

## First Sunday in Lent

**Leader:** On this first Sunday in Lent, we remember how God's Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness so he could struggle with his revealed identity as the Son of God — and try to clarify God's will for his life.



**People:** Today we begin a similar journey of discovery for ourselves.

**Leader:** As Jesus spent forty days struggling with these important issues, so will we.

**People:** But our struggle will take place not in an isolated wilderness — free from life's distractions. Our struggle will take place in the very midst of our normal day-to-day existence.

**Leader:** In the wilderness, Jesus found his way by paying attention to God's voice and by devoting himself fully to God's will.

**People:** On our journey, we must do the same.

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters, let us now begin this special journey together, and let us begin with prayer.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as we begin our own Lenten journeys, help each of us devote ourselves anew to the discovery of your will for our lives. Please silence in us any voice but yours and help us to develop a fuller realization of just who — and whose — we really are.

## Second Sunday in Lent

**Leader:** On this second Sunday in Lent, we continue our Lenten journey of self-discovery.



**People:** Today, we recognize that each one of us is a loved child of God.

**Leader:** This means that each one of us is also a member of a historic family — a family where we are all dearly loved by God. But being part of a family isn't always easy.

**People:** Sometimes we compete with each other for the first place. Sometimes we disagree with each other and fight amongst ourselves. Sometimes we rebel and follow our own paths. Sometimes we break the hearts of those who love us.

**Leader:** Yet, despite our many shortcomings, God still loves us unconditionally.

**People:** And in love, God calls each of us to be faithful and to receive his gift of life eternal.

**Leader:** As beloved children of the Most High, let us come to God in prayer.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as we continue our Lenten journey, help us to remember you love each of us with an amazing love: a love that has no beginning — and has no end. Trusting in that love, help us also to be faithful to you in all aspects of our lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Third Sunday in Lent

**Leader:** On this third Sunday in Lent, we continue our Lenten journey of self-discovery.

**People:** Today, we recognize that it is God who makes provision for our lives — and for our eternal salvation.



**Leader:** Like God provided for his people in the wilderness with water from a rock and manna from the heavens, God continues to provide for all our needs today.

**People:** God may not give us everything we want, but he makes sure we have everything we need.

**Leader:** In Jesus, God also provides the ‘living waters’ from which we can freely drink to nourish our souls.

**People:** We know that it is God — and God alone who provides for all our physical needs, and provides the means for our eternal salvation through Christ.

**Leader:** These are free gifts, provided by a loving God; therefore, we’re able to boast only in God — and not in ourselves. Let us pray.

**Prayer:** Gracious Lord, we thank you that on a daily basis, you generously provide for all our needs; but most of all, we thank you for Jesus and for the salvation that is ours because of him. Lord, on a daily basis, may our bodies be renewed as we eat and drink to your glory and may our souls also be renewed as we drink deeply of your ‘living waters.’ This we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

*Liturgy composed by the Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson  
Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development*

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Leader:** On this fourth Sunday in Lent, we continue our Lenten journey of self-discovery.

**People:** Today, we recognize that the old order of being right by doing right is over.



**Leader:** Though our actions sometimes indicate otherwise, we know in our hearts that our salvation can never be determined by our own righteousness.

**People:** No, we are saved by faith in Christ alone.

**Leader:** In our hearts, we know that in Christ, we are indeed reconciled to God; and the penalty for all our sin has been paid.

**People:** Unfortunately, our heads and our hearts sometimes follow different paths. Sometimes our old ways of thinking: that we’re self-reliant and self-sufficient, get the better of us.

**Leader:** In such times, we need to remember that, no matter how hard we may try, we can never achieve our own salvation. It is simply a gift of God — a gift received in faith. Let us pray.

**Prayer:** Father, forgive us for those times when we try to make it on our own and feel justified by our own acts. In these Lenten days, assure us of your loving presence and guiding hand in our lives. Enable us to trust in you—and your leading, all the days of our lives. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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## Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Leader:** On this fifth Sunday in Lent, we continue our Lenten journey of self discovery.

**People:** Today, we recognize that God gave his best when he gave us Jesus, and that as followers of the risen Christ, we have an obligation to give our best too.



**Leader:** We also recognize that God has gifted each of us in various ways: materially, financially, emotionally and spiritually.

**People:** In each of these areas God expects us to give of ourselves — and to give generously.

**Leader:** But giving generously, as God does, often requires intentional effort on our part.

**People:** As those made in the image of the living God, we know we should give, we know we can give, and so we will give, God being our helper.

**Leader:** As we give ourselves to the work of the Lord — and to each other, God will be glorified. Let us pray.

**Prayer:** Giving God, we thank you for our many blessings and for your great generosity to us all. In the living of our lives, help us to be generous too: of our time, of our abilities and of our resources. In all our ventures, enable us to focus more upon accumulating eternal heavenly treasure — rather than temporary earthly possessions. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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## Palm/Passion Sunday

**Leader:** On this final Sunday in Lent, we come to the end of our journey of self discovery.

**People:** Today, we remember what we've realized about ourselves during this time of Lent.



**Leader:** And what have we realized?

**People:** We've realized that every one of us is a dearly loved child of the Most High; that it is God who provides fully for us — in this world and the next; that our salvation is achieved through faith in Christ alone; and that we need to be generous in all aspects of our lives.

**Leader:** Is that all we have realized?

**People:** We have also realized that in this ever changing world, we must continue to struggle with what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ each and every day of our lives.

**Leader:** Then this journey has been fruitful. We have recognized our true identity and we have clarified some of God's will for our lives. Now let us joyfully live our lives to the glory of God in concert with these new understandings. Let us pray.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for these Lenten revelations of who and whose we truly are. We thank you also for the knowledge of what you expect of us as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We know it won't always be easy. In fact, sometimes it will be a real struggle — and in our own strength we know we'll never succeed. So help us to trust in you and to rely upon you for the faithful living of our days. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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# Easter Sunday

Leader: Our Lenten Journey now brings us to a time of wonderful celebration.

**People: The journey has been difficult at times, but the end result is worth it.**

Leader: Now, on this Easter morn, we joyously declare and celebrate that Christ is risen from the dead!



**People: He is risen indeed!**

Leader: The tomb that was found empty is still empty and the risen Christ lives and reigns forevermore!

**People: Alleluia!**

Leader: And because he lives, we too shall live. Let us pray.

**Prayer: Loving and gracious Father, we praise you for loving each of us so much that you sent Jesus to live amongst us pointing the way to you; that he died upon the cross to pay the penalty for our sin; and that he rose victorious from the grave. Because he lives, we know that we too will live with you forever. Secure in this knowledge, now let us live out our lives faithfully, joyously and lovingly through the power of your Holy Spirit. This we boldly ask in Jesus' powerful name — and for your ultimate glory. Amen.**