superficial change intended to disguise one's true identity or nature according to 2Cor. 11: 13-15. Satan and his followers often appear as "angels of light", in an attempt to deceive and disrupt the church. This is merely a change in appearance, since no created being, has the power to radically change his character or nature. Paul uses *metaschematizomai* to describe the devil's masquerading (2Cor. 11:14), as opposed to *metamorphoomai* for a Christian's thoroughgoing metamorphosis of character " being transformed into his (Jesus) likeness....."(2Cor. 3:18).

### **APPLICATION:**

As believers, we are to be involved in the process of prayers and searching out of Scripture, the divine values, attitudes, and behaviours that will renew our minds (Rom. 12:2). Even here, however, the word is passive. We cannot change ourselves; it is the work of God. And surely, God is working out His purpose for us... (CON Hymnal 989), as His own, that we can learn to live Christ-like lives.

Luke 23:38 emphasizes Pilate's sign writing made for the top of the Cross, simply identifying Jesus as the King of the Jews, and it is written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that all on-lookers are able to read it.

The sign writing was meant to be ironic. A king, striped and executed in public view, had obviously lost his kingdom forever. But Jesus was, was just coming into His kingdom. His death and resurrection would strike the death blow to Satan's rule, and would establish Christ's eternal authority over the earth.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Beloved, the purpose that God worked out in the signage/ sign writing, on top of Jesus' Cross, for few people reading the sign writing, that bleak afternoon, understood the real meaning, but the signage/ sign writing was

absolutely true. All was not lost. Jesus is truly the King of the Jew and the Gentiles and not that alone. **HE IS THE KING OF KINGS OF THE UNIVERSE.**

**PRAYER:**

Father! As You are working out Your purpose for me, renew my mind, that I may manifest Your Glory, Christ like Glory, all the days of my life even in difficult situation. Amen.

**DATE: THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2026 (HOLY WEEK)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME: A COMMAND TO TRANSFORMATION**

**TEXT: EXOD. 12:1-14, PS 116:11-18, 1COR. 11:23-29, JOHN 13:1-15**

**AIM: TO ESTABLISH THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Maundy Thursday marks a significant moment in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, as well as our Christian faith. It commemorates the night Jesus offered Himself as the “**Pass Over Lamb**”, for our redemption (Exodus 12:3-5), instituted the Holy Eucharist, washed His disciples’ feet and gave the commandment of love and humility (Transformation). "Do This in Remembrance of Me" is a command for us who shares in the Body of Christ to live His risen life, a life of Transformation, serving one another and following His examples.

**BODY OF THE MESSAGE:**

The Holy Communion as the highest Sacrament of the Church, is a service of Thanksgiving calling to our remembrance, the great sacrifice Jesus made with His own precious blood, as the cup of salvation which loosed our bonds and freed us from the slavery of sin. Jesus’ command about the Holy Communion, signifying not just a memory, but a transformative act of remembering His sacrifice, renewing faith, fueling love for God and others, and proclaiming His Covenant (1 Cor, 11:23-26), leading to changed lives, unity and spiritual nourishment through bread and wine (His Body and Blood).

"Do This in Remembrance of Me" focuses on the spiritual significance of Communion, emphasizing obedience, worship, and anticipation, moving beyond mere ritual to a lifestyle change reflecting Christ's sacrifice. it’s a call to embody Christ’s love and sacrifice by living a transformed life, carrying His grace into the world and teaching others.

**Spiritual Encounter:** Partaking in the bread and wine becomes a profound, multisensory encounter with Christ, uniting believers with Him and each other.

**Internal Transformation:** The act isn't just mental; it's meant to transform lives by fueling love for Jesus, love for others, and a deeper commitment to His teachings, fostering spiritual maturity.

**Application:**

**A Transformed Life:** To obey Jesus' injunction, "**Do This in Remembrance of Me**" as a **command to Transformation**, it is a necessity for us to observe that which is required of those who come to the Lord's supper, as contained in our Catechism.

1. **Self-Examination** (1 Cor 11:28): Self-reflection on salvation, sin, turning away from sin and readiness to partake in the Holy Communion with a sincere heart.
2. **Lively Faith in God:** We need to receive the Holy Communion with a lively faith, discerning the Body and Blood of Christ, in order to enjoy the grace of God available for us in this sacrament and fully embrace all the benefits thereof.
3. **Thankful Remembrance of His Death:** A Lifestyle of Remembrance, and Gratitude, let our lives, daily choices, and love for others reflect the sacrifice we remember at the table. It's about recalling Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, understanding it was for your sins and healing, not just a historical event.
4. **Living a Practical life of Love:** The meal demonstrates solidarity and calls us to love one another as Christ loved us, breaking down divisions.
5. **Proclaiming the Gospel:** A visible act that declares the Gospel message until He returns. It serves as a public proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, passing the core message of redemption across generations.
6. **Anticipation:** Looking forward to His second coming, living with an eternal perspective.

**CONCLUSION:**

"Do this in remembrance of me," from the Last Supper (1 Corinthians 11:24), is a command for Christians to partake in Communion (the Eucharist) to memorialize Jesus's sacrifice, not just as a ritual, but as a transformative act that fuels faith, love for others, spiritual unity, and a renewed commitment to living His teachings, transforming believers to reflect His life and grace. It's a call to remember His body broken and blood shed, it's a living encounter with Christ's presence. It is a Call to the Unbelievers as Jesus offers a living relationship, not just a memorial; come to Him, connecting to His saving work and anticipating His return, making the remembrance a living, changing experience.

**PRAYER:**

1. Heavenly Father, give us the grace to proclaim your love amongst all, even as we continue to celebrate the sacrifice of your death upon the cross.
2. Lord Jesus, grant us a transformed life through the power of your body and blood, that we may truly do this in remembrance of your love.
3. Almighty Father, help us to reverence Christ each time we partake in this sacrament of the Lord's supper, in the mighty Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**DATE: GOOD FRIDAY, 3RD APRIL, 2026 (HOLY WEEK)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: SUFFERING PAIN BEFORE TRANSFORMATION**

**TEXT: ISAIAH 53:1-12, PS. 22:1-22, 1COR.11:23-29, JOHN 18:1-19, 37.**

**AIM: TO TEACH ENDURANCE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A popular adage goes thus: *No pain, No gain*. Growing in the likeness of Christ requires that we be willing to deny ourselves of certain privileges, embrace some inconveniences [discomfort] and take up our cross daily [Mark 8:31/34]. Gold passes through fire to remove dross, Silver goes through fire to purify it also. In both instances however, the fiery process leads to revealing their shine and worth.

### **THE BODY**

1 Cor. 10:13 says “no temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape”. Since it has been established culturally and spiritually that suffering should not be seen as punishment but *discipline*, it therefore behooves every believer to exercise faith by always declaring that “*all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose*” [Rom. 8:28].

1 Cor. 9:24-27 also reminds us of the inconvenience of discipline for a cause which however leads to victory celebration eventually. *No frown, No crown!*

Since Matthew 10:22b already assures the Christian that “he who endures to the end will be saved”, let us learn from Christ Himself who was:

Forsaken: Psalm 22:1; Mark 14:50

Despised, Afflicted & Rejected: Isaiah 53:3/4; Matthew 27:30/31

Mocked & Insulted: Luke 18: 32/33

Betrayed: 1 Corinthians 11:23; Matthew 26:21,25

Denied: John 18:17; Matthew 12:24

### **APPLICATION**

Suffering pain before transformation is to walk in the way of the cross just as Jesus did. It is neither a stroll in the park nor a celebration parade with a cheering group of supporters or fans. Rather, the way of the cross is

- a. Lonely: Matthew 27:46; Mark 14:50
- b. A humble commitment to purpose: John 12:27; John 10:10
- c. To stay true despite difficulties and temptation: Luke 4:5-7; Matthew 26:39
- d. The way of yearning/longing because you can perceive the coming glory: Revelation 21:23; John 14:2/3; Revelation 2:9
- e. The way of forgiveness: Matthew 6:14/15; Luke 23:34
- f. The way of victory and accomplishment: 1 Timothy 4:7/8; Acts 7:59; Luke 2:29-31; John 17:4

### **CONCLUSION**

The scripture clearly states in Hebrews 9:27 that *it has been appointed for men to die once, after this, judgment*. Also, judgment itself is a two-way verdict: paradise or hell. The message today is that of endurance as this present suffering is only for a while. We who suffer with Christ in His death will also be raised [1Thes.4:16/17] be raised with Him at His second coming. Therefore, endure this present pain for the gain of eternity with Christ.

### **PRAYER**

O Lord, help me to appreciate the suffering you went through for my sake and mold me to endure suffering for the sake of the gospel. Amen

**DATE: SATURDAY, 4TH APRIL, 2026 (HOLY WEEK)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: TRANSFORMATION CRUSADE**

**TEXT: JOB. 14:1-14, PS. 16, 1PET. 3:17-23, MATT. 27:57- 66**

**AIM: TO TEACH THAT MAN CANNOT HOLD BACK GODS' TRANSFORMATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Transformation is a divine process initiated and completed by God. Job's word from the text considered affirms that Man on his own is frail and incapable of helping himself amidst all the troubles surrounding him.

Many believers desire change, victory, and renewal, yet some unknowingly resist God's transforming power through fear, pride, or attachment to the old life. Total victory in transformation comes when man surrenders completely to God's will. When God decides to transform a life, no human limitation, past failure, or resistance can stop His work.

## **THE BOBY**

### **1. God Is the Author of Transformation**

"I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight." Those who run after her gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips." (Psalm 16:2-4)

Man with all his traditions/ traditional practices are helpless. Despite His craving for solution, human need God Almighty for transformation. Transformation begins with God, not man. The Bible says in Philippians 1:6 that He who began a good work will carry it on to completion. God does not start what He cannot finish. Once He begins transforming a life, His purpose will surely stand.

### **2. Man's Resistance Cannot Stop God's Power**

Human weakness, doubt, or fear cannot overpower God's will. In the story of Jonah, even when Jonah ran away, God's plan still prevailed. Do you remember that Pilate's directives in Matthew 27: <sup>65</sup>"Take a guard," Pilate

answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup>So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

All effort to stop that transformation from death to life failed. Starting from the voices who spoke against Christ resurrection, to the stone rolled on the mouth of the tomb, to the seal placed on the tomb, and the guards who kept watch to hinder the resurrection. This shows that man may delay the process, but cannot stop divine transformation.

### **3. Transformation Brings Total Victory**

True transformation leads to total victory—victory over sin, fear, weakness, and the past. The book of Romans 12:2 teaches that when the mind is renewed, life is transformed. This victory is not partial; it affects the heart, mind, and actions of the believer.

Read 1 Peter 3: 17-22 again. The Victory from the death has given us total victory. Take note of verse 22, Christ's ascension to the right hand of God had brought all authority and powers in submission to him; the same right and privileges has been given to as many who has experienced transformation 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 John 5:4

### **4. Surrender Is the Key to Transformation**

Whistle man cannot stop God's transformation; surrender determines how smooth the process will be. When a believer submits fully to God, transformation becomes joyful and powerful rather than painful and resisted.

## **APPLICATION/CHALLENGE**

In this season of Lent, you should earnestly examine your life and identify areas where you are resisting God's work.

Whether it is fear, pride, habits, or attachments, complete surrender allows God to bring total victory.

You must trust God enough to let go of the old and embrace the new life He offers.

## **CONCLUSION**

Total victory in transformation is guaranteed when God is involved. Man does not have the power to stop God's work; at best, he can only delay it. When we yield ourselves fully to God, His transforming power produces a victorious, renewed, and purposeful life.

## **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your transforming power. I ask that You remove every form of resistance in my heart. Help me to surrender fully to Your will so that Your work in me will bring total victory. Transform my mind, heart, and life for Your glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

**DATE: SUNDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2026 (EASTER DAY)**

**THEME: TRANSFORMATION**

**TOPIC: THE EMPTY TOMB AND ITS IMPLICATIONS**

**TEXT: ISA. 25:6-9, 1COR. 15:12-20, JOHN.20:1-18, ESTER ANTHEM**

**AIM: TO TEACH CHRIST VICTORY OVER DEATH**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands at the very heart of the Christian faith. Christianity is not merely built on moral teachings, religious traditions, or inspiring stories, but on a historical and spiritual reality: the tomb is empty. The resurrection is God's final answer to sin, suffering, fear, and death. Without it, faith collapses; with it, hope stands unshaken. The empty tomb is not just an event to be celebrated; it is a truth to be understood and lived.

## **THE BODY**

### **1. The Empty Tomb as God's Fulfilment of Promise (Isaiah 25:6-9)**

Isaiah prophesied a day when God would "swallow up death in victory" and wipe away tears from all faces. This promise finds its fulfilment in the resurrection of Christ. The empty tomb declares that death is no longer final, and sorrow no longer ultimate. God's salvation plan did not end at the cross; it was completed at the resurrection.

### **2. The Empty Tomb as the Foundation of Christian Faith (1 Corinthians 15:12-20)**

Paul boldly teaches that if Christ is not raised, preaching is vain and faith is empty. The resurrection validates Jesus' identity, confirms the truth of the gospel, and guarantees the future resurrection of believers. Christ is called "the first fruits," meaning His victory over death is the pattern and assurance of ours.

### **3. The Empty Tomb as a Personal Encounter (John 20:1-18)**

John's Gospel presents the resurrection not merely as a doctrine but as an encounter. Mary Magdalene met the risen Lord personally. Her grief

turned to joy, confusion to clarity, and despair to mission. The empty tomb transforms mourners into messengers and fear into faith.

#### 4. The Empty Tomb as Christ's Victory over Death

Death could not hold Jesus because He is life itself. The resurrection proves that sin has been defeated, Satan disarmed, and death rendered powerless. What once terrified humanity now bows before Christ's authority.

Believers can live without fear of death (Hebrews 2:14–15). Hope remains alive even in seasons of loss and suffering. The Church is commissioned to proclaim a living Saviour, not a dead hero. Christians are called to live resurrected lives, marked by holiness, courage, and hope.

### CONCLUSION

The empty tomb is God's loud declaration that **Jesus Christ reigns victorious**. It assures us that death does not have the final word, that suffering is temporary, and that eternal life is secure in Christ. Because the tomb is empty, our faith is full, our hope is alive, and our future is guaranteed.

### PRAYER

Father, we thank You for the empty tomb and the victory of Jesus over death. Strengthen our faith in the risen Christ, deliver us from fear. Let the power that raised Christ from the dead work mightily in us, for Your glory, in Jesus' name. Amen.