

# 4th Sunday of Lent

*“Jesus said to Nicodemus: ‘Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.’” (Jn 3:14-15)*



*In response to the coronavirus outbreak,  
Pilot Bulletins is providing this bulletin.*

# Journey OF Faith

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

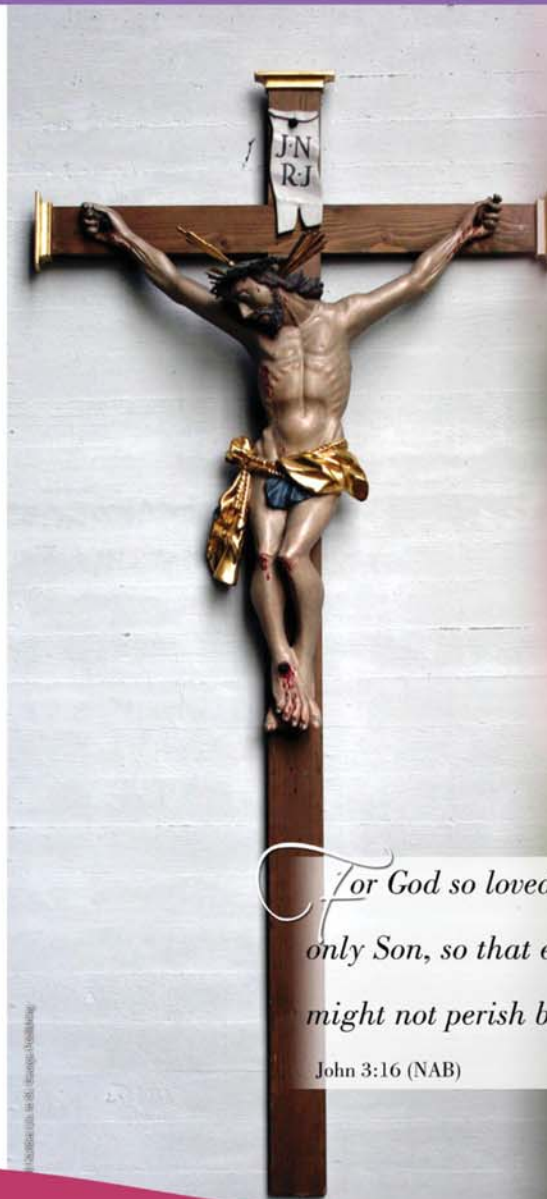
## In Word & Deed

*The language of faith is love.*

Some speak it so well that their example inspires others to lives of generous service. Mother Teresa spoke it well, as did Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. Others speak it too, but are perhaps not as well known, people like our parents and families, pastors, teachers, fellow parishioners, friends and neighbors. God speaks it too. And when God spoke, the Word became Flesh.

Wherever the Gospel is preached, the message is the same. To rulers and peasants, to refugees of war and to promoters of peace, to the high and mighty and the poor and lowly, to the living and to the dead, the message never changes. God is rich in mercy; God loves people; God so loved the world that He sent His only Son. The good news is for everyone, of all time and all places.

(continued on back)



*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.*

John 3:16 (NAB)

*Nowhere does the Torah say, 'Invite your guest to pray';  
but it does tell us to offer a guest food, drink and a bed.*

JEWISH PROVERB





## FAMILY LIFE:

# TO WALK AS ONE



Sometimes, when you say or do something cute as a child, it comes back to haunt you as an adult, especially if you have several older brothers who will not let you forget. A favorite family story is about my youngest brother. When he was a child, he admitted that every day at lunch in school, he would kiss his homemade, chocolate chip cookies before he ate them. When asked why, he replied that he knew they were made with lots of love!

Lent is about making sacrifices and atoning for sins, and becoming better people of faith. Good Lenten practices remind us of our baptismal calling to be better people of faith. But isn't it really about loving others? Isn't the root of most of our sinfulness a failure to love? To make up for our sins and failures, to follow Christ more closely, we need to love

better, more completely, and more unselfishly.

Love can restore relationships, heal past hurts and mend broken hearts and spirits. Love is the antidote to sin.

The best expressions of love are concrete actions that express our concern and affection. People need to experience our love for them. Just thinking it or saying it doesn't help a whole lot. Real love brings us together with those who need us and want us to be close to them. Acts of kindness and thoughtfulness, offering a helping hand or a listening ear makes a big difference. Even a batch of chocolate chip cookies—or a cup of water—can let others know how much we care.

—Jim Gaffney

## In Word & Deed

(continued from front)

It can be easy to doubt God's love, especially when we are aware of our sinfulness and failings. But God's love is unconditional. We do not have to earn it, or work for it, or be someone to receive it. God's love is a gift offered to everyone. It is offered to saints and sinners, to the holy and the not so holy. The cross is the sign of God's love for us. On it, He gives you His life: through it, He gives you His love; by it, He gives you eternal life. The language of love is easy to learn and understand. Just open your heart and mind to hear the good news.

—Jim Gaffney



*We* are the new pilgrims who must sleep every night beneath a new sky, for either we go forward to the new camp or the whirling earth carries us backward to one behind.



*T*here is no choice but to move, forward or backward. Forward to the clean hut, or backward to the old camp, fouled every day by the passers.

—Joyce Cary

*Genuine forgiveness is participation, reunion overcoming the powers of estrangement.*

*And only because this is so does forgiveness make love possible.*

\* Paul Tillich \*

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# Fourth Sunday of Lent, Scrutiny Year A Readings



Image: James Tissot, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

*Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation. Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself.*

## Living in the light

*By Scott Hahn*

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history — God’s covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today’s First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God’s final Old Testament covenant — the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89:3).

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today’s Psalm.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4).

God is rich in mercy, as today’s Epistle teaches. He promised that David’s kingdom would last forever, that David’s son would be His Son and rule all nations (see 2 Samuel 7:14–15; Psalm 2:7–9). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see Revelation 22:16).

Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see Wisdom 16:6–7; Numbers 21:9). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself (see John 12:32).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father’s love condemn themselves — as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God’s handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see John 19:37) and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for.



# Fourth Sunday of Lent, Scrutiny Year A Readings

## READING 1 ..... 1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons."

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There—anooint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM.... 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

**R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anooint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

## READING 2 ..... EPH 5:8-14

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says:

"Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will give you light."

## VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL..... JN 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.



# Fourth Sunday of Lent, Scrutiny Year A Readings

## GOSPEL ..... JN 9:1-41 OR JN 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" —which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how

he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.





Image: Byzantinischer Mosaizist des 12. Jahrhunderts / Public domain

## *Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer*

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

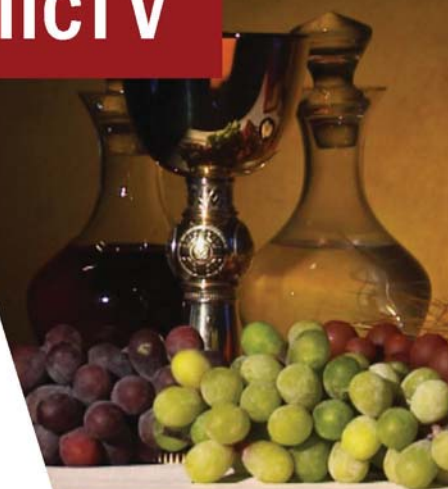
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from  
You.

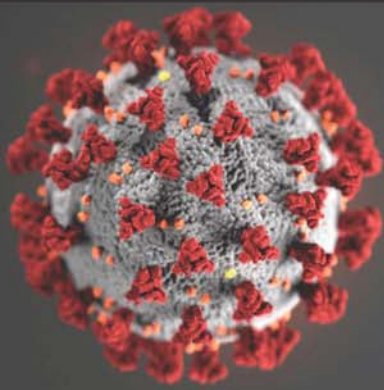
Amen.

## Watch the Mass on CatholicTV

During this difficult time, CatholicTV wants to ensure that all Catholics have access to the Mass and other vital prayer resources. You can watch daily and Sunday Masses on ***WatchtheMass.com***, and you can find other prayers like the Divine Office, the Rosary, and more on ***CatholicTV.com***.







# COVID-19

## Clean your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



## Clean and disinfect

- Clean **AND** disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, counter tops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.



## Take steps to protect others

### *Cover coughs and sneezes*

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

### *Wear a facemask if you are sick*

- If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

**STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK.**



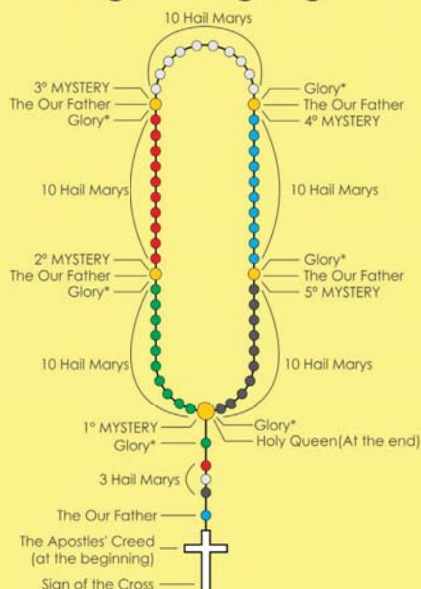
# Rosary explanation

## Portuguese language



\*Após a "Glória" rezar a Oração: Ó meu Jesus, perdoai-nos, livrai-nos do fogo do inferno, levari as almas todas para o céu e socorrei principalmente as que mais precisarem.

## English language



\*After the "Glory" pray the Prayer: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy

## Spanish language



\*Después de la "glória" rezar la oración: Oh, Jesús mío, perdona nuestros pecados, libranos del fuego del infierno, y lleva nuestras almas al cielo, especialmente aquellas que necesitan más Tu Misericordia.

## HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

Familiarize yourself and/or your group with the prayers of the rosary.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the Crucifix, say the Apostles' Creed.
3. On the first bead, say an Our Father.
4. Say one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads.
5. Say the Glory Be
6. For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery (perhaps followed by a brief reading from Scripture) then say the Our Father.
7. While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, next say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a Glory Be.  
(After finishing each decade, some say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.)
8. After saying the five decades, say the Hail, Holy Queen, followed by this dialogue and prayer:

**V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.**

**R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son,**

**by his life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,**

**grant, we beseech thee,**

**that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary,**

**we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise,**

**through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(A prayer to St. Joseph may also follow.)

Conclude the Rosary with the Sign of the Cross.



## BIBLE DETECTIVE

See what you can discover for yourself about the background to the readings.

### THE SECOND BOOK OF CHRONICLES.

What can you find out about Cyrus, king of Persia? When did he live? What did his proclamation mean for the Jews? What happened after it?

How does it all relate to the psalm: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept?"

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

In the gospel reading, Jesus refers to Moses' having lifted up a serpent in the desert.

Who was Moses? What was the serpent, and what happened when it was lifted up?

## FILL IN THE GAPS

The sentences below are missing key words. Can you find the correct ones? (They are all in today's readings.)

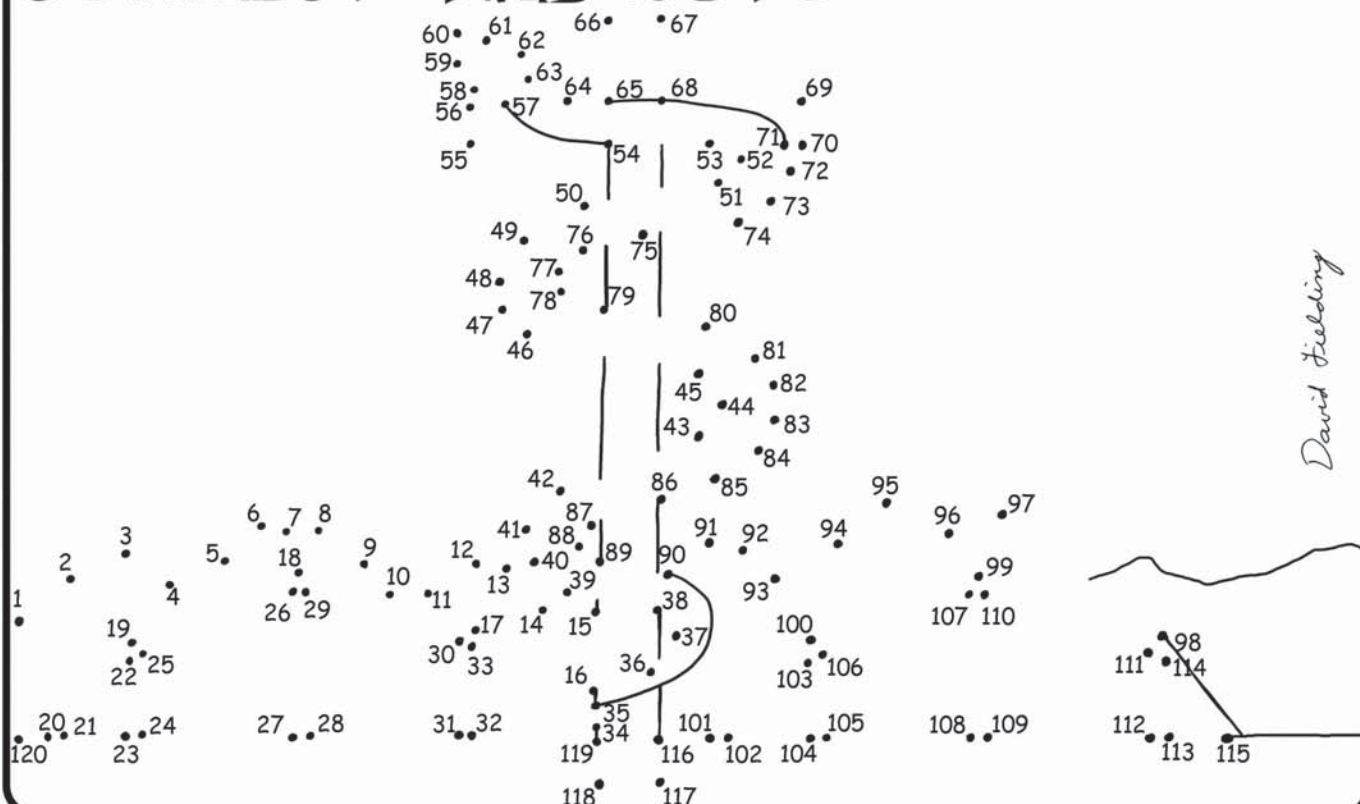
1. Early and \_\_\_\_\_ did the Lord, the God of their \_\_\_\_\_, send his \_\_\_\_\_ to them.
2. For by \_\_\_\_\_ you have been \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_.
3. For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ that he gave his \_\_\_\_\_ Son.
4. God did not \_\_\_\_\_ his Son into the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the world.
5. For \_\_\_\_\_ who does \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ the light.

### ANSWERS

1. often, fathers, messengers 2. grace, saved, faith  
3. loved, world, only 4. send, world, condemn  
5. everyone, wicked, hates

## CONNECT THE DOTS

READING: 2 CHR 36, 14-17. 19-23







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*"Jesus Wept." John 11:35*



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