



At a Glance – Lent 2020

At a Glance – Lent 2020 is also available in the Planning folder. The personal reflection is also provided separately as a text file in the [Planning folder](#).



Date **March 1, 2020** **March 8, 2020** **March 15, 2020** **March 22, 2020** **March 29, 2020** **April 5, 2020** **April 12, 2020**

Liturgical date Lent 1 Lent 2 Lent 3 Lent 4 Lent 5 Palm, Passion Easter Day

Title One Voice, One Choice Blessed to Be a Blessing The Well of Living Water I Am Because We Are Conversations that Unblind Us Conversations Before the Cross Bearing Witness to God

LECTIONS Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7 Genesis 12:1–4a Exodus 17:1–7 1 Samuel 16:1–13 Ezekiel 37:1–14 Acts 10: 34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6

(The focus in the age-level material is in bold) Psalm 32 Psalm 121 Psalm 95 Psalm 23 Psalm 130 **Matthew 21:1–11** Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

Romans 5:1–2–19 Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 Romans 5:1–11 Ephesians 5:8–14 Romans 8:6–11 Romans 11:1–45 Liturgy of the Passion Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts 10:34–43

Matthew 4:1–11 **John 3:1–17** or Matthew 17:1–9 **John 4:5–42** **John 9:1–41** **John 11:1–45** **Matthew 26:14–27:66** or Matthew 27:1–54 **John 20:1–18** or Matthew 28:1–10

Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving On this first Sunday of Lent, we find ourselves in the first garden and in the wilderness, and reflect on the power of an individual to heal or destroy.

As our faith ancestors step out in faith and a religious leader steps into the night to question Jesus, we ponder the blessings of God and our call to be that blessing to others.

Thirst threads through this week’s readings and inspire unlikely conversations.

Writers in the valley, in the shadows, who cannot rely on eyesight to decipher what or who is chosen, and a person born blind but does not lack vision at all open us to new ways of living and seeing.

This week we are inspired and encouraged by conversations that unblind limitations; bones are called back to life, a psalmist cries to the Holy from the depths, a letter assures the people, Jesus speaks and Lazarus is resurrected to life.

From joyful proclamation to betrayal, to the power and poignancy of the Last Supper, to abandonment, prayer, violence and apparent hopelessness, we enter Holy Week.

Alleluias abound on Resurrection Day, when Mary’s proclamation reminds us of the boundary-breaking presence of the living God.

Personal reflection The word “responsibility” means “ability to respond.” This week’s scripture readings offer two different instances of how people respond to temptation and to God: Adam and Eve in the garden (Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7) and Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–11). How do you respond to temptation and/or to God? Do you respond immediately? Or do you take time to consider your actions? Do you face things head-on or do you try to hide?

As our Lenten journey continues, we see in Nicodemus the parts of ourselves that struggle with the truth Jesus teaches about living in God’s ways. Nicodemus sees the impossibilities in what Jesus is teaching and does not fully understand the spiritual truths. How many times do we look at things only through our own personal experience without understanding other, deeper meanings?

This week, spend at least 30 minutes outside that is dedicated to listening and feeling the wind blow and move around you. Listen for the movement of the Spirit.

We are reminded of the Lenten theme of deepening our relationship with God in this week’s gospel passage. The woman at the well engages with Jesus in a conversation about water – the drinking kind and the “living” kind. As she talks with Jesus, he is the Messiah! The one everyone’s been waiting for! With her own spiritual thirst quenched, she’s empowered to go and tell others about Jesus.

Our journey through Lent can at times feel like we are stumbling around in an unlit room; we’re blinded by selfish ambitions and personal needs and can’t see the spiritual fulfillment that comes from a life lived in God’s light. The blind man’s healing engages the authorities. His encounter with the divine has given him sight, and he sees – physically and spiritually – more clearly. May we, like the one born blind, see the movement of God in our lives and the world around us.

This week, at the end of each day, write down the ways and the people who helped you encounter the Divine.

At this point in Lent, we might feel some of Mary and Martha’s despair after the death of their brother. In raising Lazarus – a foreshadowing of his own resurrection – Jesus shows us the hope that leads us out of despair; the light that can lead us out of the darkness. As we approach the end of our Lenten journey and Jesus’ Passion, we, too, are called out of darkness and into light with new life and hope breathed into us.

This week, send a handwritten note to a friend (or even take her/him out for coffee or lunch) who is dealing with the despair of a personal loss.

In their final moments together, the disciples abandon Jesus – betray him, fall asleep, deny they know him. We might identify with the disciples’ fear, and understand the betrayal and loneliness Jesus felt because we can point to times in our own lives when it seems we’re all alone and forgotten. But God’s love endures. God is with us even during the hardest moments of our lives.

This week, spend time reading Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his Passion. As you read, write down some of the moments from your own life when you are like the various characters in the story.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Much like Mary Magdalene at the tomb, we marvel at the Resurrection. The despair of only a few days ago has disappeared. Jesus’ body is gone. Has he risen from the grave? Yes, he has. And the joy of this moment is contagious! Mary Magdalene shares the news of the resurrected Jesus with the disciples. We, too, must share the news of resurrection, the joy of a living and loving God.

This week, look for the joy of the Resurrection that’s around you. Find, read, and then share at least three joy-filled news stories with three people.



At a Glance – Easter 2020

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Planning



Date	April 19, 2020	April 26, 2020	May 3, 2020	May 10, 2020	May 17, 2020	May 24, 2020	May 31, 2020
Liturgical date	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6	Easter 7	Pentecost
Title	Trust and Rejoice	Breaking Bread	Living in Abundance	Living Stones	To See Is to Love	In It Together	Spiritual Understanding
Lections (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold)	Acts 2:12a, 22–32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3–9 John 20:19–31	Acts 2:14a, 36–41 Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 1 Peter 1:17–23 Luke 24:13–35	Acts 2:42–47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19–25 John 10:1–10	Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14	Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21	Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 31–35 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11 John 17:1–11	Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21 John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39
Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving	Alleluia from Easter Sunday continue to be raised, as Jesus greets fearful disciples, and we hear Thomas' proclamation of faith.	We, with the disciples, encounter the risen Christ as scripture is opened and bread is broken.	Images of shepherding love speak of God's diverse, abundant provision and guidance.	The story of deacon Stephen opens the window to the enduring witness of the early church, and we ponder ways we might witness to God – rock, refuge, and redeemer.	We are reminded that the indwelling love of God and the Spirit's enduring presence is with us; no matter what we are never alone.	We listen in as Jesus prays for disciples and consider what it means to be a community of such prayer.	On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the Spirit of God in the diversity and variety of Creation.
Personal reflection You might send 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.	As Jesus continues to appear to his disciples and friends, someone is missing – Thomas. He had heard the message of Jesus' resurrection, but it was the experience of seeing and the offer to touch the risen Christ that helped him fully believe. How different is this experience from your own? Is hearing a lesson, reading it, or completing it going to help you understand it? There are many ways to experience the risen Christ, and we open ourselves to all the ways Christ is around us and working in the world today. This week , tangibly experiencing the risen Christ by putting your faith into action. Volunteer at your church or a local ministry with the poor or reach out to someone in your community who could really use a helping hand.	The disciples who meet Jesus along the road to Emmaus are at a sad point in their spiritual journeys. The one they had hoped and even dared to believe was the Messiah is dead and missing from his tomb. Their own grief and sadness blind them to the presence of the risen Christ among them. How often are we too preoccupied to see the moments of resurrection and new life around us? This week , invite someone you'd like to get to know better to dinner (or cook her or him dinner). Notice how sharing meals form and build relationships.	The early church sought ways to daily live and remember the power of Jesus' ministry and his resurrection. In Acts 2:42–47, we read of how the church inspired devotion to prayer, fellowship, breaking bread, sharing with one another, and learning more about "The Way." Their practices have become ours as the church of today. This week , share by giving away clothing that is cluttering your wardrobe, volunteering your time and gifts to your parish or another community ministry, or making a donation (or extra gift) to your parish or organization that is helping people in need.	The early church was not without its detractors. Acts 7:55–60 recounts the death of Christianity's first martyr, Stephen. Stephen was killed to the love of God. Stephen had courage – courage that led him to share his controversial message and courage that he would be united with Christ in death. While we aren't all called to be martyrs, we can all be emboldened to share the message that God loves all. This week , learn more about Stephen or another martyr of the church, including martyrs of the modern era.	Jesus prays for his disciples – the ones who would lead the early church – "so that they may be one." Unity is tough. We might not always agree and, maybe more often than not, we disagree about things in the life of the church. But Jesus' prayer for the disciples is one we can pray today. We ask that God be glorified in all of our actions and that we might become one in glorifying God. This week , set aside at least 15 minutes each day for prayer or focus on a theme for your prayer time – for example, Christian unity, your local church community, the global Christian church...	The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is often referred to as the "birthday" of the church. The Holy Spirit – advocate, comforter, divine presence – has come! We see how the church has moved forward after Jesus' death, yet remains grounded in his teachings and even the teachings of prophets like Joel who declared, "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." We continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out over us today and that we might feel its movement in our hearts and lives. This week , be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life. At the end of each day, jot down your Holy Spirit moments.	

