



At a Glance – Lent 2021

At a Glance – Lent 2021 is also available in the Planning folder.

The personal reflection is also provided separately as a text file in the Planning folder.



Date	Feb 21, 2021	Feb 28, 2021	Mar 7, 2021	Mar 14, 2021	Mar 21, 2021	Mar 28, 2021	April 4, 2021
Liturgical date	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4	Lent 5	Palm/Passion Sunday	Easter Day
Title	Signs of Promise	From Generation to Generation	Faithful Living Together	Choose to Give Thanks	A Heart for God	Palm/Passion	Easter Day

Lections	Genesis 9:8-17 (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold.)	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25: Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Liturgy of Palms Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Liturgy of Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
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Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving

A rainbow and Jesus' baptismal waters provide signs of new beginnings and God's sustaining presence.

In God's covenant with Abraham and Sarai, a psalmist's cry for help, and teachings from Paul and Jesus, we experience God's grace reaching across generations, and are invited to respond to God's faithfulness in our time.

As a psalmist praises and delights in God's law, we receive ten rules for living in a loving community, watch Jesus turn over tables, and consider how we faithfully relate to God and each other.

Through the words of a psalmist and a story of wilderness wanderers, we empathize with a people who call to God in distress and, with them, give thanks for a God who hears our cries.

We hear the prophet Jeremiah speak words of assurance that, deep in our hearts, we will know God's words and ways.

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate with Jesus, reflect on counter-protests and challenges to authority, and consider how we tell stories of the protests in Jesus' day and today?

We participate in the defining story of our faith, as we witness disciples encounter the risen Christ and begin a new transformational journey.

Personal reflection

You might send 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.

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." (Genesis 9:13)

Nature's full of promise – rainbows amid clouds promise the sun has emerged, buds promise new life, every morning is full of the promise of new beginnings.

Imagine yourself surrounded by promise and look for signs of it in the world around you.

"I will make you exceedingly fruitful." (Genesis 17:16a)

Last week we looked for signs of promise in the world around us.

Think about the ways you create signs of promise. Think about the things you make – meals, art, repairs to objects, gardens. What promises do they convey? How do your interactions with others bring promise to the world?

Choose one thing you usually do and do it intentionally as a sign of promise to the world.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O God." (Psalm 19:14)

It is so easy to just fire off an email or Facebook update or tweet "tweet" or text message without thinking much about it.

Challenge yourself to be mindful of your words in these contexts. Take a deep breath before you respond to anything and make space in your heart before you start typing.

Notice how this mindfulness affects your sense of connection to others.

"O give thanks to God, for God is good." (Psalm 107:1)

Spent an entire day being thankful for everything that happens, no matter what happens. Take a digital camera with you throughout your day and photograph moments of gratitude. Post them to social media or your personal blog with your reflections on what it was like to be intentionally thankful throughout the day.

What has God written on your heart?

Make a list of what you hold most dear. Cut out a heart shape on a piece of paper – it doesn't have to be very big. Write on it a favourite quote, a word of encouragement, something you love. Leave it at a coffee shop, post it on the bulletin board, at work, put it in a book your loved one is reading.

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9)

What does it mean to come in someone else's name?

Think about the various responsibilities you have throughout the week. In whose name do you come in each of them? How might it change what you do or how you approach what you do if you understood yourself to be coming into each situation in the name of God?

This year, there are two gospel stories of the Resurrection. In the gospel of John, Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Christ. In the gospel of Mark, the women see the empty tomb and are told that they will see Jesus in Galilee. In John, Mary announces what she has seen, and in Mark, the women flee the tomb in terror and amazement.

Read both stories side by side and reflect on the differences. What is your own Easter experience like?





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Date	April 11, 2021	April 18, 2021	April 25, 2021	May 2, 2021	May 9, 2021	May 16, 2021	May 23, 2021
Liturgical date	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6	Easter 7	Day of Pentecost
Title	Seen, Heard and Known	We Are Witnesses	Love Is a Verb	Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love	The Joy of Love	Join the Witness	Pentecost
Lections (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold.)	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving	We pay close attention to Thomas who, having not seen, heard, nor believed what the other disciples encountered on that first Easter evening, moves from an absent to a joyful participant.	We, with the first disciples, are called to proclaim the radical love in the Easter story.	We imagine God's ultimate care for humankind through the essential qualities of a good shepherd.	As we move through the Easter season, we bring our questions "How should we live as Christians? How do we share the good news? What is new life?" and discover the answer is love.	As a psalmist sings mightily and joyfully in celebration of the enacted love of God, we consider ways we might weave exuberant expressions of praise with the command to love as Jesus loves.	Sustained by the indwelling Holy Spirit, the instruction of scripture within the community of faith, and through a prayerful relationship with God, the Jesus story continues in the lives of his followers.	In images of wind, fire, and bleached bones, we experience the Spirit of God that rushes to renew what is perceived dead and unifies individuals across languages, and are encouraged that God is still at work bringing life into unexpected areas of our lives.
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.	Life is a shared experience. Joy is contagious. Upon experiencing the Resurrection, the disciples are sent out. We, too, are sent to proclaim the good news. But do we still linger within our walls? Make it your mission this week to look for occasions to breathe peace into a situation of fear. Explore your own sense of call to be a peace bearer.	Here it is again – another story when Jesus encounters the disciples after the Resurrection and greets them with a word of peace. This encounter, however, doesn't seem to calm the disciples but stirs them up. When does being a Christ-like peace bearer stir things up? Search the Internet about peace bearers. Explore your own sense of call to be a peace bearer.	Jesus identifies himself in terms that people of his day could understand. Being a good shepherd is linked to knowing the sheep and laying down one's life for the sheep. Although this is a metaphor for Jesus caring for his followers, take time to consider how you have done love or had love done to you.	Jesus proclaims, "I am the vine." When taking care of a plant, the branches must be pruned for the plant to thrive. The connection, to the source of life and community, is vital to our Christian faith. Consider what aspects of your faith life are bearing lots of fruit...consider what areas might need pruning.	"...love one another." These are the words of Jesus to his followers; so simple, and yet not always so easy. Write , blog, draw, Tweet, or post images on your social media page about what love means to you.	How do you make decisions? In this story, the followers of Jesus pray and roll the dice as a way of discerning who will be added to the eleven apostles. Reflect on what combination of head, heart, and gut you employ in making your own decisions. How do you invite God into the process?	The challenge of Pentecost is in remembering the power of the Spirit is at work every day of the year. Celebrate Pentecost by doing something that reminds you of your resurrection into new life.

