

“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God
is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.”

Mark 1:15



LIVE
Lent
TOGETHER

Praying with the Sunday Gospels
Year B



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Welcome

Thank you for saying *yes* to the invitation to live Lent with us! As we walk and share life together in the coming six weeks, we hope you experience the following graces:

- **Deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ.**

The Sunday Gospels during the Lenten season are a journey through Jesus Christ's life-giving ministry, passion, and death. As you come to know Christ over the the next six weeks, you will discover how Christ is present and at work in your own life.

- **Encounter God through Scripture.**

This series does not primarily provide an *education* in faith, but *life transformation* through an encounter with the living God. We hope this encounter draws you into a deeper experience of God's love.

- **Form authentic friendships and experience community.**

You will share deeply in fellowship and faith with the other members of your small group over the next six weeks. Cultivate an openness to how God desires to be present to you through your small group.

- **Be inspired to share the Good News of God's love with others.**

As Pope Francis said in *The Joy of the Gospel*, "anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love."

The WRAP Method

1. Pray to the Holy Spirit for open hearts and the gift of prayer. Draw your group members' attention to any particular graces they are seeking in this time.
2. **WRITE**
 - a. **Read the Passage Aloud.** It is best to have a consistent reader, as some people get distracted as reading styles change.
 - b. Guide your group members to notice where the Lord draws their attention and **write** it down. This could be a word, phrase, or image. Give them permission to re-read the passage silently.
 - c. Invite anyone in your group who feels comfortable to share what the Lord is bringing to their attention. Acknowledge their contributions with a simple smile while encouraging silence rather than conversation at this point.
3. **REFLECT**
 - a. Read it aloud again
 - b. Invite your group members to deeper reflection on the scripture passage, saying something like, "Let the Lord draw your mind back to what initially grabbed your attention and use your imagination and intellect to **reflect** on what is going on in the passage."
 - c. Allow your group members time to write, then invite them to share as they feel comfortable.
4. **APPLY**
 - a. Read the passage aloud a final time.
 - b. Invite your group members to see the personal application of the Gospel passage, saying something like, "This time make it personal as you **apply** the passage to yourself. Where are you in the story?"
 - c. Allow time for writing, then invite people to share.
5. **PRAY**
 - a. Allow time for each member of your group to write a personal **prayer** in response to God.
 - b. Close with an Our Father.

Preparing for the First Sunday of Lent

Collect, First Sunday of Lent

Convert us, O God our Savior,
and instruct our minds by heavenly teaching,
that we may benefit from the works of Lent.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Conversation Starter

1. What is one of your hobbies, and what do you enjoy about it?
2. What is one positive habit that makes your life better?



The Temptation of Christ by the Devil, c. 1860 (Félix Joseph Barrias)

Preparing for the First Sunday of Lent

WRAP with the Gospel - Mark 1:12-15

Jesus calls all of us to turn away from sin and turn toward him, since the kingdom of God near.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

Preparing for the First Sunday of Lent

Going Deeper Questions

1. What has been your experience of Lent in past years?

2. What do you want Jesus to do for you this Lent?

Group Action

How is your group being called to live the Gospel in the coming week?

Psalm 25:6-9

℟ Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. **℟**

Good and upright is the LORD, thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and he teaches the humble his way. **℟**

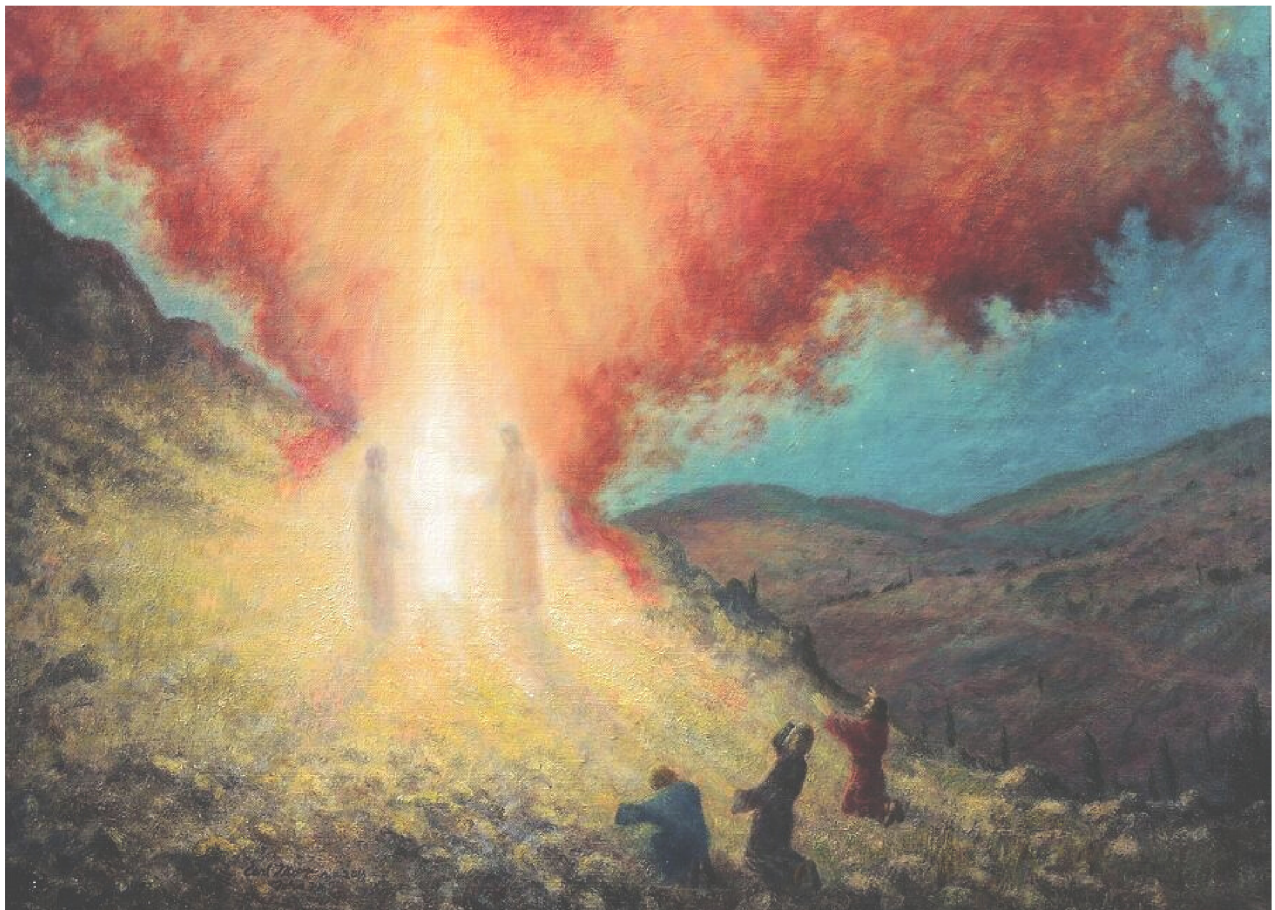
Preparing for the Second Sunday of Lent

Collect, Second Sunday of Lent

Keep your family, O Lord,
schooled always in good works,
and so comfort them with your protection here
as to lead them graciously to gifts on high.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Conversation Starter

1. In what situations are you most uncomfortable?
2. Share about a time when someone amazed you?



The Transfiguration of Christ, 2016 (Earl Mott)

Preparing for the Second Sunday of Lent

WRAP with the Gospel - Mark 9:2-10

Jesus reveals his glory to his disciples on the way to Jerusalem, where he will accept the cross to save sinners.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

Preparing for the Third Sunday of Lent

Collect, Third Sunday of Lent

May your unfailing compassion, O Lord,
 cleanse and protect your Church,
 and, since without you she cannot stand secure,
 may she always be governed by your grace.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, forever and ever. Amen.

Conversation Starter

1. As a child, what was your idea of fun?
2. What is one thing you are passionate about?



Jesus Chasing the Merchants from the Temple, c. 1850 (Raymond Balze)

Preparing for the Third Sunday of Lent

WRAP with the Gospel - John 2:13-25

Jesus purifies the Temple to remind us that our hearts need purification to worship God rightly.

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

Preparing for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Collect, Fourth Sunday of Lent

O God, who have prepared
fitting helps for us in our weakness,
grant, we pray, that we may receive
their healing effects with joy
and reflect them in a holy way of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Conversation Starter

1. What is something you should throw away, but can't?
2. Name a lesson from your childhood that you still follow now?



Nicodemus Visiting Jesus, 1899 (Henry Ossawa Tanner)

Preparing for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

WRAP with the Gospel - John 3:14-21

Jesus reveals the mission of mercy he has received from his Father, that whoever believes in him might be saved.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

Preparing for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Collect, Fifth Sunday of Lent

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Conversation Starter

1. What is one thing that stresses you out?
2. What is something you intended to do today, but didn't?



The Raising of Lazarus, 1310 (Duccio di Buoninsegna)

Preparing for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

WRAP with the Gospel - John 11:21-26, 38-44

By raising Lazarus, Jesus demonstrates his authority over death and prefigures his own resurrection.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray

Preparing for Palm Sunday

Collect, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, though in our weakness we fail,
we may be revived through the Passion of
your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Conversation Starter

1. Describe a time when you lost something valuable.
2. What is your favorite way to celebrate?



The Point of Entry of Jesus in Jerusalem, c. 1896 (Felix Tafart)



Preparing for Palm Sunday



WRAP with Scripture - Philippians 2:6-11

Jesus calls us to follow him in humility and obedience, in suffering and death, on the path of redemption.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Write

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Reflect

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Apply

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Pray

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