

**Thursday, March 7, Psalm 139**

Lent is a time for searching. We are not searching for something outside of ourselves. We are asking God to search within ourselves. No one knows us like God does. God knows our thoughts even before we think (Psalm 139:2b). God is familiar with all our ways (v.3). The fact that God knows us this well means that God knows exactly where we need to be made new. Ask God to show you how wonderfully you are made in the image of God. Let God search you. Listen as God teaches you. Be amazed when God changes you.

*Wise God, look at my life and show me what you want me to see. Forgive me for trying to fix everybody around me. I humbly ask you to search me by the power of your Holy Spirit. Change me day by day into who you want me to be. Amen.*

**Friday, March 8, Isaiah 43:18-25**

We like new things. We cannot wait to wear our new suit or new dress. We like the smell of a new car. Sometimes what keeps from experiencing something new is that we are stuck in the old. God reminds Israel to forget the “former things”. Dwelling on the past will get you nowhere. God is doing something new. The reason we practice certain disciplines during Lent, like prayer and fasting, is to make room for God to do something new. What is the new thing God is doing in you, for you or through you?

*Lord, give us eyes to perceive the new work you want to do in us, in our family, in our church and in our faith. Give us a new hope that is stronger than past disappointments. Give us a new sense of courage that is greater than our fears. Give us a new boldness to seek you with confidence. Loosen our grip on the “former things” so that we will not miss the new opportunities. Amen.*

**Saturday, March 9, Luke 8:40-48**

Sometimes it looks like we cannot win. Then Jesus shows up. When he arrives, everything is different. That’s what happened for a woman who had been sick for years and years. No one had been able to help her. She could not win. Every new possibility ended in disappointment. Jesus came to town and she pressed her way through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus’ garment. Immediately her condition was cured. Do not let anything stop you from pressing forward and reaching out in faith today. You might think you have reached the end of your rope, but Jesus has the power to turn your situation around.

*Gracious God, when we feel like we have done all that we can do, help us to reach forward in faith one more time. You do not want us to suffer. Even now you are working for our good. The breakthrough we need may come at any moment, so we are waiting expectantly for you to bring something new out of something old. Amen.*