

Daily Word of Life

April 2023

“Chosen to Bring Hope”.

01	Sat Jn 11:45-56	Give your life. "It is enough for us that we see ourselves similar to you, at least a little, and that we unite our pain to yours and offer it to the Father. So that we might have light, you came to lack sight. So that we might have union, you felt the separation from the Father. So that we might possess wisdom, you became 'ignorance'. That we might be clothed with innocence, you became 'sin'. In order for God to be in us, you felt him far from you" (Chiara Lubich, Ideal and Light, p.138)
02	Sun	Palm Sunday - " Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! " (Mt 21:1-11)
03	Mon	"Take care of the things above, not of the things from earth." (Col 3:2)
04	Tue Jn 13:21-33, 36-38	Will you lay down your life for me? The willingness to lay down one's life must go beyond fine words. We probably don't have to physically die for someone, but we can give our life to others in small and large acts of love. A positive gesture, a cheerful greeting, giving help to a sick person, giving support to one who suffers, preparing meals well, responding to messages received, are all opportunities in which we can give our life. To offer our life for our neighbor, loving in daily things, is to give our life for Jesus. To give ourselves in acts of love.
05	Wed Mt 26:14-25	The time is near. Jesus speaks of his death and resurrection. We can live, with Jesus, the coming days, preparing our souls and our environments well for the week's celebrations. Let us live each moment reinforcing unity, forgiveness and charity among ourselves. In this way, even with our limits, we will be able to experience the redemptive power, that is, salvation; it was only possible because the Lord gave his life for us. Let us try, above all, to live in peace with everyone, to serve and to witness mutual love. Prepare well for Easter.
06	Thu Jn 13:1-15 Foot washing and Lord's Supper	"Wash one another's feet." A concrete gesture in today's celebration reminds us that we are disciples of the Lord, who served and loved to the end. Even if we are often stubborn, or even traitors to the Word, we can begin again, love and witness to our efforts to follow him. More than on all other days, in this time, let us put aside the disagreements, the gossip, the grudges and the disputes among us... in a sincere way let us wish the good to all. Love and Serve.
07	Fri Is 52:13-53:12 Holy Friday - Fasting, prayer and silence	"By his wounds we have been healed." On the cross He was just a human being, He was neither the Son of God, nor the Master and Lord. At that moment He became condemned, blood, wound, dirt, spit, and a disfigured face. He could not perform miracles. He was not the Messiah that so many wanted. There, He was shame, deception, and betrayal. At the moment of crucifixion, He carried our hearts and our sins. He was the poor, the abandoned, the cry of all the desperate, and yet, for us, He never stopped being Jesus, our true hope. To let ourselves be healed by love.
08	Sat	Living the Hope of the Resurrection. "The world may end, but we will not die because Jesus died for us. It is very powerful to experience how Jesus' way of living has influenced the life of all humanity. He gives us a light in any darkness.... Resurrection is the last Word, not death!" (Friar Hans Stapel, in: Father Christian Heim. Friar - A Conversation with Hans Stapel, p. 262)
09	Sun	Easter Sunday - " He saw and believed. " (Jn 20:1-9)
10	Mon	"Take care of the things above, not of the things from earth." (Col 3:2)
11	Tue Jn 20:11-18	I have seen the Lord. We believe in the resurrection. For us it is a reality that, even today, gives life back to many. A lie can even generate some small good, but it will only be for a short time. Only the truth has the power to generate a good that lasts. The resurrection manifests its strength and light in those who free themselves from addictions because of the Gospel, in the sick who try to give God to others with prayer or a smile, in those who give their lives to do good... Announcing life.
12	Wed Lk 24:13-35	Stay with us, Lord! It would be wonderful to have Jesus present in our midst every time we meet. This is possible through mutual love, which gives birth to unity. His presence makes our hearts burn with joy, and enlightens our situations and decisions. When we are willing to give our lives for our brothers and sisters, when we try to live the Word concretely, we nourish our spiritual life and can generate His presence in our midst. Where there is unity, because unity is love, He remains. Build unity.
13	Thu Lk 24:35-48	Peace be with you. News about conflicts, wars and other forms of violence always arrive. Peace, which comes from God and manifests itself in the hearts of those who love, could transform the world into a privileged space of fraternity. Peace is not indifference or tranquillity, but the gift of always loving, of embracing difficulties and moving forward when everything seems to fall apart. When we know that He is our peace and will always be with us, our decision to believe in love and renew our hope becomes firm, concrete and without turning back. Promote peace.
14	Fri Jn 21:1-14	Recognize Jesus. The apostles recognized Him, they knew it was Him. When we are attentive to the life of the Word, we recognize when He presents Himself. We can recognize Him in unity, in the people we meet, in the beautiful moments we experience, but most of all in the difficulties we can embrace. With Jesus, the boat of our life is never empty, nor does the net of our faith break. Just as Peter threw himself into the sea, let us throw ourselves today into the acts of love, without doubting that it is He who is present. Launch out into the Good.
15	Sat Mk 16:9-15	Proclaim the good. "If you loved him with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength! Then... you would fall in love with God and go through the world announcing good news! God exists. Live for Him. God will judge you. Live for Him. God will be everything to you in a few years, as soon as this brief life passes! Thrust yourself into Him. Love Him (...) Fall in love with God. (Chiara Lubich, Ideal and Light, p.98)

16	Sun	Divine Mercy Sunday - " Blessed are those who have believed without having seen. " (Jn 20:19-31) LHG Day
17	Mon	"Take care of the things above, not of the things from earth." (Col 3:2)
18	Tue Acts 4:32-37	Everything between them was put in common. To live the "in common" is biblical, it is evangelical, it is sharing what we have. That is why it is a criterion for those who seek recovery in our communities. To refuse to share, in the life of the Gospel, is like stealing. It prevents the person from taking steps, because selfishness does not recover anyone. Sometimes, those who do not find themselves well are precisely those who do not want to share. Selfishness kills the soul. Whoever wants to live in a family, learns to live the "in common". Learn to share.
19	Wed Jn 3:16-21	Whoever acts according to the truth approaches the light. When we say that we do not understand what it is to live the Word, we are saying that we do not know what it is to love. God, who dwells in us, is love, is good. We are His image and likeness. Each concrete experience, each gesture of charity, of sharing, of forgiveness, of giving and overcoming, living the Word and loving our neighbour, brings us closer to the light of our essence. No more living in darkness! Let's live in the truth of goodness. Love illuminates life. Illuminate yourself with the practice of good.
20	Thu Acts 5:27-33	It is necessary to obey God before men. This is not to justify disobedience, nor individualistic attitudes. Obedience to God leads to loving others in the fidelity of relationships, with commitments, with proposals, in coherence and honesty, among other things. To live this way requires the courage to be different and not to do as everyone else does. Misunderstandings, criticism and persecution may come, but those who have learned to love know that good is worth much more. Live the law of love.
21	Fri Acts 5:34-42	Be careful not to fight against God. When we fight against God, He, out of love for us, needs to defeat our "old man", sin, who does everything to keep the good from manifesting itself. God can accomplish His will in us through the Word that becomes action. Many times we have given sin, addictions and lack of love a chance; now we have the opportunity to fight for the good, not against it. Let us be open, with the eye of one who loves, to the situations that present themselves. Support the practice of good.
22	Sat Jn 6:16-21	It is me. Do not be afraid" (...) for every suffering or trial of life, we can give a name: <i>Jesus Forsaken. Are we taken by fear? Doesn't Jesus on the cross, in his abandonment, seem pierced by the fear that the Father had forgotten him? (...) Yes, He is present in everything that has the flavour of suffering. Every pain is a name of Jesus forsaken.</i> (Chiara Lubich, <i>collegamento</i> , August 28, 1986)
23	Dom	Easter Sunday III - " The eyes of the disciples were opened and they recognized Jesus. " (Lk 24:13-35)
24	Mon	"Take care of the things above, not of the things from earth." (Col 3:2)
25	Tue Mk 16:15-20S. Mark, evangelist	Proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Each person has the capacity to love, but also carries the desire to be loved. The good news, the Gospel, proclaims the greatness of a God who loves us fully to the point of becoming one of us and giving his life for all. We can proclaim, first by the way we live, that this heavenly love is real. We become trustworthy witnesses to the extent that we try to act according to the Gospel we proclaim. Proclaim the good by leading by example.
26	Wed Jn 6:35-40	I am the bread of life. Every people, every culture, has a basic food, a typical food. It can be a daily food or celebrated in great feasts. For those who believe in God-Love, the characteristic food is Him, the real presence who became Word, humanity, and communion. He nourishes the soul and gives us the strength to continue on the path in search of new life. Communion, unity and the practice of the Word nourish our soul and the souls of those who live with us. Feed ourselves with the Good, which is Jesus.
27	Thu Jn 6:44-51	Whoever eats of this bread will live forever. That which nourishes us becomes part of us and strengthens us. When we feed on Jesus, we are strengthened, but it is we who take part in his body. Let us avoid feeding our soul with toxic and destructive attitudes, feelings, and reactions that sicken us inwardly. What we see, speak, hear, and do should reflect the food of eternity that God's love gives us. Strengthen the soul with good.
28	Fri Acts 9:1-20	What I do to another, I do to Jesus. Paul, who knew the Scriptures, did evil thinking he was doing the right thing. But this changed when he discovered who was the one he was persecuting. The same thing happens to us and to others who join our communities, when they discover that what they do to others, good or bad, they do to Jesus. It was like this with the first ones, and it is still like this today with those who discover the power of the Word when it is put into practice. Do good to all.
29	Sat Jn 6:60-69 St. Catherine of Siena	To whom we will go, Lord. " <i>Those who love you sincerely often hear you, Lord, in the silence of their room, deep in their heart, and this sensation moves the soul (...). And they thank you for being so close, so All: the One who gives meaning to living and dying (...). They know only that they are loved by you and that they love you, that there is nothing so soft here on earth that can even remotely resemble you (...). You exist. So it is.</i> " (Chiara Lubich; <i>Ideal and Light</i> , p.105 -106)
30	Sun	IV Sunday of Easter - " The sheep follow him because they know his voice. " (Jn 10:1-10)