

# Once For All

Lenten Devotions 2025

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*Note: Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the English Standard Version.*

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## Ash Wednesday, March 5

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2)*

### **God Speaks**

It is Ash Wednesday. Once again, we enter the season of Lent and begin our 40-day journey of reflection. What makes this annual journey meaningful? What makes it even possible? It is the simple truth that God speaks.

That is what the author of Hebrews wants to make crystal clear. In the past, God spoke to His people in lots of ways, but in these final days He has spoken to us by His Son.

Jesus, God's Son, is the main character in the book of Hebrews, a letter whose original recipients were Jewish followers of Jesus. They were raised with a knowledge of God and His ways. They studied the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah, and they observed the Old Testament sacrifices and festivals.

But now, since God has spoken through His Son, everything is different! Now they know Jesus—the fulfillment of all that was promised, the completion of all that was foreshadowed. Yes, God speaks through His Word (the Scriptures) and through the Word made Flesh (our Savior).

There is much for us to ponder on our Lenten journey, but today we simply pause to rejoice that God speaks. To sinners, He speaks forgiveness and eternal life. To troubled or confused hearts, He speaks peace and guidance. To the grieving and the lonely, He speaks His comforting presence.

Your Savior knows the needs of your heart today. Listen as He speaks to you through His Word and His Spirit.

**Dear Jesus, Thank You for speaking grace into my life. Please help me hear Your voice and draw near to You day by day. Amen**

## Thursday, March 6

*He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:3)*

### **To See Jesus**

Adjectives and other descriptive phrases serve an interesting role in speech or writing. They add color, dimension and nuances of meaning to the subject at hand. You might read about a sunset and picture it vaguely in your mind. But how much more vivid it becomes when you read, “The mauve, gold and violet rays of the setting sun spread a final glow over the burnished prairie.”

In our reading today, the subject is Jesus. Notice how many descriptions the author gives to help us understand Jesus more fully: He is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of His nature. He powerfully upholds the universe. He made sinners (you and me) pure through His sacrifice, and now He reigns exalted on high.

To see Jesus is one of the reasons we read and study the Scriptures. And the more we do so, the more we understand about our wonderful Redeemer ... and about our Heavenly Father, for Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). To see Jesus is to see the Father and to behold His love.

To see Jesus is also to see ourselves, for His suffering and death—the scars that are still on display in His risen body—show how desperately we needed a Savior and how great was the price He paid.

**Holy Spirit, Help me to see Jesus and to trust in Him. Amen.**

## Friday, March 7

*Of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever ... You laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain ... You are the same and your years will have no end." (Hebrews 1:8, 10, 11a, 12b)*

### **Lord Forever**

Forever. Can we really grasp forever? Synonyms include: continuously, perpetually, endlessly. Yet these words cannot fully express what is honestly beyond the capacity of our finite minds.

In the verses surrounding today's reading (see verses 5-14 of Hebrews 1), the writer is pointing out that Jesus, the One who is Lord forever, is above all, supreme and unique. He is greater than the angels. In fact, the angels worship Christ. Jesus is also Creator of the heavens and the earth. He entered our world at the Father's initiative, was anointed to be the Messiah, and at the completion of His redemptive work He was exalted to the Father's right hand.

And all of this lasts forever. Jesus remains the once-for-all God-sent sacrifice for sin. Jesus remains exalted in glory. Jesus continues to rule over the universe in ways we can't quite comprehend this side of eternity.

Sometimes we lose sight of this reality. We get mired in the details and the troubles of the day. We have problems we're not sure will ever be solved. We even wonder if our prayers will ever be answered.

Jesus understands. He gently reminds us that He is Lord forever. He will be with you and carry you through continuously, perpetually, endlessly.

**Lord Forever, Keep me in Your love today and always. Amen.**