

Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies (Year C)

INTRODUCTION TO LENT, ORDERS OF WORSHIP, COMMUNION LITURGY	PG.1-3
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Introduction

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us. (<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Color for Season of Lent - Purple

Order for Holy Communion Service

The Holy Communion liturgy is for use when an Ordained Pastor or Authorized Lay Minister is present to preside

Call to Worship (optional)
Confession & Forgiveness (ELW p.94-96, or as printed below)
Gathering Hymn
Prayer of the Day
Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel
Sermon/Reflection
Hymn of the Day
Apostles' Creed
Prayers of Intercession
Share the Peace
Offering
Great Thanksgiving / Lord's Prayer

Distribution of Communion
Blessing
Sending Hymn
Dismissal (ELW p.222, or as printed)

Order for Service of the Word (can be used for all 6 Sundays)

Call to Worship (optional)
Confession & Forgiveness (ELW p.94-96 or as printed)
Gathering Hymn
Prayer of the Day
Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel
Sermon/Reflection
Hymn
Apostles' Creed
Prayers of Intercession
Share the Peace

Canticle of Thanksgiving – ELW #208 *Praise to You, O God of Mercy*

Thanksgiving for the Word (ELW p.220) OR
Thanksgiving for the Word (Psalm 25:1-2a, 4-5, 10)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame.
Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I
trusted all the day long.
All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Lord's Prayer (ELW p.221)
Blessing Leader: Let us bless the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**
Sending Hymn / Dismissal

Great Thanksgiving /Communion Liturgy (can be used for all 6 Sundays in Lent)

The Lord be with you, And also with you

Lift up your hearts, We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, It is right to give God thanks and praise
(sung or spoken, any communion setting)

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and humble joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that where death began, life might be restored. Turn us to you in repentance and faith, to clean hearts and fullness of grace, that with the church on earth and all the hosts of heaven, we would praise your name and join their unending hymn,

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, hear us as we pray, call us to your table, grant us your life. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets, and, at this end of all ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed good news in word, and deed, who was obedient to your will, through the giving of his life, granted the people your life.

O God of our wilderness, you journey with us in struggle and joy, in our hunger and thirst, in loneliness and the barrenness of this world in the gift of Jesus your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Born among the poor, tempted as we were, Jesus suffered hunger and thirst, longed for love, lived under oppression, and was betrayed by those closest to him. In his passion for life Jesus reached out to heal the sick and suffering, proclaiming good news in word and deed. Obedient to your will, and in infinite love, taking up the cross of our death, Jesus granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus will come again to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death; when hungry no longer and bound to you in love, we share together with all nations in the feast that is yet to come. Send now your Spirit upon these the gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; that we might praise you with our lives, and be your people in the world. Through Jesus Christ your Son, through him, with him, in him, with the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 112

Ash Wednesday, Mar.2, 2022

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. (<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Gathering Litany *Rev. Kathy Calkins*

L: With our palms we have praised you,

All: with our voices, hosannas we have sung.

L: But when the fire of our passion dies,

All: when we have turned away from you,

L: All that remains is ashes.

All: When we have forgotten your promises, O God,

L: when we burn our bridges, when we set fire to our relationships,

All: when we have turned away from love, when the fire dies,

L: all that remains is smoke and ashes.

All: When our lives grow cold, when our bodies wither and die,

L: When memories fade and breath flickers, and our lives on this earth pass away,

All: all that is remains is dust and ashes.

L: Can the dust praise you, O God? Does beauty rise from the ashes of death?

All: Out of the depths we cry to you O, God, for you alone can raise us to life, and create us anew when all that remains is ashes.

L: For out of the dust of the ground,

All: You have shaped and formed your people,

L: And breathed in us your Spirit's breath.

All: Create us anew we pray, O, God, as we wait for beauty to rise even as we are ashes.

Gathering Hymn ELW #336 Lamb of God **OR** ACS #919 Remember That You are Dust

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Hymn WOV #732 Create in Me a Clean Heart O God **OR** ACS #921 Return to God

Psalms 51: 1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Confession of Sin ELW pg. 252-253

Prayer for Lent's beginning

Lent begins here, O God, with one foot planted here in the present and the other inching into the promise of tomorrow. Lent begins here, O God, in this place where we remember every part of the world and every person on this earth who has blessed us with vision and hope. It begins in our wondering and quiet contemplation for the world we imagine to be dawning.

It begins with our questions of what we are called to do to usher in this new creation.

Lent begins here, O God, in the quiet where every question opens to wonder and awe. It begins with our hearts open to what could be in shared expectation and that expectation will move us together into new life. O God, help us to find the holiness not just in this place or in this season but in the whole marvel of life in this world. We pray in your hope. Amen. <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Imposition of Ashes

In times of great sorrow and heartache, God's people of old would wear their grief. With sackcloth and ashes, their outward form reflected the reality of their hearts. Tonight we too wear ashes as a sign of our brokenness. We acknowledge our need. We confess our sin—the excuses that have kept us from being made whole. We come in our desire to be created anew, our longing to be made well.

After the fire has raged and the flames have died away and grown cold, nothing remains but ashes.

We are dust and to dust we shall return.

After the hot passion of sin, after the cool calculation of evil, all that remains is brokenness and ashes. **We are dust and to dust we shall return.**

After the zeal for living has ebbed away and life has run its course, there is nothing left but ashes.

We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

But the ashes are not the end. Smeared in ashes we fall to our knees. **Washed in waters of grace we rise.**

In the depths of sorrow we enter. **In Christ we rise with confidence and hope.**

In the frailty of dust we begin. **Created anew, we rise to resurrection and life.**

O Lord, we are but dust and ashes. But ashes are not the end. For out of the dust of the ground you form us anew. Over the ashes of our life you breathe your breath, and we rise to life in you. **Thanks be to God!**

Traced in the sign of the cross, the ashes point not only to the reality of who we are, but call us to repent—to return to the cross of Christ—the place where our sin is forgiven, the place of our healing, the place where Jesus, arms open wide, pours out his life for us. This day, as you come to receive the ashes, the invitation of Christ for us: “Come, be made well.”

(People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.)

Hymns during the Imposition of Ashes ELW #801 Change my Heart O God ELW, #814
Take O Take Me As I Am *(Or if preferred instrumental music, or silence)*

After receiving ashes: (ELW p.254)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Saviour, **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days.

Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW #790 Day by Day

Dismissal (ELW p. 255)

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

1st Sunday in Lent, Year C – March 6, 2022

An Identity on Which We Can Rely

In Luke's gospel, the story of Jesus' temptation comes immediately after his baptism and a lengthy listing of his ancestors. Both help confirm the identity of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. Now Jesus is led into the wilderness, where his identity is put to the test by the devil. But Jesus, "full of the Holy Spirit," is able to stand firm in his identity and deny the devil's attempts to redefine who he is.

In our baptisms, we too are given the identity of God's child, and we are given the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our baptisms do not protect us from temptation, even as Jesus himself endured temptation. However, in our baptisms we are given an identity that can help us endure the temptations and the challenges that our lives are bound to include. Baptism gives us the confidence to trust that our identity is defined by our relationship to God, and not by anything else. In this confidence, we can accept our failures and shortcomings and live boldly in a manner that seeks to emulate Christ's own life.

Ritual

To connect with the theme of Lent as a time for spiritual renewal, place the baptismal font in a location where worshipers have to walk by it in order to enter the worship space. Invite each person to dip their fingers in the water and mark themselves with the sign of the cross as they enter the worship space. If moving the baptismal font is not feasible, consider placing bowls of water at each entrance to the worship space for this purpose. If people are worshiping in their homes, invite them to fill a small bowl of water in preparation for worship and lead them in marking the sign of the cross on their foreheads at the beginning of worship.

(<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Travelling God, as we leave what is familiar and find ourselves moving through a wilderness land, may we gather as a community of trust. May we set out holding to your call, to your longing and your love, which will bring us through. Amen.

Visual

Bring strips of **purple fabric** to distribute at the beginning of worship along with a notecard, piece of paper, or poster explaining: Purple is the colour of royalty and reminds us of Jesus' sovereignty. It also symbolizes repentance or turning our attention toward God and neighbour. Keep this cloth with you during Lent to remind you that God is with you on your Lenten journey and calls us to be in solidarity with those who are hurting and in need.

GATHERING

Call to Worship

One: We return to you in joyful remembrance of all that you have done for us, O God. We thank you for the fruit of the land (*fruit basket is placed on the altar*).

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: We thank you for the gifts of the mind (*book, pen, calculator, cell phone are lifted up and placed on the altar*).

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: We thank you for our physical abilities (*a small exercise weight or football is lifted up and placed on the altar*).

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: You have blessed us with each other (*a sweeping gesture is made to signify the gathered congregation*).

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: But most of all you have blessed us with Jesus the Christ and his gift of love (*the cross is gestured to, or someone bearing a handheld cross may put it on the altar*).

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: Come, let us worship God.

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Confession and Forgiveness

Rev. Kathy Calkins

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again

and gathers you under wings of love.
In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn – ELW #326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey, **OR** #618 Guide Me Ever,
Great Redeemer

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Second Reading – Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel Acclamation – One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (*Matt. 4:4*)

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - ELW #325 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Apostles' Creed - ELW p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have died (*especially*). Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen. (<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Offering Prayer

Extravagant God,

you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.

Now we gather at your feast

where you offer us the food that satisfies.

Take and use what we offer here, come among us,

and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Share the Peace

Communion Liturgy – The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 112

Communion

Communion Song - ELW #767 Lord, Take my Hand and Lead Me

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen**

Blessing. *Hold up one of the purple strips of fabric that were distributed at the beginning of worship.*

We live now with the colour purple: a servant-sovereign on the road. We go now following the Christ on the way. May the season bless us, the way guide us, the grace shape us, the love renew us. We are the people of the way, we go now onto the way of the cross. Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW #808 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

2nd Sunday in Lent, Year C – March 13, 2022

Introduction

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Covenant God, may we trust in you when the evidence says don't. May we follow you when the world says not to. May we live with the impossible when everything else says we can't. May we hear the promise in our souls, and live it in our world. Amen.

GATHERING

Call to worship (*Optional: Adapt to use five voices on the outer edge of the worship space and a response from the congregation*)

One: Loving God, our light and our salvation, **whom shall we fear?**

One: Loving God, our light and our salvation, **stronghold of life.**

One: Loving God, our light and our salvation, **shelter in every trouble.**

One: One thing we ask of our God, **that we may live in your house all the days of our lives.**

One: Loving God, our light and our salvation, **come and be home to us.**

Opening prayer

May we shape a space to meet you, O God, a space that plays with mystery, opens up justice, seeks peace, and binds us together as community.

May we travel, full of expectant hope, that good will come on this Lenten journey of promise.

May we travel through dust and ashes, bread and wine, water and hope, to find you, the God who travels with us. Amen.

Prayer of confession

God of mercy, we are at times a people easily given to despair. When we look into the future, we often see endings and not beginnings. We confess that we can get entangled in the problems of this world and have trouble seeing hope for the future. We grow accustomed to sighing and in our cynicism, we evade your call to new life. Forgive us for our lack of faith and restore in us a trust in your power to create new beginnings, where we are not able to imagine them. Amen.

Words of affirmation

In Christ we are forgiven and made new. Let us place our trust in God's promise of new and abundant life. **Amen.** <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Gathering Hymn – ELW #323 God Loved the World

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Second Reading – Philippians 3:17--4:1

Gospel Acclamation – The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (*John 3:14-15*)

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - ELW #613 Thy Holy Wings

Apostles' Creed - ELW p.105

Prayers of Intercession

You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You kindle faith that moves us into action. Guide children and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation. Empower Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, and parents who share their faith with younger generations. Give us all a renewed sense of vocation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen. (<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Offering Prayer

One: These we have journeyed with today. These we have prayed for today. These we have met today. A unique combination and community.

Response: **May the love we have tangled with today, the grace we have woven and the peace we have shared, reflect and belong in your reign, O God.**

One: Receive all we have touched today, all we have given, all we have known as our giving to your realm.

Response: **These are our offerings to you forever. Amen.**

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Share the Peace

Communion Liturgy - The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 112

Communion

Communion Hymn - ELW #469 By Your Hand **OR** ACS #925 Beautiful Things

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen**

Blessing

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✝ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn - ELW #342 There in God's Garden OR ACS #926 Surely God is My Salvation

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

3rd Sunday in Lent, Year C – March 20, 2022

Introduction

Humans are made to be in relationship with God. We are spiritual beings. Some might scoff at the notion and deny their experiences, and some don't seem to care one way or the other. Some hope for and welcome experiences with God, and some, usually referred to as mystics, seem to be especially attuned to the divine. Responding to God's invitation in Isaiah 55:1–9 to listen, come, see, seek, forsake, and return, we encounter a God who holds us in kindness and gives us fresh water of understanding and comfort. Lent is a journey that is grounded in the reality of human life. It also speaks of a more personal relationship with God and trust in that relationship. God invites us to experience God's goodness and enduring love as we continue in Lent. In what ways might people be inspired to feed a relationship with God? How might you and your church stop, look, and listen for God's goodness?

God of table and God of open door, thank you for your invitation. You feed the deep places in our spirits and speak the words that evoke turning for the good. Send your Spirit to guide us in turning toward and trusting in you. Amen.

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

GATHERING

Call to worship

One: God will surprise us with kindness. **Our lives will be carried beyond the horizons of human mercy and enriched with overflowing love.**

One: Pause, turn around on the Lenten road and see a new reality. **On this road we may find in faith the free gifts of God through Christ.**

One: Then, in celebration, we will refresh the world, with generosity beyond the commonplace.

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

the Word draws near to you,

and all who call out to God shall be saved.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again

and gathers you under wings of love.

In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn – ELW #333 Jesus is a Rock In A Weary Land

Prayer of the Day

Invite us to the banquet of new life flowing from your generous heart, O God. Help us to receive the love which is spread across the table of life and into which we are gathered this day. Call to our hearts in invitation. Take our hands now, we pray, and lead us toward your gifts. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel Acclamation – Jesus began to proclaim, repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. (*Matt. 4:17*)

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - ELW #334 Tree of Life & Awesome Mystery (vs.1-3, General, Lent 3)

Apostles' Creed - ELW p. 105

Prayers of Intercession. (Response – Sing ELW #751, O Lord Hear My Prayer)

Returning to the waters of baptism, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation singing,

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

God of water and grace, we pray for the church around the globe; for our national church and synods; for bishops and pastors, other rostered leaders, musicians, and lay ministers; for all thirsty for your word. Draw us in together in unity in the waters of our baptism.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

Lord God who creates all things, we pray for living water; for deep wells and safe sewer systems; for acid-free rain and oil-free oceans; for clean and abundant drinking water for every human being.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

Loving God, drench the earth with your peace, so that nations and leaders might work for justice in all the world. We bring before you those nations who are now at war or in conflict. Bring an end to oppression, religious persecution, and hatred. Grant comfort and safe places to live for refugees. Bless relief workers, policy makers and all those who work towards peace in our world.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

Living Water of Life, satisfy the thirst of all who long for you; the hungry, the poor, the fearful, those divorced or widowed, the lonely and the ill, especially those we mention now aloud or in the quiet of our hearts. In times of anguish and distress, may they draw deeply from your well of hope.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

O God of mercy, bless us your people, shower us all in grace, flood us in Spirit, strengthen us in the mission and ministry to which we have been called, in our homes, in our schools and in our work—wherever you call us into community in our world—may we walk dripping wet in witness and welcome to all people who thirst for you.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

God of love, you gave your only Son as water to a world dying of thirst. By your grace, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Give us all to drink of the saving water of life, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise, all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise, God the well-spring of life. Amen.

Offering Prayer

Add to your table of generosity, all that we bring you today, O God. Place our gifts among those whose lives are failing to grow because they wait for justice. Then lead us on toward ever-expanding horizons for growing in the life of Christ. Amen.

Share the Peace

Communion Liturgy - The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 112

Communion

Communion Hymn – ELW #471 Let Us Break Bread **OR** ACS #925 Beautiful Things

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen**

Blessing

The Lenten way stretches out before us. May we depart the sheltering oasis of God's protection, our thirst quenched with the waters of God's generous gifts, as we rise up refreshed to continue on the way. Amen.

Sending Song – ELW #336 Lamb of God **OR** ACS #1042 May This Church Be Like a Tree

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

4th Sunday in Lent, Year C – March 27, 2022

Introduction

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

God, just as it can be our habit to break, to unbind, to distance ourselves from those we love and from those who need us, so it is your habit and your way to draw us back together and to you, and to enfold us in your everlasting arms.

Gathering Hymn – ELW #807 Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

Call to worship

One: From far-away places, from close at hand, with hearts troubled, with minds at rest, welcome your people, Holy One.

All: We come to worship you.

One: Carrying heavy loads, travelling light; walking in fear, living in faith, welcome your people, Holy One.

All: We come to worship you with all that is good in our lives, with all that hurts and hinders us, with past and present in us, and the future before us. We come to worship you and find our way home.

Prayer of the Day

All along the path with God, we gather at the edges of God’s cloak, joining the dance, tripping along behind, getting lost at so many turns and twists, then finding a way home again.

Our paths cross, intermingle, shift and swirl, as life leads us on in the unfolding drama of our own story.

If a resting place, if a meeting point, if a fork in the road, whatever be this space and this moment, use it God, to shape and inspire us, and grant to us a glimpse of home. **Amen.**

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!**

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel Acclamation – I will arise and go to my father and say, I have sinned against heaven and before you. (*Luke 15:18*)

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - ELW #608 Softly & Tenderly Jesus is Calling ACS #922 When We Are Tested

Apostles' Creed - ELW p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

As God's beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church, and all those in need, saying, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

A brief silence.

Gracious God, open our eyes in wonder to the beauty of your salvation to and through the church in the gift of your Son. Call us to joyfully proclaim of your grace revealed, in the cross and by your Spirit, in the words of prophets and in our songs of praise. Raise your whole church to faithful service, that all people might see the glory of your light and life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, in grace you formed the heavens and the earth and all we need for life in this world. Open our eyes in wonder to the beauty of created life—the moose and the deer, spring storms and warm rays of sun, the smallest of seeds and the highest of mountains. Bless and sustain all that you have made, that all creation might reflect your glory and life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, your grace extends to nations and rulers of nations and to the ends of the earth. Open our eyes in wonder to the beauty of divergent races and cultures, to the variety of gifts given, to the vision and hope of justice for this world and for the next. We pray for nations and leaders—for the prosperous and the poor, for the peaceful and the perilous, for the proud and for the meek, that together we would work for the betterment of all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, open our eyes to the suffering in our world. For families living in distress and disfunction, for children whose days are filled with fear, for the ones whose days are spent in anguish or anxiety, in grief or illness, especially *(the names in the bulletin here)* Through our hands bring your gentle touch, through our words grant your hope, in your grace grant your healing and life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, open our eyes in wonder to the beauty of your call that gathers us in community, as together we praise you, as together we serve you, as together you send us in witness and service to the people of this town and this time. Bless this house of worship and us, your people especially *(The ministries and names in the bulletin here)*. Place in us your vision for the world outside our doors, to the people who yet long to see your salvation, for those who do not yet see Jesus. Place in us also a vision that extends beyond this congregation and to our area both ecumenically and denominationally, for your gifts given to the whole church. Open our

eyes to the possibility of you in new ways of ministry and mission. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and hopes, God of grace and mercy, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, light of the nations, salvation of the world, Lord of us all. **Amen.**
(<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Offering Prayer

As the prodigal made for home, we turn back to you. As the parent celebrated his return, we rejoice with all who love you. We are not worthy to receive all that we have, and what we offer is a simple token of all that you have given.

So receive us and our offerings, as we come with grateful hearts into the love of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit. **Amen.**

Share the Peace

Communion Liturgy - The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 112

Communion

Communion Hymn – ELW #336 Lamb of God

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen**

Blessing

Arms opened wide to receive us, love given freely to reshape us, forgiveness, generously shared to redeem us. Go into the world in peace and in joy to journey again with God. The blessing of God Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit be yours. Amen.

Sending Hymn – ELW #587 There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

5th Sunday in Lent, Year C – April 3, 2022

Introduction

This week we focus on the story of how Martha and Mary ministered to Jesus prior to his crucifixion. In hearing the story, we learn about the power of love, the significance of our actions and what it means to have a relationship of grace.

Lent is traditionally a time of “letting go.” Sometimes those actions have been trivialized by setting aside habits or foods that are peripheral to our lives. The actions of Mary and Martha, and the prophetic hope of “new things,” call us to a deeper spirituality and solidarity with others. We often speak of grace as what God extends to us. But gracious actions form the ministry of these women to Jesus. Mary in particular acts outside of traditional ways for the sake of embodying grace that is timely and relational. What are the transformative possibilities of such gracious ministries in our lives and communities? How might such ministries reach out to the marginalized?

God of surprising grace, embolden us in ministries that convey care and connection, whether such ministry engages us in actions of long-standing tradition or risk-taking newness, for in gracious ministry with those around us – like Mary, like Martha – we minister to you. Amen.

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Gathering Hymn – ELW #334 Tree of Life & Awesome Mystery (vs.1-3, General, Lent 5) **OR** ACS #924 As the Winter Days Grow Longer

Call to worship

One: We gather in the presence of God, the creator of sand and stars: **ready to worship.**

One: We gather in the presence of Christ, our guide for setting a table of welcome: **ready to worship.**

One: We gather in the presence of the Spirit, our inspiration for moving beyond fear: **ready to worship.**

One: We gather together in grace: **ready to worship.**

Opening prayer

O God, you are the giver of wonderful things. You gave us life. You have filled our lives with family and friends. You lavish us with your grace. You have given us this day to add to the many we have shared. And you have given us Jesus. Help us grow in our understanding and appreciation of just how much you love us, and open our hearts that our worship this day might be an act of praise and thanksgiving for all you have done for us. Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.

In ✙ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Second Reading – Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel Acclamation – Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (*Phil. 3:13-14*)

Gospel: John 12:1-8

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - ELW #685 Take My Life, That I May Be

Apostles' Creed - ELW p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Resurrected through Jesus Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, we pray for the life of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation, saying Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy and gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your church and people. Be the breath of our words, be the flesh of our ministries, be the life of our existence in this world, so that all peoples might rise to know new life in you. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your creation. Be the breath of warm spring and the flesh of abundance to and for all creation. Call life to spring forth in water, field, and forest. Fill all the earth with joy, with the flourishing of all good things for the life of all. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon the nations. Be the breath of love in hearts of hatred, be the flesh of dignity for all people living in oppression, be the life of justice and peace in all rulers and peoples for the sake of life for all. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon those who suffer. Be the breath of life to weary and dry bones, be the flesh of broken hearts, be the life of dark anxious minds. We remember those who struggle with broken relationships, personal crisis, or poor health especially those we mention aloud and in the quiet of our hearts. *(a brief pause here)* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon this community. Be the breath of encouragement and strength to all who put the good of others before themselves: local law enforcement, health care workers, teachers, and those who serve in our grocery stores and gas stations. Be the flesh of everyday hands and make us servants of this community. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon this congregation. Be the breath of blessing blowing through those who love and care for us; for the generations who have gone before as faithful witnesses to your love; for those we have loved and lost; and for those who now grace our lives. Stitch us together sinew to sinew, be the flesh of our faith and love rising to life in service to those we meet. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Offering Prayer

We offer our gifts this day with gratitude. Through them, may hope come to those who know despair, may love come to those who feel alone, may healing come to those who endure pain. May these gifts be a sign of our commitment to serve you in the world. **Amen.**

Share the Peace

Communion Liturgy - The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 112

Communion

Communion Hymn - ELW #324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen**

Blessing

My sisters and brothers: go forth into a world that is beloved by God.
Bless it with your compassion. Renew it with hope. In every step you take may you feel anew
the peace of Christ, the promise of the Spirit, and the presence of God. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn – ELW #551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday Year C – April 10, 2022

Introduction

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Holy Week begins with a palm procession and the proclamation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the gospel of Luke. Christ enters the assembly now, just as he did then, and with the angels at his birth we praise his presence among us.

(<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Visual – Create banners that say Hosanna on one side, and Crucify on the other side. Wave the Hosanna banners during the processional, and then save the other side till the end of the service.

Call to worship

Steadfast God,
Lent has been a long journey.
Now the long shadow of the cross
and the footsteps of Jesus
find us waiting at the gates of Jerusalem. We have arrived.
Yet it seems the journey is still not complete; there is a deeper journey still to make.
This Lenten wandering
has been just the beginning.
The greatest story is still to be told.
Come let us gather at the gates of the city; the crowds are preparing to enter.

Processional Gospel Reading - Luke 19:28-40

Processional Hymn – WOV #136 The King of Glory **OR** ELW #344 All Glory, Laud & Honor.
OR ACS #929 Blessed Is The One

Opening prayer

May we be your disciples today, O Jesus, where we know what we cry,
where we take to heart the hosannas and live them beyond the parade.

May we be your supporters today, O Jesus, where we know the saviour you are, where we
intend to follow you from gate to garden.

May we be your voice today, O Jesus, where we cry out against the protests, where we stake our faith and lives on what you begin here today. Amen.

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading – Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56. (Or Luke 23:1-49) *The Passion of the Lord*

Twice each Holy Week we hear the entire story of the betrayal, arrest, trials, abuse, and crucifixion of Jesus. Since it is Sunday, we listen to Luke, the synoptic gospel of this year. In Luke's gospel, the death of the messiah is the merciful act of a loving Savior who brings forgiveness to the whole world. Several of the details in Luke's narrative are among the most beloved in the church's memory of the passion. Proclaimed in the Sunday assembly, the passion of Christ leads to the eucharist, which is always a celebration of the resurrection.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - ELW #342 There in God's Garden

Apostles' Creed - ELW p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Make us unflinching servants of the gospel. Deliver us from hardship as we confront the forces of injustice and practice radical compassion. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the earth and all its inhabitants, created in love: Train us to recognize your divine goodness in the world around us. Rouse in us a reverence for creation, that we take greater care of its resources. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For those in positions of authority called to lead with integrity and compassion: Supply them with courage and vulnerability when challenged with new ideas. Deliver them from fear that limits imagination and impedes justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For those who suffer, waiting expectantly for mercy and consolation: Accompany those who feel abandoned or betrayed, defend those who are wrongly accused, and embrace those who are incarcerated or detained. Heal those who are ill (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For Christians around the world, preparing this week to journey with Jesus to the cross: Reveal to us once again the earthshaking power of humble service, unmerited forgiveness, and sacrificial love. Lead us all from death to life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember those who have died (*especially Mikael Agricola and . . .*), who were commended into your hands. Remember us when you come into your kingdom, and prepare a place for each of us with you in paradise. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com>)

Offering Prayer

We offer our gifts this day with gratitude. Through them, may hope come to those who know despair, may love come to those who feel alone, may healing come to those who endure pain. May these gifts be a sign of our commitment to serve you in the world. **Amen.**

Share the Peace

Communion Liturgy - The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 112

Communion

Communion Hymn - ELW #324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen**

Epilogue (Optional)

And so the cross,
that tree of shame –
How beautiful it once was, covered in autumn gold,
but hate's winter has set in
and rotted away all life.
It stretches there
like some gargoyle of shame, waiting for its bearer,
who has carried it long enough.

And haunting its starkness are all the words of love
but even they do not soften it.

What good is it now to sing words of love? What irony to speak of hope?
But it is the only good there is, for here

in the shadow of this cruel love such words still make sense, and this week of all weeks,
we must sing with faith, talk of hope, and long eagerly for the dawn, for this last irony,
is the beginning of love.

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/resources>

Blessing

My sisters and brothers: go forth into a world that is beloved by God.
Bless it with your compassion. Renew it with hope. In every step you take may you feel anew
the peace of Christ, the promise of the Spirit, and the presence of God. Amen.

Sending Hymn – ELW #551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

(Optional Dismissal)

There is a tradition that Palm Sunday is the beginning of a one-week-long service through Holy Week so there is no Amen, just words of encouragement and invitation to gather again next time.

Turn the banners from “Hosanna” to “Crucify.”

May we walk among the voices of “hosanna” and “crucify.” Share the journey with Jesus and listen for the crushing of love. Long for the moment it breaks open again. Come.

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These worship outlines have been prepared by Gail Berg, Synod of Alberta & the Territories