

We must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.

*Luke 15:32*



LIVE  
*Lent*  
TOGETHER

Praying with the Sunday Gospels  
Year C



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**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.**

*John 8:12*



*Christ the Light (2020) by Kelly Latimore*



# Welcome

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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 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

*The Word of God is living and active* (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, continues to speak to us through the scriptures written nearly 2,000 years ago. Throughout these next six weeks cultivate an open heart to God's voice speaking to you through each weekly Gospel reading and through the other members of your small group.

The WRAP Method, based on the ancient monastic practice of *Lectio Divina* (Sacred Reading), will help facilitate the process of listening and reflecting on the weekly readings.

1. Pray to the Holy Spirit for open hearts and the gift of prayer. Become aware that God is right here, right now, and wants to speak to you directly.

## 2. WRITE

Be attentive to a word, phrase, or image that captivates your attention or curiosity in the Gospel passage. Take a few moments to write down that word, phrase, or image that speaks to you.

## 3. REFLECT

What is God trying to communicate through the word, phrase, or image that captivated your attention? Reflect on the principle or truth that the Scripture is teaching. Use your imaginative and analytical faculties. Write down your thoughts, feelings, and desires in relationship to the Scripture; and dialogue with Jesus.

## 4. APPLY

How is God's Word inviting you to change your perspective or life? Consider how Jesus is calling you to apply the truths from Scripture. Write down your response to the Scripture and how you can apply it beginning today.

## 5. PRAY

Write a simple prayer related to the verses that offer praise and thanksgiving to God. Ask God to help you respond in faith to God's Word.



## Preparing for the First Sunday of Lent

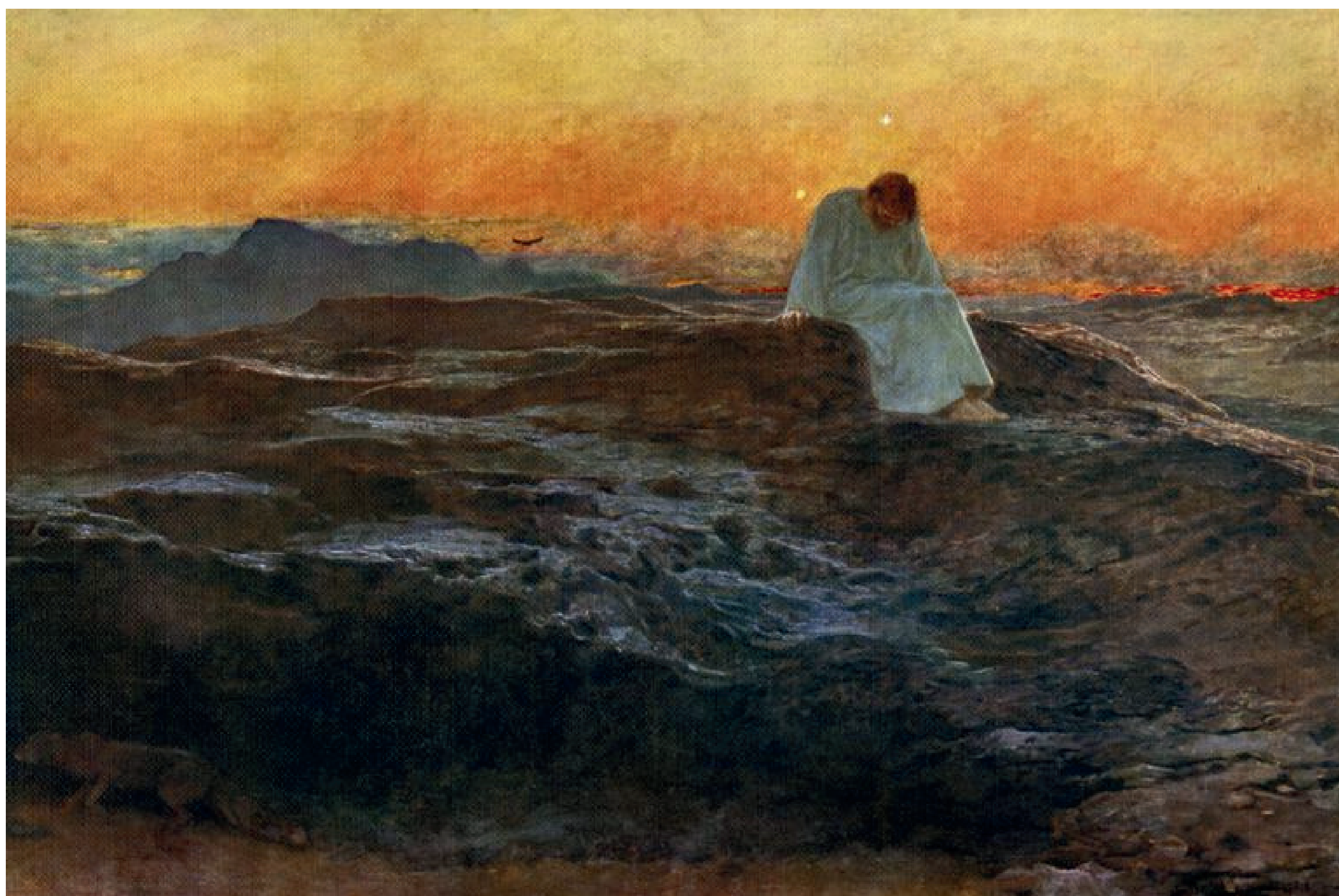
### Collect, First Sunday of Lent

Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### Conversation Starter

- For what in your life are you most grateful?
- How have you experienced the Lenten season in previous years?



*Christ in the Wilderness (1898) by Briton Riviera*



## Preparing for the First Sunday of Lent

### WRAP with the Gospel - Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, *One does not live on bread alone.*" Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, "I shall give to you all this power and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: *You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.*" Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you, and: With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" Jesus said to him in reply, "It also says, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

Write .....

Reflect .....

Apply .....

Pray .....



## Preparing for the First Sunday of Lent

### Going Deeper Questions

- What role do trials and challenges play in our lives?
- In the desert, Jesus does not engage with the devil's temptations. He simply quotes the Word of God in scripture. How has God's Word inspired you in times of temptation?

### Group Action

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

### Psalm 91: 1-2, 10-11

**℟ Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the LORD, "My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust." **℟**

No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent,  
For to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. **℟**



## Preparing for the Second Sunday of Lent

### Collect, Second Sunday of Lent

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your glory.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### Conversation Starter

- Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?
- What is your most treasured memory?



*Transfiguration of Jesus* by Fr. John Giuliani



## Preparing for the Second Sunday of Lent

### WRAP with the Gospel - Luke 9:28b-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Write .....

Reflect .....

Apply .....

Pray .....



## Preparing for the Second Sunday of Lent

### Going Deeper Questions

- As he prayed, Jesus was transformed and appeared in his glory. How does prayer transform you?
- The transfiguration is a moment of *theophany*, a visible manifestation of God. In what ways have you experienced God's presence in a real and tangible way?

### Group Action

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

### Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 13-14

**℟ The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?  
The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? **℟**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me.  
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. **℟**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **℟**



## Preparing for the Third Sunday of Lent

### Collect, Third Sunday of Lent

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,  
 who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving  
 have shown us the remedy for sin,  
 look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,  
 that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,  
 may always be lifted up by your mercy.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### Conversation Starter

- Is there something that you've dreamed of doing for a long time?
- Would you rather vacation by the ocean, in the mountains, or in a city?



*The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (1611) by Abel Grimmer*



## Preparing for the Third Sunday of Lent

### WRAP with the Gospel - Luke 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!” And he told them this parable:

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

Write .....

Reflect .....

Apply .....

Pray .....



## Preparing for the Third Sunday of Lent

### Going Deeper Questions

- Have you experienced seasons of barrenness in your spiritual life? What have you done to reinvigorate it?
- How do you feel God is cultivating and fertilizing your heart? How might God be inviting you to “bear fruit in the future”?

### Group Action

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

### Psalm 103:1-2, 8, 11

**℟ The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. **℟**

Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. **℟**



## Preparing for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Collect, Fourth Sunday of Lent

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,  
grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### Conversation Starter

- What is one thing you are most grateful for this past week?
- If you could wake up tomorrow having gained one quality or ability, what would it be?



*"Mora Ya Lehlaswa" (The Prodigal Son)* Designed by Christian Art Expo



## Preparing for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

### WRAP with the Gospel - Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

Write .....

Reflect .....

Apply .....

Pray .....



## Preparing for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Going Deeper Questions

- Is there a particular character in the parable with whom you identify right now (i.e. the loving/forgiving parent, the child who turns away but returns, the jealous sibling, the servants who prepare the feast)?
- What does being in right relationship with others mean to you? How do you restore right relationship when you have sinned or walked away from that relationship?

### Group Action

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

### Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

**℟ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad. **℟**

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. **℟**

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.. **℟**



## 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, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### Conversation Starter

- What does friendship mean to you?
- How would you describe your relationship with your family?



*Cast the First Stone* by Peter Gallagher



## Preparing for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

### WRAP with the Gospel - John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

Write .....

Reflect .....

Apply .....

Pray .....



## Preparing for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Going Deeper Questions

- How have you personally experienced God's mercy, compassion, and forgiveness? What barriers might be in the way of you receiving it more fully?
- How may Jesus be inviting you to participate in extending mercy and forgiveness to others in your life?

### Group Action

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

### Psalm 126:4-5, 6

**℟ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. **℟**

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves. **℟**



## Preparing for Palm Sunday

### Collect, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Almighty ever-living God,  
 who as an example of humility for the human race to follow  
 caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross,  
 graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering  
 and so merit a share in his Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### Conversation Starter

- Share one thing you appreciate about your experience with your small group over the last several weeks.



*Entry of Christ into Jerusalem (c. 1320) by Pietro Lorenzetti*



## Preparing for Palm Sunday

### WRAP with the Gospel - Luke 19:28-40

Jesus proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem. As he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples. He said, "Go into the village opposite you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. And if anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' you will answer, 'The Master has need of it.'" So those who had been sent went off and found everything just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying this colt?" They answered, "The Master has need of it." So they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks over the colt, and helped Jesus to mount. As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. They proclaimed: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!"

Write

Reflect

Apply

Pray



## Preparing for Palm Sunday

### Going Deeper Questions

- What kind of reception would Jesus receive if he rode into your town today?
- How will you journey with Jesus throughout this Holy Week?

### Group Action

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

### 1 Sam 2:6-8

**℟ My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior!**

The Lord puts to death and gives life; he casts down to the nether world; he raises up again.  
The Lord makes poor and makes rich, he humbles, and also exalts. **℟**

He raises the needy from the dust; from the dung heap he lifts up the poor,  
To seat them with nobles and make a glorious throne their heritage. **℟**