

## Introduction To This Guide

These daily devotions are provided to encourage you to listen and reflect on how God is speaking to you during this Season of Lent. The question at the end of each day's contemplation is intended to foster further reflection and prayer throughout the day. In addition, space is provided for you to document your thoughts on how you hear God speaking to you at this time. May you be blessed and transformed through the Holy Spirit as you ponder God's word during this most holy of seasons. ++ *Provided by:* Community Missions Inc., 1570 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14303, Phone: (716) 285-3403, [www.communitymissions.org](http://www.communitymissions.org)

### *Where Do I Begin?*

Begin each day with the Prayer of Illumination to help, prepare your heart to hear God's word for you. Read "to be formed and transformed rather than to gather information...Read with a vulnerable heart. Expect to be blessed...Read as one awake, one waiting for the beloved. Read with reverence."

Let us Pray a *Prayer of Illumination*:

All-Seeing One, above me, around me, within me —

**guide my vision as I engage with your sacred words.**

Look down upon me, look out from within me, look all around me.

**See through my eyes, hear through my ears, feel through my heart.**

God of Wisdom, touch me where I need to be touched;

and when my heart is touched, give me the grace to lay

down this Holy Book and ask significant questions:

**Why has my heart been touched by you?**

**How am I to be changed through your touch?**

All-Seeing One, I need to change, I need to look a little more like You.

**May these sacred words change and transform me.**

Then I can meet You face to face...when I shall be healed forever.

Your Word and the touch of your Spirit bring healing...

a healing that will last.

**O Eye of God, look not away.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

**and put a new and right spirit within me. Amen.**

Adapted from *A Tree Full of Angels* by Macrina Wiederkehr [As quoted in *A Guide To Prayer For All God's People*, Job & Shawchuck, The Upper Room]

## TUESDAY OF EASTER WEEK - Day 49

### *RENEWED IN CHRIST*

Colossians 3:11-17

In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### *NEW STRENGTH*

Easter delivers us from harsh judgment through the mercy and forgiveness of Christ. Our text talks about renewal: a renewed heart and spirit. It says, *bear with one another*. Bear your neighbor's burden, walk with them through their valleys, scale the mountain together, endure the highs and lows of life in community - let no one be forced to go it alone.

With Christ in our lives we have a new strength "a strength which is not our own, which is given to us whenever we need it...through his merciful love for us."<sup>a</sup>

In the coming weeks may our hearts be renewed through our faith in the presence of the Christ among us. Let us be guided to a deeper understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit within us. May we hear the resurrected Christ speak to us in ways that deepen our knowledge of God's will for our lives. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...And whatever you do, in*

word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

PRAYER

“I have much to learn. Continue, in your mysterious wisdom, to send teachers into my life, no matter how young or old, who will teach me compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. I am a ready student; let my teachers come.”<sup>a</sup> Amen

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

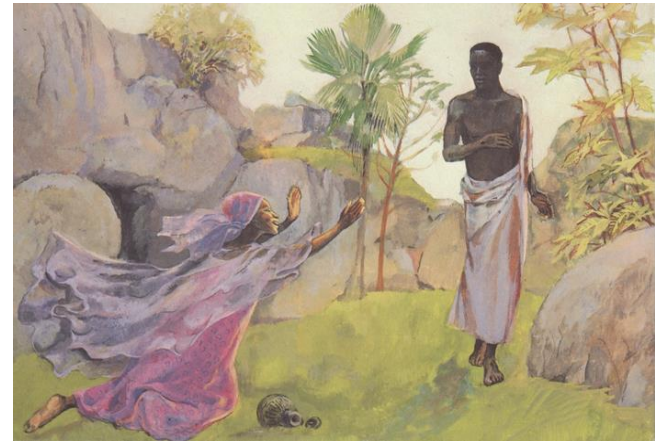
Explain how you have been renewed this Easter?

Four horizontal lines for writing reflections.

-----fold here -----  
↓ front cover ↓  
-----fold here -----

# First Tuesday of Easter – Day 49

## A Guide for Devotion and Prayer



Easter - Christ appears to Mary. JESUS MAFA. (1979)

### TUESDAY AFTER EASTER

### WALK IN THE SPIRIT



This week’s devotional resource was written by Rev. Wendy Depew Partelow, President of the American Baptist Churches of New York State Board of Missions, and edited by Rev. Mark H. Breese of Community Missions. The content was created specifically keeping in mind the populations served by Community Missions.

#### REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- Scripture Verses are from the *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*, HarpurCollins Publishers, 1989.
- The choice of Daily Scripture texts are taken from *Lent & Easter, Wisdom from Thomas Merton*, Linguori Publications.
- \*\*Free from the Law of Lent”, *Lent & Easter, Wisdom from Thomas Merton*, Linguori Publications, p. 102.
- \*\*They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love #284, *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*, Word Music, Waco, TX, 1986.
- <sup>a</sup>Prayer, *Lent & Easter, Wisdom from Thomas Merton*, Linguori Publications, p. 103.,
- <sup>a</sup>Ibid, “The Power of Easter,” p. 104., <sup>a</sup>Ibid, Prayer, p. 105.
- <sup>aa</sup>*One Tin Soldier*, by The Original Caste, 1971.