

The First Sunday in Lent

Reader: In the desert, Jesus began to discover and claim who he was and what he had to do.

People: In the journey of Lent we rediscover and reclaim who we are and what we are to do.

Reader: How can we do this?

People: In Lent we put things away — selfish desires, self-pity, and self-indulgence.

Reader: In Lent we pick things up — prayer, awareness, the spirit of giving.

People: In Lent we discover how much God loves us and learn how to love God more.

Reader: In the desert, Jesus survived by paying attention to God.

People: If we are not paying attention to God,

Reader: to whom are we paying attention?

People: If we are not listening to God,

Reader: then to whom exactly are we listening?

Silence

Unison Prayer: O God, in you we discover who we are. AMEN.

*These liturgies were written by The Reverend Derek MacLeod,
Briarwood Church, Beaconsfield, Quebec.*

The Second Sunday in Lent

Reader: Like Abram, we are on a journey.

People: It is a long journey, full of mystery. The way is difficult.

Reader: Like Abram, God is traveling with us — guiding us and encouraging us.

People: Where are we headed on this journey?

Reader: We are walking toward the cross.

People: The journey sounds too dangerous for us!

Reader: It is. That's why Jesus walks with us to the cross and on to the empty tomb.

People: It sounds incredible!

Reader: It is. But we have far to travel and much to prepare.

People: So, like Abram, we journey in faith, with Jesus as our guide.

Silence

Unison Prayer: O God, in you we discover who we are. We see now that we do not walk alone. AMEN.

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The Third Sunday in Lent

Reader: The people of Israel journeyed a long time through the wilderness. Lent is a time of pilgrimage, preparation and study.

People: These activities take time, energy, effort and faith.

Reader: We can lose heart. We can lose patience. Where are the results and benefits of our work? Where are the rewards and profits?

People: We can grow even more discouraged and ask, "Where is God in our journey?"

Reader: Even though at times we give up on God, God does not give up on us. Water gushes from a rock, a stranger becomes a friend, life leaps from death.

People: We rejoice in God's faithfulness.

Reader: God provides us with what we need.

People: It is more than we could have imagined.

Reader: It is more than we could have expected.

People: Let us provide for one another as graciously and wondrously as God provides for us.

Silence

Unison Prayer: O God, in you we discover who we are. We see now that we do not walk alone. Your great gifts of grace sustain and strengthen us. AMEN.

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Reader: Have you seen them?

People: Seen whom?

Reader: The people with whom God has chosen to work.

People: No. What do they look like?

Reader: They look a lot like you.

People: Us? But we are too small and powerless. We don't have the right gifts and talents. God should choose someone else.

Reader: What if you looked at yourself the same way God looks at you? What if you looked at your neighbors the same way God looks at them? What if you looked at this world the same way God looks at it?

People: We would need a new vision.

Reader: Jesus gave sight to the man born blind. Jesus can give us new vision, too. Let us use our new vision boldly, daringly, and faithfully in service to God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Silence

Unison Prayer: O God, in you we discover who we are. We see now that we do not walk alone. Your great gifts of grace sustain and strengthen us. Grant that we might see as you see, and love as you love. AMEN.

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The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Reader: Ezekiel stood in the valley of dry bones. Our journey takes us to places that are arid and lifeless.

People: We are afraid to go there. We want to ignore these places of barrenness and death.

Reader: We meet people on our journey who are dried up, without hope. They no longer seem to live. Sometimes we are those people.

People: We are unsure and afraid. "Our bones are dried up and our hope is lost."

Reader: But God is not afraid. Where we see death, God brings life.

People: Jesus is not afraid. Where we see a lost cause, Jesus sees a new beginning.

Reader: How courageous God is! How bold is God's love!

People: Let us be open to God's surprises and awake to God's transforming presence among us.

Silence

Unison Prayer: O God, in you we discover who we are. We see now that we do not walk alone. Your great gifts of grace sustain and strengthen us. Grant that we might see as you see, and love as you love. Your transforming spirit is always at work among us, surprising and delighting us. AMEN.

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Palm/Passion Sunday

Reader: The crowds are waiting inside the walls of Jerusalem and watching for their King. "Is this the Messiah?" "Could he be the Messiah?"

People: Let us litter his path with the branches of the palm tree. What a glorious day, the Messiah has come and victory is ours!

Reader: Jesus is the Messiah! But, what does that mean?

People: Jesus empties himself for us, obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Reader: The crowds awaiting a Messiah, celebrate Jesus' presence in Jerusalem like it is all said and done, but it has not yet begun.

People: We cannot start the party yet. There is still work to do. So let us put down our palm branches.

Reader: Let us pick up our crosses.

People: Let us walk together as we follow Jesus into this dangerous and Passion-filled Holy Week.

Silence

Unison Prayer: O God, in you we discover who we are. We see now that we do not walk alone. Your great gifts of grace sustain and strengthen us. Grant that we might see as you see, and love as you love. Your transforming spirit is always at work among us, surprising and delighting us. Help us now to follow you and be faithful to you, O Jesus our King. AMEN.

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Easter Sunday

Reader: I have seen the Lord!

People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Reader: There is no weeping now, only rejoicing.

People: There is no darkness now. Christ is our light.

Reader: God has shown us that life is stronger than death;

People: love is stronger than fear;

Reader: hope is stronger than despair.

People: Let us always speak of God's wondrous love.

Reader: Let us always live as Easter people.

People: Christ our Lord has risen!

Reader: Thanks be to God!

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Christ is Risen!

A young girl shares what she learned in school with her friends.

Farmers harvest healthy, plentiful crops of maize, peanuts, pigeon peas and soya beans.

A man opens his own business with a small loan.

A woman disabled from birth starts her own weaving business.

Children feel love and acceptance in a community-based orphan care center.

A child cries from the stick of an immunization needle.

A young girl passes her school exams.

A community benefits from clean water.

A family finds refuge from war.

Each day, as we journey with the poor, the war-torn, the displaced, we see Christ's message come alive:

life is stronger than death,

love is stronger than fear,

hope is stronger than despair.

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