



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

March 17-23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon Title: "Hungry Prayers" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for families, small groups, and individual reflection:

1. This week's sermon title is "Hungry Prayers." The message describes the difference in our prayer lives when we are hungry and when we are not. We are not, of course, speaking of physical hunger. How would you rate your prayer life on the "hunger" index?
2. In an interesting way, with all the conversations about immigration of late, political parties on both sides have been speaking of the importance of immigrants when it comes to the harvesting of our fields. It gives us time to reflect on what would happen if they no longer were "workers in the harvest." Does all the current controversy around immigrant workers in the fields inspire greater allegiance to Jesus' call to pray for spiritual workers for the harvest?
3. It is critical that we be hungry for the right things. In our primary reading, still in the context of prayer, Jesus offers The Golden Rule: "Do to others what you would have them do to you." How does this central rule apply to our prayer life?

Monday, March 17: Read Matthew 7:7-12

We are now at the Third Sunday in Lent. Hopefully, you have been engaged in our Forty Day Challenge, with daily prayer time. How is it going? Are you still at it? Have you found fruit or frustration in your attempt to pray daily and consistently? Most of us reading this GPS have spent time in prayer, but do we believe our prayers really make a difference? And are we "hungry" for the right things? This week, we will prepare for Pete's sermon, "Hungry Prayers," examining the difference in our prayer lives when we are hungry and when we are not. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus assures us that God understands our hunger and will not ignore it when we pray. Are we paying attention to our hunger and going to God for it? **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what you are "hungry" for right now and how your prayer life is affected by your "hunger."*

Tuesday, March 18: Read Matthew 9:35-38

Last week, we focused on how Jesus taught us to pray using the Lord's Prayer, noting how far down "Give us this day our daily bread" appears in the order of priority, after first praising God and asking for God's Kingdom to come and God's Will to be done. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus speaks of a "harvest," but it is not one in which bread is reaped but souls. What is Jesus hungry for here? How does that hunger translate into a call to us to pray? How often do we pray for that which Jesus calls us to pray here?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Take time to reflect on the "field work" you are doing. What harvest are you gathering? Does it reflect a hunger like Jesus's?*

Wednesday, March 19: Read John 4:27-38

Today's passage from the Gospel of John gives us another example of Jesus's hunger to reach people surpassing his physical hunger. Not only that, Jesus's work nourishes him in a way that physical eating does not. Reflect on a time when you may have been so involved in something meaningful that you forgot to eat. What was going on? What did it feel like? What would it look like to be so focused on Jesus's priorities that you were able to forget your own earthly hungers and get filled up instead by the work of the Spirit?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research the concept of "Flow" by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. Reflect on when you have felt this, and how you could approach this in your spiritual and prayer life.*

Thursday, March 20: Read Psalm 42

Focusing on Jesus's priorities does not mean ignoring our own feelings and needs. Notice how today's psalmist both declares a hunger and thirst for God and acknowledges feelings of sadness, depression, fear, and anxiety. The psalmist recognizes that God is the answer for these feelings, and therefore there is no difficult choice between choosing God and choosing one's self – they are inseparable.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Share a time when you felt too busy, too anxious, or too upset to pray, believing you needed to put yourself first. How did this work for you?*

Friday, March 21: Read Psalm 63

Today's psalm is less well-known than Psalm 42 but gives another voice to the same fulfillment, meaning, peace, and joy we can have if we hunger and thirst for God above all else. In a time when so many of us feel lost, aimless, and scared, how could this focus be life-giving and even life-saving? What is the message we need to hear? What is the message we need to share with the world?

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Look for ways to share God's sanctuary of love, life, and peace with someone who desperately needs it.*

Saturday, March 22: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 5:3

"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning, I lay my request before you and wait expectantly."

Sunday, March 23: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying a prayer Personal Confession and a prayer for Enlightenment: *O God, our Heavenly Father, we confess our sin to you. Your grace inspires a hunger inside of us, but we consume lesser things. You call us to pray for bread, but we are good with stones. You have called us to pray for laborers for the harvest, but we want them to serve us. Forgive us, O gracious God, and lead us to that better place that seeks your kingdom first, for we pray it in the name of Jesus.*