



Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter

C.S. Lewis , G.K. Chesterton , Dorothy L. Sayers , Wendell Berry , Henri J.M. Nouwen , Thomas Merton , N.T. Wright

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Though Easter is often trivialized by the culture at large, it is still the high point of the religious calendar for millions of people around the world. And for most of them, there can be no Easter without Lent, the season that leads up to it.

A time for self-denial, soul-searching, and spiritual preparation, Lent is traditionally observed by daily reading and reflection. This collection will satisfy the growing hunger for meaningful and accessible devotions. Culled from the wealth of twenty centuries, the selections in Bread and Wine are ecumenical in scope, and represent the best classic and contemporary Christian writers.

Includes approximately fifty readings on Easter and related themes by Thomas à Kempis, Frederick Buechner, Oswald Chambers, Alfred Kazin, Jane Kenyon, Søren Kierkegaard, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Christina Rossetti, Edith Stein, Walter Wangerin, William Willimon, Philip Yancey, and others.

Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter Details

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From Reader Review Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter for online ebook

Robyn Winters says

This was an interesting selection of readings, more varied than one might think for the type of book it is. For the record, it isn't by C.S. Lewis - he is one of the many contributing authors. Some of the selections did have a distinctly political flavor, while others were downright agenda-d, but many were thoughtful and very appropriate for all times of the Christian year.

Shasta says

What a beautiful book of devotionals for the Lent and Easter season! I highly recommend this one to you all.

J. Ewbank says

This is an excellent book for Lent and Easter. It is a collection of essays written by many Christian masters. It provides one with an excellent breadth of devotions and thoughts for the season. It is a useful book for the individual as well as for a group. Happy to have this book in my library.

J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the Isms" "Wesley's Wars" and "To Whom It May Concern"

Crystal says

So disappointed! Most of this collection is greatly distorting scripture!! The writers are taking verses terribly out of context and some seem mentally disturbed. Good grief! Pretty covered book will go in the trash. The only handful of good readings can't save it.

I bought this months ago and looked forward to reading it during Lent season. Now I look forward to burning it in the weekend's bonfire.

Elizabeth says

This is a lovely book of daily devotions for Lent and Easter. I have really enjoyed reading it each morning.

Patty says

The folks that put this devotional together did a great job. There is a wide variety of authors and subjects from Kathleen Norris through Muggeridge to some folks I have never read before.

This is the third year I have used this book for my Lenten devotions. So far it hasn't gotten old. There are some devotions that I remember from year to year, but that does not affect the impact that the whole collection has.

Every year I read and learn something new. I would recommend this to anyone who is interested in looking deeper into your faith.

Joyce Wolcott says

A wonderful book for Lent and Easter! I'm a slow reader, so only now finishing it, but it was well worth the time. I will put it on my shelf for this coming Lent and Easter.

Rachel Dawson says

I read the Christmas edition of this book back during the Advent season, and loved it. This one was no exception -- it's such a fantastic collection of short writings from MANY acclaimed Christian writers, speakers, and thinkers. I loved the progression of the pieces throughout the Lent season, and loved that it didn't just end on Easter Sunday but continued for a few weeks beyond. This is an excellent companion to any Lent study or just as a standalone book to read throughout the season as well! Highly recommend these.

Ashley says

Now, this collection made me dig deep.

These 72 readings—divided into themes of invitation, temptation, the passion, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and new life—are best read one at a time, with plenty of time in between for meditation.

The writers include G.K. Chesterton, Wendell Berry, N.T. Wright, John Stott, Dorothy Sayers, C.S. Lewis, Mother Teresa, Christina Rossetti, Oswald Chambers, Saint Augustine, Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and a whole host of others. (There are many I'd never heard of, but the index of authors—with a brief biographical note on each one—helps clear things up.) The book was due back to the library before I finished it, but I plan on buying this one.

In the chunk I read, there were just a couple points that raised my antennae. For instance, Thomas à Kempis says—not once, but twice—that God forsakes His children at times, a statement that clearly contradicts Scripture. But a friend informs me that a handful of respected theologians have used such phrasing to describe “the dark night of the soul.” They don't actually mean that God ever forsakes us; they're simply expressing how it feels when we hit rock bottom and it seems like God is nowhere to be found. Even Mother Teresa wrote such a statement, says my friend. Mother Teresa—I won't argue with that.

William Willimon writes on baptism in my favorite passage so far:

[Jesus'] message is not the simple one of [John] the Baptist, “Be clean.” Jesus' word is more painful—“Be killed.” ...

That day at the Jordan, knee deep in cold water, with old John drenching him, the Anointed One began his journey down the *via crucis*. His baptism intimated where he would finally end. His whole life was caught up in this single sign. Our baptism does the same. ...

On the bank of some dark river, as we are thrust backward, onlookers will remark, "They could kill somebody like that." To which old John might say, "Good, you're finally catching on."

Faith says

Bread and Wine is a collection of seventy-two readings spanning all the themes of Lent and Easter. There are poems, prayers, meditations, excerpts from sermons and essays and lengthy theological tomes.

The authors come from all over the world, from all ages and times.

There is Kahlil Gibran, an early 20th century Lebanese poet raised as a Maronite Catholic.

There is George MacDonald, a Scottish fantasy author and minister in the 1800s.

There is Ernesto Cardenal, a Nicaraguan poet and cultural activist.

There is Walter J. Ciszek, a Jesuit priest who served within the Soviet Union.

There is Edna Hong, a Kierkegaard scholar and translator as well as a novelist.

There is Peter Kreeft, a contemporary philosophy professor at Boston College.

The material is arranged under five main headings, and I'll give you a few examples from each one.

Invitation~

This section calls us to Come near to the Cross, Hear His words, See Ourselves, Repent, and then Go Forth. The first selection is a poem by Oscar Wilde, with that plaintive cry "How else but through a broken heart can the Lord Christ enter in?"

Walter Wangerin speaks about Christ as the perfect Mirror, the one that terrifies and startles with its clarity- and yet heals us too.

"This mirror is made of righteous flesh and of divinity- and this one loves me absolutely."

Jean-Pierre de Caussade writes about surrender: "Everything is yours, everything is from you and for you. Mine is to be satisfied with your work..."

Edna Hong describes the way Lent strips the soul and then Christ supplies His fullness.

Temptation~

We are tempted to drowse like the Apostles when we should be awake, to use force like Peter to move the Kingdom forward, to distance ourselves from the common sinners who crucified Christ, to deny our Lord with words and deeds.

Phillip Berrigan calls us to "Watch, learn, act- for formula for a faithful and sane life."

Fleming Rutledge calls us to find ourselves in the crowd at Good Friday, "... you will also come to know the depth of your own participation in sin. *and at the very same moment* (this is the glory of Good Friday) you will come to know the true reality, the true joy and gladness, of the the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord."

Kahlil Gibran shouts in a whisper- "He came to make the human heart a temple, and the soul an altar, and the mind a priest."

Passion~

Jurgen Moltmann: "At the point where men and women lose hope, where they become powerless and can do nothing more, the lonely, assailed and forsaken Christ waits for them and gives them a share in His passion. He is like the brother of the friend to whom one can confide *everything*, because he knows everything and has suffered everything that can happen to us- and more."

Mother Theresa, writing from Christ's perspective: "Do you thirst to be cherished? I thirst for you. That is how precious you are to me. Come to me and fill your heart and heal your wounds."

Crucifixion~

Thomas Howard meditates on the Crucifix. "It focuses things. It may even come to our rescue if words fail: the corpus, bowed in agony but with arms stretched wide, says, not in sentences but in its very shape, 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you.' "

Paul Tillich says: "No longer is the universe subject to the law of death out of birth. It is subjected to a higher law, to the law of life out of death... Since this moment the universe is no longer what it was; nature has received another meaning; history is transformed and you and I are no more what we were before."

Resurrection~

C. S. Lewis addresses this as only he can: "Something new has happened in the Universe, something as new as the first coming of organic life. A new mode of being has arisen. That is the story. What are we going to make of it?"

Karl Barth: "Even in blooming and healthy life, there is a yawning chasm, a deep pit that cannot be filled by any art of power of man. Only one word is sufficient... 'Jesus is victor!'-that is, resurrection."

New Life~

This last section began with a delightful surprise for me- a John Masefield poem! "The Everlasting Mercy." Alfred Kazin describes encountering the New Testament as a young Jew: "I tasted the rightness of each word on my tongue. It was like heaping my own arms with gifts. Surely I had been waiting for him all my life, our own Yeshua..."

As with Plough's Advent/Christ collection "Watch for the Light," this is a great choice if you want to hear various voices all coming together around Christ.

Obviously, this devotional does not stay within the confines of contemporary Evangelicalism. It's not a paragraph a day by popular people.

You may even have reservations about some contributor's theology, but every selection in here will prompt you to reflect.

And if you let it, "Bread and Wine" will provide sustenance on the road of repentance and Resurrection rejoicing.

I thank Plough Publishing House for providing me with a review copy.

Jen says

some of the readings I enjoyed more than others, but overall, a worthwhile book. Will add more quotes as I have time.

Some gems so far...

Beneath Thy Cross- Christina Rossetti
Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy Blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon--
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

and this... "Our disappointments, our lonelinesses and our defeats do not separate us from [Jesus] ; they draw us more deeply into communion with him. And with the final unanswered cry, "Why, my God, why?" we join in his death cry and await with him the resurrection." by Moltmann

Connie says

For 2018, I wanted to vary my use of devotionals. Instead of picking one that was 365 days, I plan to find some 30 days, 90 days, or certain Christian Holiday themed ones. Since this book has some of my all-time favorite Christian writers, and the writings were chosen for Lent and beyond, it was an easy choice.

I really appreciated that the readings chosen were serious and gave me a lot to think about. There are some devotionals out there that seem so uninspired, not really saying a thing that helps with growth. I want that growth!

This is a keeper, and I know I'll be saving it to use again.

Jan1243 says

I've had this book for several years and never make it through all of Lent and Easter. Finally made it! Enjoyed immensely except for the social justice/peace rallying readings. I hope to read it again next year.

Create With Joy says

If you want to deepen your spiritual life and reflect on the mystery and miracle of Christ's death and resurrection – then consider Bread And Wine – Readings For Lent And Easter for your personal devotional time!

Bread And Wine is a collection of 72 readings from a wide spectrum of classic and contemporary authors who share their thoughts on the following themes:

- * Invitation
- * Temptation
- * Passion
- * Crucifixion
- * Resurrection
- * New Life

In case you are wondering why there are 72 readings since there are only 40 days in Lent, the first 46 readings cover events that occur during the official season of Lent, which runs from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, and the last two sections focus on post-Easter themes.

What I like most about Bread And Wine is that it has given me a fresh perspective on and a deeper appreciation for Lent – a solemn season I associate with self-sacrifice and somberness from my childhood.

The Editors write:

Lent is the season in which we ought to be surprised by joy. Our self-sacrifice serves no purpose unless, by laying aside this or that desire, we are able to focus on our heart's deepest desire – unity with Christ. In Him – in His suffering and death – His resurrection and triumph – we find our truest joy.

I thoroughly enjoy the diverse readings in Bread And Wine. I find that the daily reflections provide a great way to focus on Christ and to ponder what His life, death, and resurrection really mean.

To read this review in its entirety, visit [Create With Joy](#).

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher for review purposes. However, the opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Conrad says

A broad collection of writings from a wide variety of Christian authors covering six sections: Invitation,

Temptation, Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection and New Life. Great for daily devotional reading. I think my favorite essay in the whole book was Malcolm Muggeridge's 'Impending Resurrection' - excellent!
