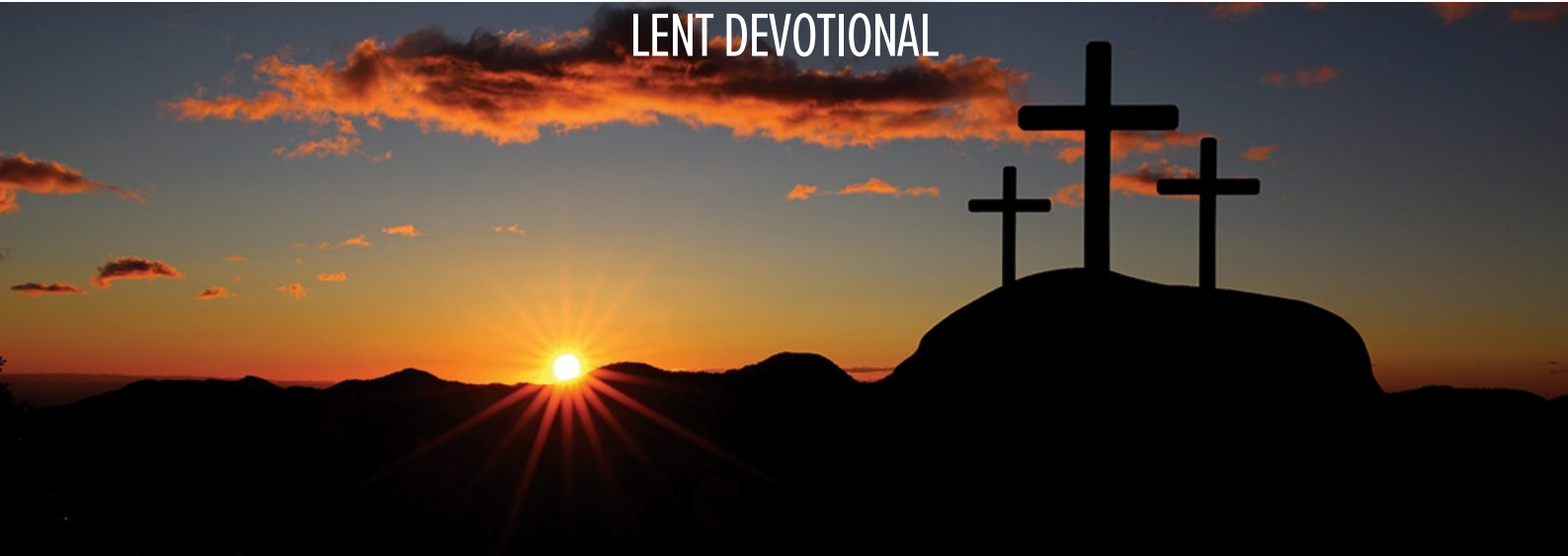


# LENT DEVOTIONAL



APPLY  
ONLINE NOW

REQUEST  
INFO

VISIT  
CAMPUS

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL MARCH 6, 2022

### SCRIPTURE

#### Psalm 42

1 As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold  
the face of God?

3 My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while people say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”

4 These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng,  
and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping festival.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.  
My soul is cast down within me;  
therefore I remember you  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.  
7 Deep calls to deep  
at the thunder of your cataracts;  
all your waves and your billows  
have gone over me.  
8 By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God, my rock,  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I walk about mournfully  
because the enemy oppresses me?”  
10 As with a deadly wound in my body,  
my adversaries taunt me,  
while they say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”  
11 Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.

## DEVOTIONAL

**Kori Robbins, MDiv Student**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Psalm 42 is one of my favorite psalms. It's a psalm of longing, asking for God's help amid the bad stuff of life. The psalmist is remembering all the hope that God brings, even as the psalmist is in the midst of their despair.

We live in a world where toxic positivity is a thing. People tell us “Hey! Don't be sad, because . . .” and list a million reasons why. On the other hand, we also live in a world where people tend to dwell too much in the bad. And to be fair, the last several years have brought us more sorrow than reasons to leap for joy. What I like most about this psalm is that it doesn't tell us to disregard the bad. The psalmist is experiencing something that is clearly not good. However, whatever bad the psalmist is experiencing, they are also remembering the good things, the parties and processions the community held in celebration of God.

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first in the Narnia series by C. S Lewis, Mr. Tumnus tells Lucy that “It is winter in Narnia and has been for ever so long . . . always winter but never Christmas.”

Now, pardon me for mixing up my seasons, but this quote seems ever so appropriate. Lent sometimes feels like a long winter. Many of us have given up something: meat or sweets or coffee. Sometimes we promise to do more of something: smile at neighbors or spend time volunteering. Lent is a time of mourning and sacrifice. We have not yet gotten to the joy of the Resurrection, the joy of Easter morning.

However, like the psalmist of Psalm 42, even amidst the bleakness of the season, hope ever prevails. Our trust and our love in God are always there. We don't need to feel joyful all the time, but in those bad moments, it helps to have something to hold onto. To help us remember that bad days don't last forever, and that good days are coming.

## PRAYER

Loving and Gracious God,  
Sometimes we feel so dry, so thirsty.  
We become preoccupied with our bad days, forgetting your presence always.  
Where can we find you? When can we gather in worship again? Where do we find refuge?  
Help us remember that you are present, right with us, right now.  
Remind us to turn toward you, to open our hearts and minds to your loving presence.  
Help us remember the good times, even as we experience bad days.  
Amen

## ABOUT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to the formation of women and men for theologically reflective ministry and to scholarship in service to the global Church of Jesus Christ.

**BECOME A STUDENT**

Master's

Doctor of Ministry

Non-Degree

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Graduate Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministry

Graduate Certificate in Ministry

Graduate Certificate in Missional Leadership

Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry

Spiritual Formation Certificate

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry

Continuing Education

Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology

Miller Summer Youth Institute

Metro-Urban Institute

World Mission Initiative

Zeitah Excavations

## FACULTY

In addition to their on-campus duties, our faculty are experts in their fields and are available to preach and teach. Learn more about their **topics of research and writing** and invite them to present at your congregation or gathering.

## EVENTS

The Seminary hosts a wide range of events—many of them free!—on topics of faith including church planting, mission, vocation, spiritual formation, pastoral care and counseling, archaeology, and many more. Visit our **calendar** often for a listing of upcoming events.

## VISIT PTS

Interested in the Seminary? **Come visit us!**

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH PTS

**Sign-up to receive the Seminary's newsletters:** Seminary News (monthly), Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry (monthly), Continuing Education (monthly), World Mission Initiative (monthly), Metro-Urban Institute (quarterly), and Kelso Museum. Alums, there's also one for you!

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
616 North Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Phone: 412-362-5610



[FIND YOUR PROGRAM](#)

[REQUEST INFO](#)

[APPLY ONLINE](#)

[VISIT THE CAMPUS](#)

[News & Events](#)[Contact](#)[Directions](#)[Employment](#) [Save Page As PDF](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Anti-Discrimination](#)

[Title IX And Anti-Harassment](#)