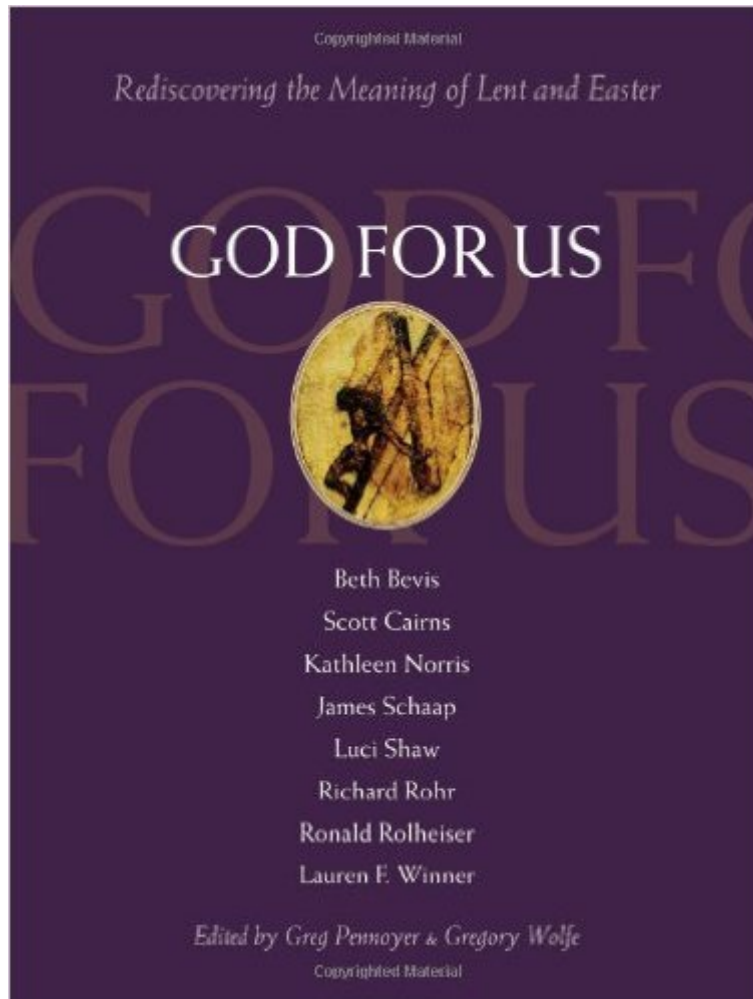


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God For Us: Rediscovering The Meaning Of Lent And Easter



Synopsis

God For Us explores the meaning of Lent, its importance in spiritual formation, its significance in preparation for Easter, and the holy season of Easter itself. *God For Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter* features reflections by Scott Cairns, Kathleen Norris, Richard Rohr, Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, James Schaap, Luci Shaw, Beth Bevis, and Lauren F. Winner. By delving deeply into the Christian tradition they reveal what one theologian has called the "bright sadness" of Lent; that it is not about becoming lost in feelings of brokenness, but about cleansing the palate so that we can taste life more fully. Lent and Easter reveal the God who is for us in all of life; for our liberation, for our healing, for our wholeness. Lent and Easter remind us that even in death there can be found resurrection.

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Customer Reviews

God for Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter Edited by Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe
God for Us is a wonderful collection of essays on the meaning of Lent and Easter written by a great host of writers, including writers, priests, a poet, and professors. The book is stunningly enhanced by incorporating famous works of art throughout the chapters as a way of illuminating the message or theme of the piece. Each reading includes a few Scripture readings, identification of the day of the church calendar, a short explanation, prayer, and work of art depicting that chapter. Whether you worship in a church with high or low liturgy, this book will expand your appreciation for the Lenten and Eastern season which mirror the life of Christ. The powerful reminder coming through in this book was the fact that we are all on a journey. Commenting on Shrove Tuesday and Lent,

Richard Rohr writes, "Lent is intended to lead us into an always hidden future and an always greater opportunity, and it is in truth " a future created by God " but still unknown to us. We now enter Lent with a new and open horizon, ready to both expect and work for God's ever new springtime." (6) There is a combination of feasting and fasting that is part of the Lenten season that connects with this hidden future. We don't know the exact outcome of the future but we work for the Lord with an expectant spirit knowing that He is good and has our good in mind. The dual nature of letting go of the things that hinder our worship and taking on the practices that draw us near to God remind us that change is possible, even in the time being.

(Originally Reviewed in 2014--see review below) Top review is for Reader's Edition
The season of Lent starts in a week. If you are hoping to find a good Lent devotional, one of the best on the market is *God For Us* (Paraclete: 2013). I used it as my primary devotionals a couple of years ago and referred to it throughout the Lenten season last year. The book has a poet or spiritual writer give a week's worth of daily devotions. Contributors include: Scott Cairns, Kathleen Norris, Richard Rohr, Luci Shaw, James Schaap and Lauren Winner. Beth Bevis's historical articles on the celebration of Lent and various feast days punctuate the text Ronald Rolheiser, OMI writes the introduction and all of this was assembled under Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe's (both of *Image Journal*) editorial eyes. For this Lenten season, Paraclete has just released the readers *God For Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter - Reader's Edition*. The book's text is the same as the previous edition; however the earlier edition was sort of a coffee table book, with glossy pages full of art. The Reader's Edition is a simple paperback with french flaps. While I absolutely loved the beauty of the previous edition, this is somewhat more practical and user friendly. I felt guilty about underlining and making notes in the original edition (I still did it) because it was such a pretty book. The Reader's Edition doesn't contain the art or the glossy pages and is more portable. However, I did notice one small error unique to this edition. Page 35 of my copy, mistakenly attributes the entry to the late Richard John Neuhaus (I have a review copy, so I may be looking at a proof copy). My guess is that this a typographical error.

Paraclete Press has done it again! *God For Us* is another heirloom quality devotional written, crafted, and printed in the same beautiful spirit as *God With Us*. *God For Us* is as its subtitle suggests, a devotional focused on the Liturgical season of Lent and Easter. Paraclete Press with Editors Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe have gathered together some of the most well respected Christian writers (Beth Bevis, Scott Cairns, Kathleen Norris, James Schaap, Luci Shaw, Richard

Rohr, Ronald Rolheiser, and Lauren F. Winner) from the modern day and assembled their writings into a theme that helps us draw closer to God with our reflections upon this most holy Lenten and Easter Season. As I mentioned earlier, this is truly an heirloom quality book and very sturdy. It is hardbound with glossy, heavy gauge paper. Paraclete Press has also thoughtfully included a couple ribbon markers for place keeping. The book could easily stand on the devotional writing alone, but the inclusion of Christian art spanning 1500 years makes this work truly rise above other seasonal devotional books. Another feature of this style of devotional writing (perhaps it would be better to refer to this book as part of a series) is the all-in-one approach to teaching and practice. The book appeals to many different learning styles as it incorporates history, art, poetry, prayers, liturgy, and Scripture to hopefully engage as many of the senses as the reader allows engaging. The flow of the book follows the Lenten-Easter season in full, beginning with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, proceeding through the Lenten Calendar, landing on Palm Sunday, entering Holy Week, the Holy Triduum (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter/Pascha), completion of the journey on Easter Sunday.

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