

Season of Lent

Crafting the Liturgy — Seasonal Planning Page

Lent is a season well spent examining our connection to Christ and how our own need for him is a critical aspect of our lives. Times of solitude and meditation are encouraged during this season as we reflect on our own broken nature and what Christ accomplished on the cross of Calvary. The discipleship practices of prayer, generosity, worship, study, fasting, and service all can help us to focus on Jesus' sacrificial love.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SEASON

The following are some ideas for helping to make the season distinct and memorable. Congregations are free to adapt these suggestions, or follow the local customs of the congregation.

Preparing the Worship Space

Having a stark, sparsely decorated worship space can lend to the solemnity of the season of Lent. Modest plants, banners, and adornments prevent distracting the worshipping community from focusing on extraneous things rather than the cross. Consider using grapevine wreaths or strands to add texture to the otherwise clean, smooth lines of linens and paraments. During Holy Week, a set of "stations of the cross" may be added where other banners had once hung.

Add elements to the space that can be used in conversation during the season. Use this as a means for spiritual formation for the community of saints who might not understand the meaning of Lenten symbols. Such elements might include nails, a linen robe, a crown of thorns, etc.

Liturgical Color

The liturgical color for Lent is purple, a color of royalty. During Holy Week a wine color is appropriate, too, as it represents the shedding of Jesus' blood. On Good Friday, the color is black (if paraments are used at all).

The Gathering

Use the Kyrie in Lent because it is a time for us to cry out to God for mercy. For something different than the traditional Kyrie, consider using the very solemn, "Lord Have Mercy," by Steve Merkel (CCLI# 2989578). A cantor might sing the verses with the congregation joining in on the chorus.

The Creed

Use the Apostles' Creed during Lent as the church reflects on the power and promises of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The Offering

Consider singing "Change My Heart, O God" (CCLI# 1565) as the Offering Hymn for Lent. It reflects the penitential nature of the season and can be sung as the gifts are brought forward to the altar.

The Lord's Supper

Lent is a perfect time to focus on instruction about the Sacrament of the Altar. In the early church, the catechumenate was excused during Holy Communion and admitted to the table only at their baptism at the Vigil of Easter. Use this time to bolster the community of faith in their knowledge of our Lutheran understanding of the Eucharist. On Maundy Thursday, have first communicants partake of the Lord's Supper on the night when Jesus instituted the Sacrament. Instruct people who have never been a part of the distribution of the Sacrament to serve in that role during Lent.

REMINDERS FOR THE SEASON

- ✦ Check out Sola's Lent midweek programs for worship.
- ✦ If you need ashes for Ash Wednesday, there is a palm-burning liturgy that can be used with a small group — students, perhaps — to help you prepare them. This liturgy can be found on SOWeR's Lent Season page.
- ✦ Consider sending daily emails with the upcoming Sunday's lessons. Use the text study sheets and/or the weekly worship planning sheets as material to begin your reflections.
- ✦ Remember to "hide the alleluia" either on Transfiguration Sunday or the First Sunday in Lent. This is a great way to get children involved in the worship service and explain a tradition of the church. There are some pre-made "alleluias" on the Lent Season page of SOWeR.
- ✦ As you celebrate Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, consider making your own bread. When something small is changed, like having real unleavened bread rather than wafers, it can connect to the senses and spark thought in a believer's mind.
- ✦ Instruct altar workers on the process of stripping the altar for Maundy Thursday. Conduct a practice session if they aren't confident with the flow of removing each piece from the altar and chancel space.
- ✦ Get readers their lessons ahead of time if you plan on doing a chorale reading for any of the worship services during Holy Week. There are downloadable resources on SOWeR.
- ✦ There are scripture inserts that include the entirety of the lessons on days when the lessons are extremely long, for example Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Those can be found in the center portion of the Seasonal Page and on each individually dated worship page of SOWeR. There are also readings that are set up as "chorale" readings in that same section of SOWeR if you choose to have more than one lector read the lessons.

COMMEMORATIONS

- Feb. 14:** Valentine (c. 226 AD – c. 269 AD), Bishop of Terni and Martyr.
- Feb. 18:** Martin Luther (November 10, 1843 – February 18, 1546), Doctor and Confessor.
- Mar. 17:** Patrick (4th Century AD – c. March 17, 460 AD), Missionary to Ireland.
- Mar. 31:** Joseph (c. 1600 BC – c. 1490 BC), Patriarch.

Ash Wednesday

February 10, 2027

Ash Wednesday (Year B)

Ashes remind us of our sin and mortality. We are no different than Israel, David, the Corinthians, or the disciples in that we all fall short of God's standards and need Jesus to reconcile us to the Father. Even our piety is tainted by sin as we practice prayer, giving, and serving with ill motives. We, like David, cry, "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew in me a right spirit." We yearn for God's presence.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Joel 2:12-19

Return to Me!

The Lord called his people to return to him with all their hearts. Instead of tearing their clothing in repentance and sorrow, he urged them to rend their hearts. The God of Israel requires nothing less than his children's undivided devotion. When the neighboring nations thought God had abandoned his people, the Lord had pity on them and came to their aid.

Psalm 51:1-13 (14-19)

Create in Me a Clean Heart

David cried to the Lord for mercy in the face of sinful behavior with another man's wife. His lust and idolatry of his own power got the best of him, and he took what he wanted even though it did not belong to him. When he recognized the wickedness of his ways, he repented and asked God for a new and upright heart.

2 Corinthians 5:20b — 6:10

Be Reconciled to God

Paul explained to the believers in Corinth that as Christ followers, they were called to be ambassadors for Christ, representing him wherever they went and working for reconciliation among all people. This would require great endurance and strength, and yet through it all, God would guide them in their kingdom work.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Practice Piety in Secret

Jesus instructed his disciples in the ways in which they practiced prayer and generosity. They were not to broadcast it around town; instead, they were to keep it quiet so that their reward came from God and not from any person's praise.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- If you are making your own ashes for Ash Wednesday, there is short liturgy that can be used with a small group (catechism students enjoy this). You can find it on the Lent Seasonal Page of Sower along with other liturgies for the day.
- To help the worshipping community understand more about Ash Wednesday, download "Why the Ashes?" and distribute it with the bulletin for the day. It can be found on the Seasonal page for Lent.
- Ash Wednesday is forty days before Easter, excluding Sundays. How will the community journey together through this holy time?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
What Has Our God Required of Us?	---	---	---	---	---	web
Chief of Sinners Though I Be	306	---	611	609	187	187
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
Just As I Am	296	---	570	592	193	193
He Leadeth Me	501	---	---	---	232	232
I Lay My Sins on Jesus	305	---	606	---	---	web
It is Well With My Soul	---	---	---	---	---	web
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	---	---	---	335	140	140
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms	---	780	---	774	208	208
Let Us Break Bread Together	212	---	---	471	83	83

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WO = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Sunday's Palms are Wednesdays' Ashes (Tune: Beach Spring)
(CCLI# 3413445)
Ashes
(CCLI# 7035696)
Lord, Have Mercy
(CCLI# 2989578)
Secret Place
(CCLI# 3121256)
Give Me Jesus
(CCLI# 4874344)

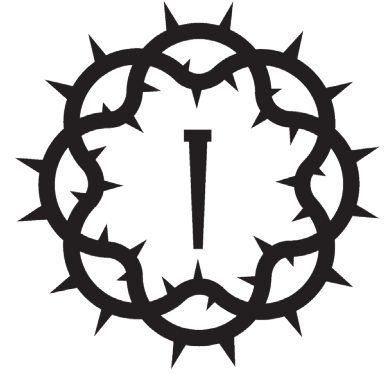
The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Lent 1

February 14, 2027

First Sunday in Lent (Year B)

We often read Genesis 22 with stunned silence and bewilderment. Would God really demand Abraham offer his child as a burnt sacrifice? In faith, Abraham spoke the truest words he could, even though he had no idea that it would be the truth for that day, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” This epic story foreshadows what God would do on the cross of Calvary many years later.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-18**Will You Sacrifice Your Son?**

God instructed Abraham to take his son, Isaac, to the mountain of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering to the Lord. Abraham dutifully complied. He made the journey, prepared the altar, and took Isaac to it. Unbeknownst to Isaac, the boy himself was to be the lamb for the burnt offering. At the last second, God provided a ram for the sacrifice.

Psalm 25:1-10**I Lift Up My Soul**

The psalmist proclaimed his full trust in the Lord, saying it was to him and him alone that he lifted up his soul. Those who wait for the Lord will not be put to shame. Our waiting for God to act is never in vain; we simply are not privy to God's plans even though we trust in him for our salvation and steadfast love.

James 1:12-18**The Crown of Life**

St. James reminded his readers that it is a great blessing to withstand trials for the faith. When a person holds fast amid trials, he or she will receive the crown of life. This is the promise of the Lord of love. God is not a tempter — he brings us forth through trials with truth and encouragement.

Mark 1:9-15**Baptism and Temptation**

As soon as Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, the Spirit drove him into the wilderness — that place of trial and temptation, and even death. Angels tended to him and animals kept him company. Immediately following this, he began his public ministry; meanwhile, John was arrested and put in jail for his preaching.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple
- Use the Kyrie
- Use the Apostles' Creed

Themes of trials and temptations pervade the Scripture readings for this First Sunday in Lent. How often do we think that God is behind all of the trials we face? Yet James reminds us of the blessing that comes along with withstanding trials: the very crown of life, given to us by the one who withstood severe trials and death. We are in good company when it comes to being tried in our faith. We have the assurance that Christ is always with us and that he went there before us and knows what we are going through.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lord Jesus, Think on Me	309	---	610	599	178	178
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds	345	---	524	620	195	195
Awake, O Sleeper	---	745	697	452	---	---
In the Cross of Christ I Glory	104	---	427	324	138	138
Beneath the Cross of Jesus	107	---	---	338	142	142
Christ, the Life of All the Living	97	---	420	339	218	218
Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me	333	---	722	767	249	249
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	479	---	702	759	243	243
God the Father, Be Our Stay	308	---	505	---	---	---
Now the Silence	205	---	910	460	---	---

*The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."*

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Jesus, Son of God
(CCLI# 6223539)
O Come to the Altar
(CCLI# 7051511)
Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
(CCLI# 4768151)
Trading My Sorrows
(CCLI# 257465)
Oh God
(CCLI# 6534493)

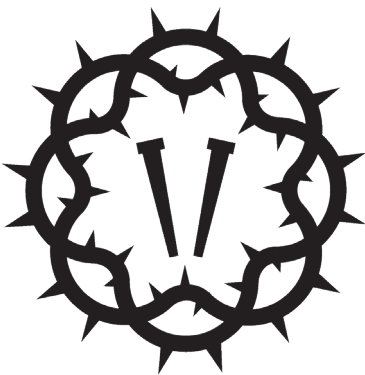
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Lent 2

February 21, 2027

Second Sunday in Lent (Year B)

Jesus instructed his disciples and the crowd that gathered around him that to live as the Son of Man lives, they must be willing to suffer. If anyone thought they wanted to follow after him, they must be ready to deny themselves and take up the cross. The paradox of following Christ is that life is found in giving it up rather than holding onto it with a white-knuckled grip. This is the truth for all generations!



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 **God’s Faithful Covenant**
God made a covenant promise with Abram in his old age, and changed his name to Abraham. The promise attached to this covenant was that Abraham would be the father of many nations and the covenant would last for all succeeding generations.

Psalm 22:23-31 **God Hears the Cries of the Afflicted**
The psalmist proclaimed the steadfast love of God for the afflicted. Nothing goes unnoticed by the Lord, especially those who are in trouble or pain. The Lord never hides his face from those who need him. This is cause for praise and worship of the Lord Most High; it is fitting to tell all generations about his righteousness.

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11 **Reconciled to God**
Paul explained to the Roman church that through the blood of Christ, those who believe have been made right with God and will live in peace with him. Because of this good news, we stand in faith, knowing that God’s grace has been poured upon us through the sacrificial love of Christ, who died so that we might live.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27-38 **The Son of Man Must Suffer**
Jesus asked his disciples who others think he is, and their answers included John the Baptist, Elijah or even another prophet. Jesus was more concerned with who the disciples thought he was, so he asked them the question. Peter stepped forward, confessing that Jesus is the Christ — but then just as quickly balked when Jesus explained that he must suffer, die, and on the third day rise again.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple
- Use the Apostles’ Creed
- Use the Kyrie during Lent. Omit the Hymn of Praise.
- Pray for those who are afflicted with pain, suffering, distress, and disease. God is the god of comfort and solace Who among you is held captive to their misery? Who in this world needs relief from trouble? (Psalm 22:24)
- In what ways do we, like Peter, reject the reality that following Christ means there will be suffering? In our modern world, do we ever equate our suffering with Jesus’ suffering? Or, do we simply look at it as an unfortunate reality of our human existence?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Christ, the Life of All the Living	97	---	420	339	218	218
Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake	455	---	688	799	---	---
In the Cross of Christ I Glory	104	---	427	324	138	138
On Calvary, Where Jesus Died	---	---	---	---	---	web
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	---	---	---	335	140	140
The God of Abr’ham Praise	544	---	798	831	---	---
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup	---	706	638	492	---	---

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CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles
Until the Day (CCLI# 5273607)
Spirit Lead Me (CCLI# 7111902)
Jesus, Name Above All Names (CCLI# 21291)
Sweet Suffering Christ (CCLI# 1720780)
How Deep the Father’s Love For Us (CCLI# 1558110)

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Lent 3

February 28, 2027

Third Sunday in Lent (Year B)

The Law of the Lord is perfect and provides a framework for God’s people to live together with him and one another. At the heart of God’s law are the care and protection of his beloved people. These rules for living faithfully were not meant to keep humanity in shackles — on the contrary! They were given to Israel, and all people after them, so that we would have true freedom, peace, and joy.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17

Commandments Given

God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, reminding Israel that he was the one who brought them out of slavery in Egypt and had been their one true God who created and sustained them as a people. He set clear boundaries for his people so that they might thrive as a community of faith and live long lives in his presence.

Psalm 19

The Perfect Law of the Lord

The psalmist proclaimed God’s glory, which can be seen in all the earth. He who gave the gift of language is the one whose voice has been heard to the ends of the world. God’s law is perfect; it revives the soul and enlightens the eyes. His rules are righteous and to be desired over gold.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Wise or Foolish?

St. Paul proclaimed that the Word of the cross of Christ is the very power of God. It is the Word of salvation for those who believe. For those who do not believe, it is foolishness and a stumbling block. The great reversal of the mystery of God’s kingdom is that those who are considered wise by the world are shamed, and those considered foolish are counted as wise by the Lord.

Gospel Lesson: John 2:13-22 (23-25)

Jesus Cleared the Temple

As the Passover festival was nearing, Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem and became very upset with those who were selling animals for sacrifices. He drove them out of the temple with a whip of cords and overturned their tables of commerce.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple
- Use the Kyrie. Omit the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.
- Though the Law was given for Israel’s benefit (and for ours today), humanity has never been able to keep God’s law perfectly. Jesus came not to put an end to the law, but to fulfill its requirements for our sake. The law was meant for freedom, but sin entered into the equation and made the law a heavy burden. Christ, through his life, death and resurrection, has freed all believers to live in liberty through him. He fulfills the law that we have never been able to fulfill and grants us new life, here and now and in eternity.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	482	---	425	803	132	132
Built on a Rock	365	---	645	652	91	91
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed	98	---	437	337	143	143
Beneath the Cross of Jesus	107	---	---	338	142	142
Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways	480	---	707	772	235	235
Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved	96	---	945	602	---	---
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	327	---	761	623	226	226
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Father, We Thank You	---	704	652	478	---	---

The hymns suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

- Graves into Gardens (CCLI# 7138219)
- Your Cross Changes Everything (CCLI# 7081390)
- God’s Own Fool (CCLI# 228458)
- Your Word Will Be the Last Word (CCLI# 4187938)
- Not Ashamed (CCLI# 3199594)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Lent 4

March 7, 2027

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Year B)

The reality of sin in human life brought on death, but that was not God's intention for the crowning glory of his creation. Through Jesus, God came to put an end to sin, death, and the power of the "sons of disobedience," as Paul put it. Thanks to Christ, who was lifted up on the cross, God's mercy has been given to all who believe. He has made us alive together with Christ, and we are saved by grace.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9**Fiery Serpents**

The Israelites became impatient as they journeyed toward the Promised Land. They began speaking against God and Moses, their leader, complaining about a lack of decent food and water. The Lord's wrath was kindled and he sent fiery serpents that bit the people. Many became sick and died as a result of their distrust of God.

Psalm 107:1-9**Delivery From Destruction**

The psalmist recounted the Exodus story, recalling how God redeemed Israel from trouble in the wilderness. When they cried out to him, he delivered them from their distress. Let them thank the Lord, said the songwriter, for his wondrous works.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10**Alive Together with Christ**

St. Paul preached that we who are sinners were once dead in that sin, but now we are alive together with Christ through the gift of his grace. This is not our own doing and nothing for us to boast about. It is not because of our good works, but only because of the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Still, we were made for good works and are commanded to walk in the way of the Lord.

Gospel Lesson: John 3:14-21**Son of Man Will Be Lifted Up**

Jesus taught his followers that just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness to save the Israelites from death, so too must the Son of Man be lifted up. This lifting up of Jesus would occur on the cross of Calvary. All who believe in him are destined for life eternal. This is God's gift to those who love him.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple
- Use the Apostles' Creed
- Use the Kyrie. Omit the Hymn of Praise.
- This Sunday is the halfway point in the Lenten season. From the Latin, it is called *Laetare Sunday*. *Laetare* means "rejoice." Easter is coming into sight as the long season of Lent begins to make its way to a close, and soon everything old will be made new again.
- How often does our negativity and complaining add to our despair? We often say, "It could be worse!" But does that change our attitude? What do we have to be grateful for as we continue the journey to the cross with Jesus?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lift High the Cross	377	---	837	660	269	269
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	482	---	425	803	132	132
Beneath the Cross of Jesus	107	---	---	338	142	142
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	439	---	770	742	223	223
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
Amazing Grace	448	---	744	779	199	199
Healer of Our Every Ill	---	738	---	612	---	---
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252
Jesus, Remember Me	---	740	767	616	---	---
I Come, O Savior, to Your Table	213	---	618	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Lord, I Need You
(CCLI# 5925687)
In Christ Alone
(CCLI# 3350395)
No Longer Slaves
(CCLI# 3350395)
Your Grace is Enough
(CCLI# 4477026)
Ever Be
(CCLI# 7030065)

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Lent 5

March 14, 2027

Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year B)

A new covenant between God and his people came through Jesus Christ, who will reign as king and high priest forever. Jesus reminded his followers that to be a part of this new covenant is to be slave of all and servant of all, for the Son of Man came not to be served, but to be the one to serve others. His life, death, and resurrection are his “ransom” in exchange for the lives of his beloved children who believe.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34**A New Covenant**

God declared that a new day was coming when he would make a new covenant with Israel and Judah, a covenant unlike the one made with the patriarchs of the faith and the slaves of Egypt. The first covenant was broken by a disobedient people who refused to obey God's law. *This* covenant will be written on the hearts of the people.

Psalm 119:9-16**I Delight in Your Word**

I delight in your statutes, said the psalmist. He vowed to meditate on God's ways and learn his statutes. He promised to seek the Lord with his whole heart and continue to abide in his commandments.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 5:1-10**Our Great High Priest**

Those who were appointed as high priests in Israel still had to make sin offerings for their own sins as well as for the sins of others in the community. Jesus, who was perfect, was designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek — both king and priest. His offering was made through prayers and supplication while on earth. His final sacrifice of his life granted us eternal life.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45**Will You Do Something for Us?**

As Jesus predicted his death a third time to his disciples, two disciples asked for places of honor once he was on the throne. “You have no idea what you are asking,” Jesus responded to their request. They thought they could handle what was about to happen, but Jesus knew how ill prepared they actually were.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- Use the Kyrie. Omit the Hymn of Praise.
- Feel free to use any of the Sola clip art or picture art with Scripture verses for Easter advertisements — even on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. Your subscription grants you permission to use this artwork on bulletins, fliers, media, or social media.
- Thinking of James and John: What favors do we ask of Jesus? Are they for our own glory or for his?
- What is the New Covenant that Jesus brought to God's people? How do we participate in that each Sunday?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	479	---	702	759	243	243
A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	105	---	438	340	135	---
Create in Me a Clean Heart	---	732	956	188	179	179
Christ, the Life of All the Living	97	---	420	339	218	218
Glory Be to Jesus	95	---	433	---	136	136
Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms	---	780	---	774	208	208
The Old Rugged Cross	---	---	---	---	139	139
Jesus, the Very Thought of You	316	---	---	---	---	web

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CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Create in Me a Clean Heart
(CCLI# 96927)
High Priest
(CCLI# 6122331)
Fill My Cup, Lord
(CCLI# 15946)
More and More of You
(CCLI# 7045691)
Ancient Words
(CCLI# 2986399)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 21, 2027

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion (Year B)

The mood of the Scriptures today takes us from joy and exultation as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, to sadness and sorrow as he was betrayed and executed. The full weight of the events of Jesus' last days on earth causes us to reflect on our own betrayal of Christ. Hearing his cries of forsakenness, we can relate to his suffering; this shows us that our God is intimately acquainted with our human experience.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Processional Gospel: John 12:12-19

Palm Processional

Pilgrims who had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover heard that Jesus was coming into town. They went out to meet him, laid palm branches at his feet, and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12

Your King is Coming

Rejoice, said the prophet, for your king is coming, humble and riding on a donkey. The Word of the Lord was given to God's people, saying: Israel's king will rule the nations and set the prisoners free. He will bring peace and restore their fortunes.

Psalm 118:19-29

The Righteous Enter the Gate of the Lord

The psalmist gave thanks to the Lord for hearing his prayers and granting him salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has now become the chief cornerstone. All who are righteous shall enter through the gate of the Lord.

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Emptied Himself

St. Paul quoted a hymn that would have been well-known to the Philippian congregation, saying that Jesus humbled himself in his earthly life, taking on the form of a servant. His servanthood and obedience led him to death on the cross.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 14:1 — 15:47

The Passion Narrative

The final events of Jesus' last days are recounted in this gospel lesson, from his betrayal by his disciples to his crucifixion at the Place of the Skull.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple or Scarlet
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- Use the Kyrie. Omit the Hymn of Praise.
- You can find the Passion Narrative from St. Mark on the Lent seasonal page of SOWeR. It is broken down into the various parts to be read in a dramatic fashion.
- Check out the "People of the Passion" bookmark on the Lent Seasonal page of SOWeR. Simply download and make copies for the congregation.
- Consider having children march in during the Opening Hymn, waving palm branches. This will make an impact on them and on the congregation.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
All Glory, Laud, and Honor	108	---	442	344	146	146
Prepare the Royal Highway	26	---	343	264	102	102
My Song is Love Unknown	94	661	430	343	---	---
The Royal Banners Forward Go	124	---	455	---	125	125
Lift High the Cross	377	---	837	660	269	269
Ah, Holy Jesus	123	---	---	349	133	133
There is a Green Hill Far Away	114	---	---	---	137	137
Jesus, I Will Ponder Now	115	---	440	345	---	---
There in God's Garden	---	668	---	342	---	---
We Gather Together	---	---	---	---	28	28

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Blessed is He
(CCLI# 2774556)
Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
(CCLI# 4662491)
Love Like You
(CCLI# 5872493)
Beautiful
(CCLI# 4971687)
Jerusalem
(CCLI# 7003218)

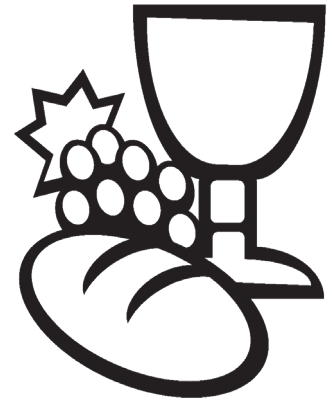
The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Maundy Thursday

March 25, 2027

Maundy Thursday (Year B)

The last time Jesus had the opportunity to dine with his closest friends was at the Passover meal in Jerusalem. At that supper, he instituted a meal for his disciples to remember him by and gave the future church the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This meal binds Christians together from all places and times and is the means of God's grace for all who believe. Jesus is truly present with us at the table.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Gospel for Footwashing: John 13:1-35

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

In John's gospel we hear the command to love one another as Jesus first loved us. He demonstrated this new commandment by washing his disciples' feet. Jesus told them that love for one another is the sure sign that they are his disciples.

First Lesson: Exodus 24:3-11

Twelve Pillars

God summoned Moses, Aaron, and other elders of Israel to come up to the mountaintop. Before he went, Moses told the people what was happening, and they committed to obedience to the Lord. At the foot of the mountain Moses erected one pillar for each of the tribes of Israel, signifying the Israelites' assent to God's covenant.

Psalm 116:12-19

I Will Pay My Vows to the Lord

The psalmist sang of his love for the Lord, acknowledging all of the benefits he has received from God. He proclaimed that he will praise God in the house of the Lord.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Participation in Christ's Body

St. Paul asked a rhetorical question about the body and blood of Christ: When we partake of the Holy Supper, are we not participating in the very body of Christ?

Gospel Lesson: Mark 14:12-26

Passover Meal

Jesus sent two disciples to prepare the Passover in an upper room in Jerusalem. He predicted at this last meal that one of them there at the table would betray him. Then he instituted the Lord's Supper with the bread and the wine.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Purple or Scarlet
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- Use the Kyrie.
- Make sure to have all the things you need for the Mandatum and the Individual Blessing and Forgiveness if you plan to include these as part of your worship service: anointing oil, basins, towels, pitchers, movable seating and volunteers to help wash feet.
- Practice the stripping of the altar in advance so it goes smoothly during the service. Have someone chant Psalm 22 while the altar is stripped, or simply remain in silence.
- A note in the bulletin explaining the significance of the above ritual is helpful for worshippers.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Where Charity and Love Prevail	126	---	845	359	---	---
O Living Bread from Heaven	197	---	642	542	---	---
Let Us Break Bread Together	212	---	---	471	83	83
Go to Dark Gethsemane	109	---	436	347	145	145
A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	105	---	438	340	135	135
Beneath the Cross of Jesus	107	---	---	338	142	142
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded	117	---	449	352	149	149
Love Consecrates the Humblest Act	122	---	---	360	---	---
Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless	111	---	---	357	---	---
I Come, O Savior, to Your Table	213	---	618	---	---	---

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CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

There is Power in the Blood
(CCLI# 21370)
Worthy is the Lamb
(CCLI# 3217555)
Amazing Love
(CCLI# 192553__)
At the Cross (Love Ran Red)
(CCLI# 7017786)
None But Jesus
(CCLI# 4726186)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Good Friday

March 26, 2027

Good Friday (Year B)

The solemnity of this day is one that can bring us to tears as we reflect on our sinfulness and contribution to Jesus’ death. In his last moments, Jesus entrusted his mother’s care to the disciple he loved. Knowing that his time was almost gone, he uttered, “I thirst.” When he received his last sip of sour wine, he proclaimed to all who could hear, “It is finished.” Darkness took over even as God continued to act.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12 **Despised and Rejected**
The prophet foreshadowed what would happen to Jesus at his death as he described the Suffering Servant, calling him a man of sorrows, one acquainted with grief. This one was pierced for our sins and crushed because of our disobedience.

Psalms 22 **Anguished Cries**
The gut-wrenching cries of Jesus on the cross were previously uttered by the psalmist in his distress: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Alternate Psalm 31 **I Am in Distress**
This psalm exhibits the agony of one who is suffering and distressed. The words of Jesus in his dying throes are cried by the psalmist here: “Into your hand I commit my spirit.”

Second Lesson: Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9 **Our High Priest Knows Our Weakness**
Jesus, our great high priest, is familiar with our afflictions and sufferings since he himself experienced them. He, however, was one without sin, and thus his prayers were heard.

Gospel Lesson: John 18:1 — 19:42 **Jesus is Arrested and Crucified**
John narrated the final days of Jesus’ life as he was betrayed by his friends, arrested, taken to trial, and crucified. Pilate placed a plaque above his head saying, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” We see this same symbol— INRI — in our churches.

- Suggestions for the Day:**
- Liturgical Color: Black or none.
 - Use the Apostles’ Creed.
 - Keep the chancel simply adorned after Maundy Thursday’s stripping of the altar. Place black shrouds on the altar and other furniture in the worship space as appropriate.
 - Consider using many candles to light the chancel instead of electric light to create a solemn mood as the sun goes down and the worship space grows dark.
 - There is a Good Friday service template on the Lent Seasonal page of SOWeR along with other resources for the day’s worship. Use the chorale readings found there to give the Gospel a dramatic effect.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Beneath the Cross of Jesus	107	---	---	338	142	142
Ah, Holy Jesus	123	---	---	349	133	133
Go to Dark Gethsemane	109	---	436	347	145	145
Were You There?	92	---	456	353	147	147
Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?	98	---	437	337	143	147
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded	117	---	449	352	149	149
In the Hour of Trial	106	---	---	---	141	141
Jesus, in Your Dying Woes	112	---	447	---	113	113
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	---	---	---	335	140	140
Jesus, I Will Ponder Now	115	---	440	345	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles**
- The Power of the Cross
(CCLI# 4490766)
- Grace to Grace
(CCLI# 7057218)
- Mighty Cross
(CCLI# 7067580)
- Crucified with Christ
(CCLI# 1860578)
- Only a Lamb
(CCLI# 4242189)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Holy Saturday

March 27, 2027

Vigil of Easter (Year B)

As the darkness of Good Friday and Jesus' death became a difficult reality, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pontius Pilate to request the lifeless body of his teacher. Permission was given to him to take and bury Jesus' body, so Joseph placed it in his own unused tomb. The women who had followed Jesus watched them lay his corpse to rest and roll a stone across the entrance. Things seemed so very bleak and final.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Daniel 6:1-24

Daniel's Faith and God's Faithfulness

As Daniel rose to authority in King Darius' government, other Persian leaders became jealous of his relationship with the king. They devised a plan to catch Daniel worshiping the Lord God and set it into place with the king's approval. The king, however, was not aware that his advisors were plotting against Daniel until they insisted that Daniel broke the law and must be put into a lion's den as punishment.

Psalm 16

In You I Take Refuge

The psalmist acknowledged that those who seek after false gods find nothing but trouble and sorrow. Instead, he confessed that the Lord was his God, his chosen portion and cup, meeting all of his needs and giving him a beautiful inheritance.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 4:1-8

Live in the Spirit

Peter discussed the issue of living in the flesh. In former days when people did not know Christ they lived in the flesh, but now because of Christ's love, we live in the Spirit. As believers, we are called to live faithfully: sober minded and self-controlled, loving one another for the sake of Christ.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 27:57-66

Burial of Jesus

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate after Jesus' death on the cross and asked him for the body. He laid Jesus' lifeless body in his own unused tomb. Then he rolled the stone over the opening. Jesus' detractors begged Pilate to seal the tomb to prevent the disciples of Jesus from moving the body and claiming Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- The Minister's Desk Edition of the LBW details the liturgy for the Easter vigil. It is customary to have a baptism on this evening before Resurrection Sunday.
- The lessons on this worksheet reflect a service that is not as lengthy as the Roman Catholic Easter Vigil that includes 12 readings recalling the history of God and his people. The lessons given here focus on the burial of Jesus as we continue to wait for the "third day," when God will raise Jesus from the dead, destroying forever the power of sin, death, and the devil over humanity.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands	134	---	458	370	157	157
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing	210	---	633	362	150	150
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain	132	---	487	363	155	155
Crown Him with Many Crowns	170	---	525	855	22	22
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	253	---	902	527	44	44
Abide with Me	272	---	878	629	62	62
Lamb of God Most Holy	---	---	---	---	148	148
Lead On, O King Eternal	495	---	---	805	---	---
My Jesus, I Love Thee	---	---	---	---	193	193
Now the Green Blade Rises	148	---	---	379	---	---

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CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Burial
(CCLI# 5254310)
The Young Man
(CCLI# 6129035)
O Praise the Name (Anastasis)
(CCLI# 7037787)
So Will I (100 Billion X)
(CCLI# 7084123)
King of My Heart
(CCLI# 7046145)

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