

Rooted at the Cross, New Horizons of Resurrection:

Let Us Walk in the Spirit

Lenten 2026

Lent does not ask us to perform spirituality. It invites us to be rooted—deeply, honestly, sometimes painfully—at the cross of Christ. We do not rush past Good Friday as if resurrection were a shortcut. We walk the long hallway of life—full of transitions, uncertainty, and hard turns—and we discover that the cross is not only where Jesus died. It is where God tells the truth about us, and where God refuses to let us go.

Paul's words land with weight in Lent: "You are not your own... you were bought at a price" (1 Cor. 6:19–20). The cross names the cost of our redemption and confronts our illusions of control. If we belong to Christ, then Lent becomes an invitation to surrender—my body, my habits, my wounds, my need to win, my impulse to protect myself at the expense of others. Rooted at the cross, we learn a quieter freedom: the freedom of belonging.

That is why Paul's command is so practical: "Walk by the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16). This is not sentimental language. It is cruciform formation. The "works of the flesh" he lists are not merely private failures; they are relational toxins that fracture communities—jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, envy (Gal. 5:19–21). Lent exposes how quickly fear becomes a habit, and habits become a culture. The cross interrupts that old self: "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24). The cross is not only forgiveness for past sin; it is the decisive interruption of a way of life that cannot carry resurrection hope.

Yet Lent is not only about what is put to death. It is also about what is raised to life. The resurrection opens new horizons we cannot manufacture. If we live by the Spirit, we learn to keep in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25) until the fruit becomes visible: love that does not keep score, joy that outlasts disappointment, peace that does not weaponize silence, patience that refuses retaliation, gentleness that protects, and self-control that chooses covenant over impulse (Gal. 5:22–23).

This matters for theological education and Christian witness today. If our institutions form brilliant leaders who cannot repent, reconcile, or endure disagreement without contempt, then we are not forming people rooted at the cross. Lent calls classrooms, pulpits, and leadership tables into a resurrection "grammar": truth-telling with humility, practices of repair, and communities shaped by the crucified and risen Christ.

Many enter this season carrying difficult news—health reports, financial pressure, family strain, vocational transitions. In that hallway, the Spirit is not only comfort; the Spirit is guidance. The cross assures us we belong to Christ. The resurrection assures us that despair will not have the last word.

Prayer: Sweet Holy Spirit—Companion and Friend—hold us steady. Root us at the cross. Lift our eyes to the new horizons of resurrection. Form in us the fruit that makes Jesus visible. Amen.



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Theological Reflections

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New Horizons of
Resurrection

Arraigados en la Cruz,
Nuevos Horizontes
de Resurrección



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