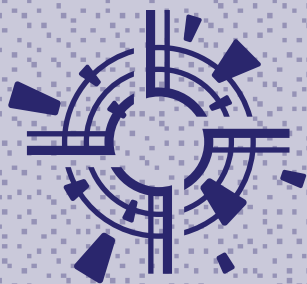


# Child of Blessing Lectionary Resource

Year B, Installment 2a  
Lent and Holy Week



PRESBYTERIAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
MUSICIANS



*This Lent, we are leaning  
into the foundations of  
our worship life:  
Word and Sacrament.*

*You will find  
simplified movements  
in this resource,  
including motions  
that repeat  
for several weeks.*

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*When possible, encourage  
your congregation to put  
their bulletins down...*

## INTRODUCTION

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This Lent, we are leaning into the foundations of our worship life: Word and Sacrament. Each week, you will find brief reflections or ideas around the proclamation of the Word, and nearly all the liturgy in this resource is rooted in Scripture. We have expanded suggestions for including children during Communion, and we encourage you again to consider more frequent celebration of the Lord's Supper during this holy season and beyond.

We heard such helpful feedback last year on the use of gesture and movement. In response, you will find simplified movements in this resource, including motions that repeat for several weeks. When possible, encourage your congregation to put their bulletins down, listen for the call and response liturgy, and use their bodies to open themselves to God's presence.

## THEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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Each installment of this resource will feature a theological concept that has implications for multigenerational worship. Use this as a prompt for small group conversation in your community.

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The celebration of the sacraments is also central to the church's worship.  
At the font we begin a lifelong journey of faith formation.  
At the table we are nourished and shaped for faithful living.  
The sacraments are acts of the whole body of Christ, and thus should invite the full participation of young and old.

**How do older and younger worshipers remember their baptism?**  
**How do younger and older worshipers experience communion?**

## ABBREVIATIONS LIST

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|      |                                                                                                                                               |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACS  | <i>All Creation Sings: ELW Supplement</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 2020)                                                                           |
| GTG  | <i>Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal</i> (Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)                                                              |
| PH   | <i>The Presbyterian Hymnal</i> (Westminster John Knox Press, 1990)                                                                            |
| GWA  | <i>God Welcomes All, Supplement to Church Hymnary—Fourth Edition</i> , published on behalf of The Church of Scotland, Canterbury Press, 2024. |
| FOV  | <i>A Field of Voices: Hymns for Worship</i> , James E. Clemens and David Wright (Church Publishing, New York, New York, 2010)                 |
| VF   | <i>Voices Found: Women in the Church's Song</i> , Church Publishing Incorporated, Episcopal Church, 2003                                      |
| SALD | <i>Sing of All that Love Can Do: More Hymns and Songs to Sing in Our World Today</i> , Marcy Nelson Keithahn and John Horman                  |

# Season of Lent

# Liturgy

## OPENING SENTENCES

With the exception of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the opening sentences for each day are drawn from the psalm appointed for the day. The Psalter used can be found in the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster/John Knox Press), an inclusive/expansive language version first published in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress, 2006).

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Confession and Pardon sequence is part of a larger project meant to last the entire season of Lent. Congregants are invited to write or draw confessions or reflections during a time of silence after sung corporate prayer in each worship service of the season.

Choose one of the Prayer of Confession suggestions provided, and repeat the same Confession and Pardon sequence each week in Lent. The goal is for your congregation to sing it by heart as you near Holy Week.

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The following Call to Confession and Assurance of Pardon are based on Joel 2:12-13, which is included in the Revised Common Lectionary texts for Ash Wednesday every year.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart:  
with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow.  
Let your hearts be changed,  
and return to the Lord your God.

After we sing our prayers, I invite you to draw or write what is on your heart: anything in need of God's mercy, either in your own life or in the world. Use the materials found in the baskets on your pew, then return them to the basket when you are finished.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*During or after the sung prayer, invite worshipers to write or draw their prayers: anything in their own lives or in the world that needs God's mercy. Suggestions for congregational song include:*

God We are Sorry (*Ways Will Open*, GIA Publications, Inc.)  
Forgive Us, Lord (GTG 431), using a soloist or small ensemble for leader parts  
Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (GTG 423, stanza 1 only)  
Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart (GTG 427)

**MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS****Option 1: Use ceramic tiles and sharpies.**

Try to recycle by seeking extra tiles from among your congregation, a local buy-nothing group, or local thrift stores.

Set baskets with tiles and sharpies on each pew prior to worship. Encourage all worshipers to draw or write on the tiles as they sing, then return them to the basket. It may be noisy as tiles are placed back into the baskets.

Collect the tiles over the course of six weeks and then destroy them on Good Friday (during or following a Good Friday service, preferably outdoors), as a sign that Christ has destroyed the powers of sin and death. To safely destroy them, place the tiles into old pillowcases and have an adult or responsible teenager use a hammer to break them. Warn worshipers in advance that it will be loud, so that those with sensory needs can use noise-cancelling headphones or excuse themselves.

Use the broken pieces to create a mosaic, as a reminder that in Christ all things are made new. On Easter, what is broken receives resurrection and new life. Recruit someone who enjoys crafting to help finish the mosaic on Easter, or during the season of Easter. Wood and grout are all that is needed.

**Option 2: Use cardstock paper with pens, markers, or crayons.**

As with Option 1, invite worshipers to write or draw on the paper. Collect them each week of Lent. On Good Friday, tear the papers, as a sign that on the cross, Christ has destroyed the power of sin.

The broken pieces can be used with mod podge to create a mosaic on canvas, wood, or poster board. Decide in advance whether to draw an outline for the mosaic or allow the group to create an image organically. The mosaic (with either paper or tile) could be created during an Easter brunch or any time of fellowship.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*This refrain occurs at least ten times throughout Scripture, including: Exodus 34:6-7, Numbers 14:18, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 103:8-10, Psalm 145:8-9, Jeremiah 32:18, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2, Nahum 1:3.*

Hear the good news!  
Our Lord is a gracious God,  
slow to anger,  
abounding in steadfast love,  
and ready to relent from punishing.  
In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!



## EUCCHARIST

*Ideas*

The following are ideas to involve children and families in communion during Lent:

1. Encourage children and their families to volunteer to bake the bread for communion each Sunday.
2. Families that don't feel comfortable baking the bread can help out by preparing the communion table each Sunday as well as cleaning up after worship.
3. Children might be included as communion servers with Session authorization. (W-3.0414)
4. Invite worshipers to draw pictures of special meals or the communion table during worship. These drawings can be used as bulletin covers or to be shared through projection.

**Great Thanksgiving**

*The introductory dialogue may be included here:*

The Lord be with you ...

We give you thanks, O God,  
for love that never lets us go—  
you are patient and kind,  
reaching out with open arms  
to welcome your children home.

*The Sanctus may be sung or spoken:*

With angels, saints, and all creation,  
we join the hymn that never ends:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord ...**

We give you thanks for Jesus,  
who teaches us how to love one another—  
taking care of those who are sick,  
being friends to those who are lonely,  
and helping those who are in need.

*The words of institution may be spoken here.*

*A memorial acclamation may be sung or spoken:*

Great is the mystery of faith ...

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,  
as we share this bread and cup—  
bring us together as one body,  
sharing the good news of Jesus  
and working for good in the world.

*Prayers of intercession may be included here.*

Hear our prayers for the world you love ...

Help us to follow the way of Jesus,  
breaking down dividing walls  
and building up your church.

For the meal we are about to share  
and for every gift of your grace  
we give you thanks, O God,  
through Jesus, in the Spirit,  
now and always. **Amen.**

*The great Amen may be sung or spoken.*

### **Words of Institution**

*For use at the invitation to the table,  
during the Great Thanksgiving,  
or at the breaking of the bread*

At this table, we remember  
how Jesus took bread, blessed it,  
broke it, and shared it with everyone,  
saying: This is my body, given for you.

At this table, we remember  
how Jesus took the cup,  
saying: This cup is the promise  
that I will love you always.

At this table, we look forward  
to the great meal we will share  
with the whole family of faith  
when Jesus comes again.

# Music

## PRELUDE/GATHERING

*One of these may be repeated each week in the season in place of an instrumental prelude.*

I Depend upon Your Faithfulness, TU FIDELIDAD, GTG 831  
 Change My Heart, O God, CHANGE MY HEART, GTG 695  
 Be Still and Aware, *Ways Will Open* 221  
 God Who Has Saved, SURROUND US WITH SONG, FOV 15

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open Our Hearts, *Ways Will Open* 230

## EUCCHARIST

Circle the Table, WORLD WIDE COMMUNION, VF 85  
 Come to the table, COME TO THE TABLE, FOV 47

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### *Playlist Link*

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist that includes recordings of many of these suggestions. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



# Ash Wednesday

Color: Purple

|                          |                                                                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Joel 2:1–2, 12–17        | The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart.  |
| or Isaiah 58:1–12        | The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor. |
| Psalms 51:1–17           | Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me. |
| 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10 | Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!       |
| Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21     | Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven. |

## Ideas

The color for Lent is purple. Invite children to look for this color in the sanctuary during worship.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

|                                                  |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| O Lord, open my lips,                            | <i>open palms</i>            |
| <b>O Lord, open my lips,</b>                     | <i>open palms</i>            |
| and my mouth will declare your praise.           | <i>hands extend upward</i>   |
| <b>and my mouth will declare your praise.</b>    | <i>hands extend upward</i>   |
| Create in me a clean heart, O God.               | <i>gesture washing hands</i> |
| <b>Create in me a clean heart, O God.</b>        | <i>gesture washing hands</i> |
| and put a new and right spirit within me.        | <i>move hands to chest</i>   |
| <b>and put a new and right spirit within me.</b> | <i>move hands to chest</i>   |

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### THE WORD

Questions for the Congregation

The prophet Joel calls all to return to the Lord with solemn worship.  
 “Gather the people, assemble the aged, gather the children...” Ask the congregation to think of ways we wander away from God. What does it mean to return to the Lord?

Visual/Tangible Connection

The psalmist in Psalm 51 prays for a clean heart and for the Lord to wash all sin away. Invite children to make drawings or paintings showing what it means to be washed clean. The drawings may be used as bulletin covers or projected during the sermon.

### MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Create in Me a Clean Heart, CREATE IN ME, GTG 422  
 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God, SARADY, GTG 423  
 Search Me, O God, KAM-CHHAT, GTG 426  
 Change My Heart, O God, CHANGE MY HEART, GTG 695

FEBRUARY 14, 2027

# First Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

|                 |                                                                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Genesis 9:8–17  | God's covenant with Noah: I will never again flood the whole earth.  |
| Psalms 25:1–10  | Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord; do not remember my sin.            |
| 1 Peter 3:18–22 | The flood of former days prefigures the sacrament of baptism.        |
| Mark 1:9–15     | After his baptism, Jesus is tested in the wilderness for forty days. |

## CALL TO WORSHIP

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**  
 My God, I put my trust in you;  
**My God, I put my trust in you;**  
 let me not be put to shame,  
**let me not be put to shame,**  
 Show me your ways, O Lord.  
**Show me your ways, O Lord.**

*open palms*  
*open palms*  
*hands extend upward*  
*hands extend upward*  
*gesture washing hands*  
*gesture washing hands*  
*move hands to chest*  
*move hands to chest*

## THE WORD

### Major Themes

Today's Genesis passage picks up just after the flood. God re-establishes a relationship with Noah and his family. Promises are made. The rainbow is a sign of promise.

Peter connects the story of the flood with the life and death of Jesus. The waters of the flood are a "pre-figure" of our baptism, a sign of God's promise to make us clean. The waters of baptism wash us clean and God's promise is sealed.

The Psalm mentions God's paths. In the Gospel, the Spirit drives Jesus out into the wilderness. In my mind I see Jesus walking a path to the place where he was alone for forty days. Lent is a journey, down a path.

### Questions for the Congregation

What does it mean to make a promise?  
 What are signs of promises made today?

**EUCCHARIST**

Lent is a journey. We walk a path towards Easter.

If possible, place communion serving stations in the worship space in different places than normal, places that requires a little bit more of a journey to reach for this Sunday. For example, have a station in the narthex or the choir loft or in a side transept. Mark the path with cut-out footsteps taped to the floor to show the way.

**MUSIC SUGGESTIONS**

The Day He Was Baptized, RUSTINGTON, SALD 37

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, WALK WITH ME, GTG 775

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, LONESOME VALLEY, PH 80

When We Are Tested, ANGELS OF HEALING, GTG 783 (suggested tune: Slane)

I Depend upon Your Faithfulness, TU FIDELIDAD, GTG 831

FEBRUARY 21, 2027

# Second Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 God's covenant with Abraham: I will make of you a great nation.

Psalm 22:23–31 In the great congregation I will praise the Lord, my deliverer.

Romans 4:13–25 Abraham's faith was reckoned to him as righteousness by God.

Mark 8:31–38 Jesus says: Deny yourselves; take up your cross and follow me.

or Mark 9:2–9 On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

All the ends of the earth

**All the ends of the earth**

shall remember and turn to the Lord.

**shall remember and turn to the Lord.**

For God listened when I cried for help,

**For God listened when I cried for help,**

and did not hide God's face.

**and did not hide God's face.***open palms**open palms**hands extend upward**hands extend upward**gesture washing hands**gesture washing hands**move hands to chest**move hands to chest*

## THE WORD

Major Themes

We read in the Genesis passage how God establishes a covenant with Abraham. Abraham and Sarah will be the parents of many nations. God promises to always be their God. The Psalm calls for the people of the "great congregation" to praise God. All of the "children of Abraham" are part of God's big family.

Visual/Tangible Connection

Use a long paper chain to indicate that we are all connected, yet all individuals. Perhaps have the children make the paper chain during the sermon. Paul affirms that the promise of God is ours today.

Auditory Connection

Have the children help lead the congregation in singing the old camp song, "Father Abraham Had Many Kids"

## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

When God Restored Our Common Life, GTG 74

Seek Ye First, GTG 175

Will You Come and Follow Me, GTG 726

# Third Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Exodus 20:1–17      On Mount Sinai, God gives the Ten Commandments to Moses.

Psalms 19      The law of the Lord is perfect; God's commandments are clear.

1 Corinthians 1:18–25      The message of the cross reveals God's wisdom and strength.

John 2:13–22      Before Passover, Jesus chases the money-changers out of the temple.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

|                                                     |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The heavens declare the glory of God,               | <i>open palms</i>           |
| <b>The heavens declare the glory of God,</b>        | <i>open palms</i>           |
| and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.        | <i>hands extend upwards</i> |
| <b>and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.</b> | <i>hands extend upwards</i> |
| Let us worship God.                                 | <i>move hands to chest</i>  |
| <b>Let us worship God.</b>                          | <i>move hands to chest</i>  |

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## THE WORD

### Activity

At some point in the sermon, perhaps at the beginning, invite the congregation to break up in small clusters of two or three people, including the children and youth. Have each group list as many of the ten commandments that they can list without the help of phones or pew Bibles. After calling the congregation back together, invite them to shout out the commandments one at a time.

### Questions for the Congregation

Why do we have rules? Why did God give the ten commandments?  
What happens when we break a rule?

## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

God the Sculptor of the Mountains, JENNINGS-HOUSTON, GTG 5  
All Things Bright and Beautiful, GTG 20  
Great is Thy Faithfulness, GTG 39

MARCH 7, 2027

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Numbers 21:4–9      God instructs Moses to use a bronze serpent to save the people.

Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22      Give thanks to the Lord, who forgives, heals, and delivers us.

Ephesians 2:1–10      By the gift of God's grace we are saved through faith.

John 3:14–21      Like Moses' serpent, Jesus will be lifted up as a sign of salvation.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord,  
**Give thanks to the Lord,**  
 for the Lord is good,  
**for the Lord is good,**  
 for God's mercy lasts forever.  
**for God's mercy lasts forever.**  
 We give thanks to you, Lord,  
**We give thanks to you, Lord,**  
 for your steadfast love.  
**for your steadfast love.**

*"thank you" to God in ASL**"thank you" to God in ASL**"thank you" to God in ASL**"thank you" to God in ASL*

*The American Sign Language sign for "thank you" is made by starting with the fingers of your dominant hand near your lips. Your hand should be a "flat hand." Move your hand forward and a bit down in the direction of the person you are thanking. Smile (so they'll know you mean it).*

## THE WORD

### Major Themes

A common image runs through the readings for today. As directed, Moses makes a pole with a bronze serpent on it in the reading from Numbers. We imagine the snake being high on the pole as those bitten look to it for healing.

Paul shares the good news of the unearned grace of God which raises us up to heavenly places.

John connects the serpent lifted on the pole to the Son of Man being lifted up on the cross. The common theme is that God does the lifting up and God brings healing, grace, eternal life.

## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

You Lead Us Through the Wilderness, GWA 110

Be Thou My Vision, GTG 450

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go, GTG 833

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Jeremiah 31:31–34     God says: I will make a new covenant, writing my law in your heart.  
 Psalm 51:1–12        Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.  
 or Psalm 119:9–16    I seek you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I treasure your word.  
 Hebrews 5:5–10       Jesus Christ, our high priest, is the source of eternal salvation.  
 John 12:20–33        Jesus says: Now I will be glorified; I will die and be lifted up.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

|                                                  |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| O Lord, open my lips,                            | <i>open palms</i>            |
| <b>O Lord, open my lips,</b>                     | <i>open palms</i>            |
| and my mouth will declare your praise.           | <i>hands extend upwards</i>  |
| <b>and my mouth will declare your praise.</b>    | <i>hands extend upwards</i>  |
| Create in me a clean heart, O God.               | <i>gesture washing hands</i> |
| <b>Create in me a clean heart, O God.</b>        | <i>gesture washing hands</i> |
| and put a new and right spirit within me.        | <i>move hands to chest</i>   |
| <b>and put a new and right spirit within me.</b> | <i>move hands to chest</i>   |

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## THE WORD

### Major Themes

Jeremiah brings news that God will establish a new covenant, a new agreement, with God's people and that God will write the new law on the very hearts of the people. "How shall the young keep their way clean? By keeping to your word...I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you." (Psalm 119:9, 11)

### Questions for the Congregation

What does it mean to have the law "within us" and "on our hearts"?  
 What are examples locally of young people living out the promises of God in the community?

### Visual/Tangible Connection

Keep God's word in your heart: consider providing typed-up verses of Scripture that can be cut and glued onto paper hearts and distributed at the end of the service. Encourage worshipers to try to memorize their verse by Easter.

## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Seed, Scattered and Sown, SEED SCATTERED, GTG 531  
 Come to Me, O Weary Traveler, GTG 183  
 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, GTG 223  
 Precious Lord, Take My Hand, GTG 834

MARCH 21, 2027

# Palm/Passion Sunday/ Sixth Sunday in Lent

Color: Red and/or Purple

Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11:1–11 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna!

or John 12:12–16 Waving palm branches, a great crowd greets Jesus in Jerusalem.

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalms 31:9–16 Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand.

Philippians 2:5–11 Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.

Mark 14:1–15:47 After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified.

or Mark 15:1–39 (40–47) [abbreviated reading] Jesus is tried and crucified.

*Today is two days in the church year calendar: Palm Sunday and the Sunday of the Passion. Begin worship outside, focusing on the story of Jesus entering into Jerusalem on a donkey.*

*Provide an opportunity for worshipers to make a palm branch out of construction paper as they gather outside before worship begins. After the opening sentences and reading of the Palm Sunday Gospel, all process into the worship space while singing the processional hymn.*

*Once inside, give time for the congregation to settle before the service turns to the passages focusing on the Passion of Christ.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Hosanna!

*waving and lifting arms or palm branches slowly*

**Hosanna!**

*waving and lifting arms or palm branches slowly*

O Lord, save us!

**O Lord, save us!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;**

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

**Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;**

God's mercy endures forever.

**God's mercy endures forever.**

**THE WORD****Dramatic Reading**

The reading of the Passion story as found in Mark takes the place of the sermon. Dividing the lengthy biblical text among multiple voices such as narrator, Jesus, Pilate, etc. brings the story to life for listeners. With preparation, older elementary children and youth participate in the presentation.

**Communion Suggestion**

As the church moves into Holy Week children help prepare for communion by making bread using a simple, unleavened bread recipe.

**MUSIC SUGGESTIONS**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor, VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, GTG 196

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, ELLACOMBE, GTG 197

Filled with Excitement/Mantos y palmas, HOSANNA, GTG 199

Pave the Way with Branches, PAVE THE WAY, ACS 928

MARCH 25, 2027

# Maundy Thursday

Color: Purple (until church is stripped)

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14 Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.

Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19 What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord's Supper.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35 Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

PRESIDER: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

CHILD 1: Beloved people of God: This is the day (night) when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would take his life, setting us free from sin and death forever.

CHILD 2: This is the day (night) when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another

CHILD 3: This is the day (night) when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all. Come, let us worship God.

(Book of Common Worship (PCUSA), Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, p. 276, adapted)

## THE WORD

### Major Themes

We gather this day around a table for a special meal. The Israelites are given instructions to prepare a special meal. Now, every time that meal is celebrated God's saving act is remembered as bread is broken and the cup is poured.

Paul hands on the tradition of gathering around the table for a special meal and in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup, Jesus' saving act is remembered. In John's Gospel we read of a meal at which Jesus served others by washing their feet, taking care of their needs, giving them and us an example, a new commandment that we are to do the same.

### Questions for the Congregation

Begin the sermon by asking the congregation to remember special meals:

who was there, what was the occasion, what foods were included, what did the table look like, etc. How are those special meals like/unlike tonight's meal?

### **IDEAS FOR INVOLVING CHILDREN IN COMMUNION**

Set up various tables in the worship space. Have the congregation sit at the bare tables for Communion, hosted by an elder of the church. At the time of communion encourage the children to help set up the tables for the special meal—spreading a table cloth, lighting votive candles (or turning on battery operated votives), pouring the cup, setting a small loaf (for each table).

Have a child or children help serve Communion.

The Book of Common Worship (PCUSA, 2018) includes a Prayer of Great Thanksgiving on page 130 which is, “modeled after the Jewish practice of the youngest child asking four questions at the Passover Seder.” Children (or child) take an important role in this prayer as questions are asked.

### **STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH**

The final act of worship for Maundy Thursday worship is the powerful and moving stripping of the worship space. Candles are extinguished and carried out of the space. All linens, paraments, and table settings are removed. A few children could help with this act of worship.

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### **MUSIC SUGGESTIONS**

Circle the Table, OPEN TABLE, SALD 13

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love, CHEREPONI, GTG 203

Live in Charity/Ubi caritas, UBI CARITAS (Taize), GTG 205

Come to the Table of Grace, TABLE OF GRACE, GTG 507

Come to the table, COME TO THE TABLE, FOV 47

When Jesus Sets the Table, PLACE SETTING, *Ways Will Open* 196

MARCH 26, 2027

# Good Friday

No Color

Isaiah 52:13–53:12     The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin.

Psalm 22     A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise.

Hebrews 10:16–25     Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful.

or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9     In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness.

John 18:1–19:42     Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified, and buried.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Today is a holy day.

**Today is a holy day.**

Today is the day Jesus died.

**Today is the day Jesus died.**

Today, we remember God's love for us and for the world.

**Today, we remember God's love for us and for the world.**

Today, even though we are sad we give praise to God.

**Today, even though we are sad we give praise to God.**

## THE WORD

Preaching a sermon on Good Friday, especially in a multi-age congregation is difficult. In place of a sermon perhaps read the Good Friday story from a children's Bible story book. Other possible ideas include giving the opportunity for attendees to complete a cross craft or sharing images of various crosses, accompanied by music or reading poems/readings on Good Friday themes.

## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Jesus, Remember Me, REMEMBER ME, GTG 227

Were You There, WERE YOU THERE, GTG 228

Your Only Son/Lamb of God, LAMB OF GOD, GTG 518

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak, JERNIGAN, GTG 519

*If you are having a seven last words of Christ service, consider incorporating the season-long project of breaking tiles or tearing paper between the readings. See the following example:*

### **The Seven Last Words of Christ**

*Following each Scripture reading, a set of tiles is broken or paper torn as a reminder that on the cross – Christ has shattered the powers of sin and death. Verses of Were You There (GTG 228) can be sung between the Scripture readings.*

LUKE 23:32-34

*Break the tiles or tear the paper*  
Were You There, Stz 1

LUKE 23:35-43

*Break the tiles or tear the paper*  
Were You There, Stz 2

JOHN 19:25B-27

*Break the tiles or tear the paper*  
Were You There, Stz 3

MATTHEW 27:45-46

*Break the tiles or tear the paper*  
Pause for silent reflection and prayer

JOHN 19:28-29

*Break the tiles or tear the paper*  
Were You There, Stz 4

JOHN 19:30

*Break the tiles or tear the paper*  
Were You There, Stz 5

LUKE 23:44-46

*Break the tiles or tear the paper*  
Pause for silent reflection and prayer



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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