



At a Glance – Lent 2019

At a Glance – Lent 2019 is also available in the Planning folder.
The personal reflection is also provided separately as a text file in the Planning folder.



Date	Liturgical date	Title	Lections	Liturgy of the Palms	Liturgy of the Passion
March 10, 2019	Lent 1	A Place of Justice and Grace	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold) Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
March 17, 2019	Lent 2	Journey toward Trust	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35	Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-19	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
March 24, 2019	Lent 3	Fed by the Glory	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	John 12:1-8	We travel with Mary to the tomb where she intends to conclude the story; instead, another chapter begins, with her at its centre.
March 31, 2019	Lent 4	A Traitor for Grace	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Liturgy of the Palms Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14	We follow Jesus into Jerusalem and hear cries of anguish, trust, thanks, and hope; Holy Week invites us into the fullness of life's experiences.
April 7, 2019	Lent 5	The Fragrance of Life	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Liturgy of the Palms Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14	In a prophetic act, Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus anoints Jesus' feet and fills the house with the fragrance of life.
April 14, 2019	Lent 6	Palm/Passion Sunday	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Liturgy of the Palms Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14	In times of difficulty, it can be jarring when we notice extra-agance. When resources are precious, it can seem wasteful to toss them about. Mary offers up extremely costly perfume to anoint Jesus' feet, as a gracious act of thanksgiving, and Jesus affirms her act. The actual cost is undoubtedly secondary to the fact that Mary, through this generosity, is recognizing Jesus as one worthy of all our thanks and praise, no matter the cost. What has God done for you that might lead you to offer up all you have in thanksgiving?
April 21, 2019	Easter Day	Easter Day	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold) Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	Liturgy of the Palms Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14	Imagine that no one believed the story of Easter. It may be hard to imagine and yet there are many who – for a wide variety of reasons – do not believe the story of the Resurrection. Does that matter? Do we need to believe the historic tale, or are we able to participate in the risen Christ present in our lives and our world, and know that resurrection happened, even if we do not know how?

Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving

We begin our Lenten journey remembering the challenges of the Israelites as they journeyed away from slavery, through the desert, and toward a new beginning.

As we continue this Lenten journey, we find ourselves with Abram and Sarai looking to the star-filled sky and receiving a promise from God.

We hear the prophet speak to a people living in exile, and in God's invitation to listen, come, see, seek, forsake and return, we encounter a God who holds us in kindness.

In a story about a prodigal (wasteful) father and two sons, we are reminded of the never-ending potential for new beginnings and fresh starts.

In a prophetic act, Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus anoints Jesus' feet and fills the house with the fragrance of life.

We follow Jesus into Jerusalem and hear cries of anguish, trust, thanks, and hope; Holy Week invites us into the fullness of life's experiences.

We travel with Mary to the tomb where she intends to conclude the story; instead, another chapter begins, with her at its centre.

Personal reflection

You might consider sending weekly e-mails to people on your e-mail list throughout Lent, posting each week to your congregation's social networking site or adding to your bulletin.

Sometimes as we go about our daily living we can forget how we got to where we are. We can forget that God has travelled with us from the beginning and is always present with us. The Hebrew people – and by extension, we too – were told never to forget that where you have been where you felt God leading you out of difficulty and into a place more wonderful. Give thanks to God.

Some things in life seem well beyond our grasp. We want... and yet we fear we can never have or achieve. God promises amazing things, the seemingly impossible. Abram and Sarai were well on in years when God promised them more descendants than the stars in the sky. Think of where you are in your life. Was there a time when you didn't think you could be where you are now? What do you think God has in store for you in the future?

God invites us to open ourselves to the sound and sight, and to the presence and call of God's generous goodness all around us and within us. Why would God offer such an open invitation to all? As you continue in your spiritual journey during the Season of Lent, in what ways might you and your church stop, look, and listen for these gifts that God offers to you and to all?

Sometimes we can find ourselves lost and alone, feeling cut off from God's love and the goodness of life. Like the so-called prodigal son, we may think that we can go crawling back, begging God's forgiveness and hoping against hope that God might at least allow us a little something. What a joyous surprise, then, that God – like the parent in the parable – runs to greet us and surrounds us with an embrace of love and compassion. Take a moment to revel in the greatness of God's love for you, and for all people.

In times of difficulty, it can be jarring when we notice extra-agance. When resources are precious, it can seem wasteful to toss them about. Mary offers up extremely costly perfume to anoint Jesus' feet, as a gracious act of thanksgiving, and Jesus affirms her act. The actual cost is undoubtedly secondary to the fact that Mary, through this generosity, is recognizing Jesus as one worthy of all our thanks and praise, no matter the cost. What has God done for you that might lead you to offer up all you have in thanksgiving?

The reading of the Passion narrative on this day begins in an orderly and appropriate fashion. When it was time, Jesus gathered with his disciples. The story can seem predictable. And yet for all the predictability, we read the story again year after year, and marvel at the selflessness of Jesus who is prepared to stop at nothing – not even death – to proclaim God's unconditional and never-ending love.

As you read the Passion story from Luke, pause and notice things that surprise you.





At a Glance – Easter 2019



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Date	April 28, 2019	May 5, 2019	May 12, 2019	May 19, 2019	May 26, 2019	June 2, 2019	June 9, 2019
Liturgical date	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6	Easter 7	Pentecost Day
Title	Love's Disruptive Witness	Turning Point of Transformation	Identity of Resistance	Spirit of Solidarity	The Power of Listening	Haunting Claims of Freedom	A Spirit Powered Faith
Lections (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold)	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9	Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26	Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17, (25-27)
Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving	We hold our breath as Peter and John disrupt the status quo as they proclaim the risen Christ.	As Paul comes face-to-face with the truth of his life and his world, we ponder the call of Ananias to be an agent of reconciliation and peace.	Tabitha's story reminds us that everyday individual and congregational acts of love, compassion, and kindness have the power to lift people to life.	Peter's rooftop dream questions the walls we build and invites us to build bridges.	We sit with Lydia at the river's edge as she "listens" attentively to the message of the gospel, opens her heart and then her home.	More than a story of a divine jail break, and more than a story of the main characters, this week we hear a story about a liberating love experienced by unnamed, peripheral characters.	On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the animating and sustaining presence of God's Spirit within the church.
Personal reflection <small>You might consider sending weekly e-mails to people on your e-mail list throughout Easter, posting each week to your congregation's social networking site, or adding to your bulletin.</small>	The message of Easter is so astonishing we cannot keep it to ourselves. Peter and the apostles faced the same problem. Their lives had been so profoundly changed by the presence of Jesus, and now by the awareness that Jesus' message was alive through them, they could not keep quiet. Even when authorities tried to silence them, as they had done some time before with Jesus, the message always found its way to the surface. What message about God's love have you heard loud and clear, no matter what? What message about God's love do you think the world needs to hear most of all?	We never can know for sure how God is going to do things. Just when we think we understand what is going on, a curve ball comes flying in. We think we know who are the people chosen to proclaim God's message – and often it's people like us! – and then God challenges us to broaden our understanding. Paul was once a great enemy of the early church, and God called him to become one of the leading apostles. When have you been surprised at God's ways of doing things?	Peter's vision on the roof challenged his faith to the core. He thought he had been doing the right thing, keeping kosher food laws and not eating what he believed to be ritually unclean; but God told him differently. This continued to be a struggle for Peter. He knew that God called all people and offered them new life, and yet it was difficult for him to let go of what he had been taught from the beginning. How easily are you able to give up things you have believed since childhood because your faith experience tells you otherwise?	Paul was always seeking out people with whom he could share the message of God's unconditional and everlasting love. When he found a group of women worshipping at the riverside, he struck up a conversation with them. They were so impressed that one of them, Lydia, convinced Paul and his friends to stay at her home; we can only imagine their lively conversations! When have you had the opportunity to sit and talk with someone about your life of faith?	The Christian apostles act differently than anyone can imagine. Rather than escape from prison, they stay and talk about God's love with the jailer, who comes to believe. He cares for them, and they assume they are drunk. Peter points out that they cannot be – it's too early, he says, presumably with a twinkle in his eye. God's spirit transforms us into being new people – overwhelmed with a desire to speak God's word, and to try to understand one another. Is there a time when you might have been so overwhelmed by God's spirit that others thought you were drunk, or at the least "beside yourself"? What was that like?	The people in the early church are amazed that they can understand one another. God's spirit has enabled them to make themselves understood. Some who are watching don't believe it, and assume they are drunk. Peter points out that they cannot be – it's too early, he says, presumably with a twinkle in his eye. God's spirit transforms us into being new people – overwhelmed with a desire to speak God's word, and to try to understand one another. Is there a time when you might have been so overwhelmed by God's spirit that others thought you were drunk, or at the least "beside yourself"? What was that like?	

