

FROM Ash Wednesday TO
PENTECOST



6 March - 9 June 2019

An exploration of the Lectionary Readings for this period

Revised Common Lectionary:

Ash Wednesday: 6 March

Week 1: Sunday 10 March - Lent

Week 2: Sunday 17 March - Lent

Week 3: Sunday 24 March - Lent

Week 4: Sunday 31 March - Lent

Week 5: Sunday 7 April - Lent

**Week 6: Sunday 14 April - Palm
Sunday**

Holy Week: 15-20 April

Week 7: Sunday 21 April

Week 8: Sunday 28 April

Week 9: Sunday 5 May

Week 10 Sunday 12 May

Week 11: Sunday 19 May

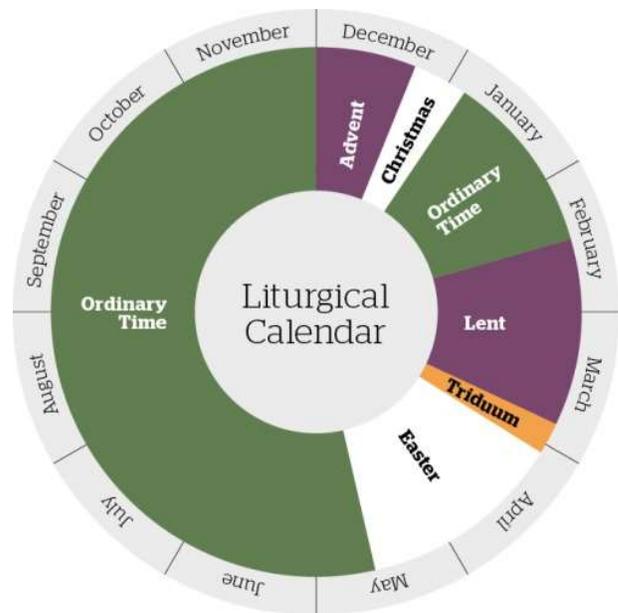
Week 12: Sunday 26 May

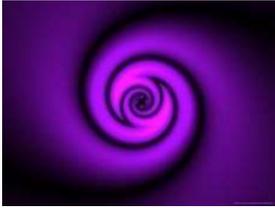
Ascension: 30 May

Week 13: Sunday 2 June

Week 14: Sunday 9 June – Pentecost

Readings from NIVUK





Ash Wednesday: 6 March

Giving to the needy

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Ps 51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10	Matt 6:1-6, 16-21



Matthew 6:1-6

Giving to the needy. 6 'Be careful not to practise your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2' So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then



your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **Prayer.** 5 'And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father,



who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Fasting. 16 'When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



Treasures in heaven 19 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and

steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

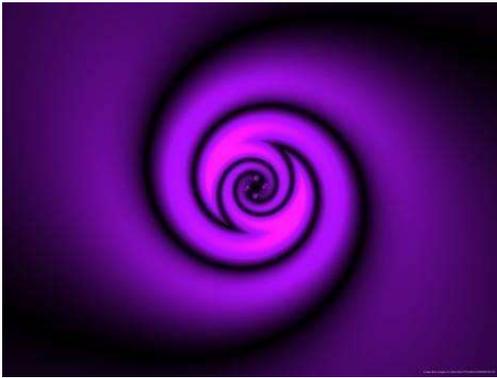
daily

Wednesday	6 March: Ash Wednesday
Thursday	7 March: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34
Friday	8 March: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 6:1-13; Acts 7:35-42
Saturday	9 March: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36



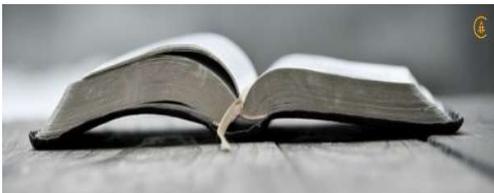
40 THINGS TO GIVE UP FOR LENT:

1. A small view of God.
 2. Impurity.
 3. People pleasing.
 4. Bitterness.
 5. Distraction.
 6. Mediocrity.
 7. Destructive speech.
 8. Busyness.
 9. The quick fix.
 10. Sorrow.
 11. Selfish ambition.
 12. Self-sufficiency.
 13. Ungratefulness.
 14. Envy.
 15. Pride.
 16. Resistance to change.
 17. Idolising.
 18. Worry.
 19. Loneliness.
 20. Resistance to change.
 21. Disunity.
 22. Giving up.
 23. Bitterness.
 24. The pursuit of happiness.
 25. Complaint.
 26. Going through the motions.
 27. Negativity.
 28. Hatred.
 29. The spirit of poverty.
 30. Entitlement.
 31. Apathy.
 32. Lack of counsel.
 33. Overcommitment.
 34. Retirement.
 35. Impatience.
 36. Feelings of unworthiness.
 37. Your comfort zone.
 38. Fear of failure.
 39. Comparison.
 40. My life.
- (www.turnbacktoGod.com/things-to-do-during-lent)



Week 1: Sunday 10 March – Lent Jesus is tested in the wilderness

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
1st Sunday in Lent	Deut 26:1-11	Ps 91:1-2, 9-16	Rom 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13



Luke 4:1-13

Jesus is tested in the wilderness. ⁴ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."' ⁵ The devil led him up to a



high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."' ⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: "He will

command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." ¹² Jesus answered, 'It is said: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.



SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, March 10: First Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 11: Psalm 17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6
- Tuesday, March 12: Psalm 17; Zechariah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 2:4-21
- Wednesday, March 13: Psalm 17; Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34-22:6
- Thursday, March 14: Psalm 27; Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18; Philippians 3:2-12
- Friday, March 15: Psalm 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20
- Saturday, March 16: Psalm 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39



Listen to: Hillsong – Oceans (Where feet may fail)
You Tube





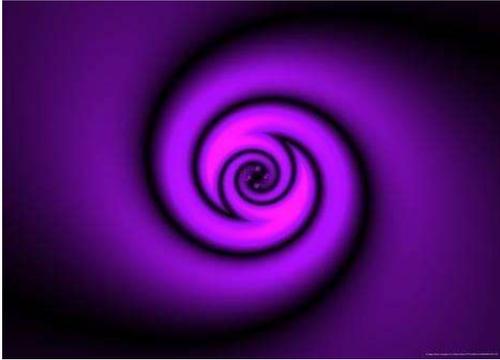
Questions:

1. Why is Jesus tempted at this point? (Just as he begins his ministry)
2. How are you get tempted?
 - through inner thoughts?
 - the actions or invitations of others? Does someone ask you to do something or is it your own thoughts?
3. How did Jesus deal with temptation? What can you learn from Him?
4. Identify one of your biggest temptations and apply Jesus' wisdom. Keep each other accountable for handling it in Jesus' way.



Pray for South Africa, her people, your city, your neighbourhood, your family, your friends, your church. For peace and joy and hope to flourish. For the love and light of God to conquer the darkness, and for each other.





Week 2: **Sunday 17 March- Lent** *Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem*

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
2 nd Sunday in Lent	Gen 15:1-12, 17-18	Ps 27	Phil 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35



Luke 13:31-35

Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem.³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.'³² He replied, 'Go and tell that fox, "I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal."³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!³⁴ 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, March 17: Second Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 18: Psalm 105:1-42; Exodus 33:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
- Tuesday, March 19: Psalm 105:1-42; Numbers 14:10b-24; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Wednesday, March 20: Psalm 105:1-42; 2 Chronicles 20:1-22; Luke 13:22-31
- Thursday, March 21: Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 2:8-11
- Friday, March 22: Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 12:1-4; Revelation 3:1-6
- Saturday, March 23: Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 6:43-45



Listen to: Lauren Daigle – You say (You Tube)



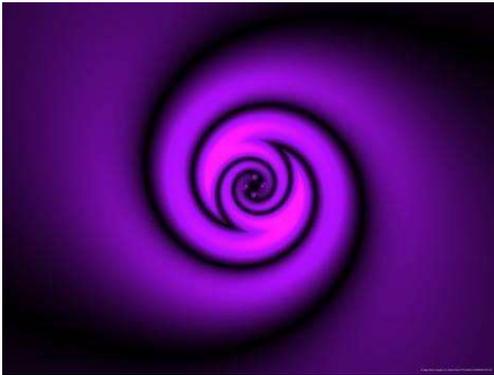
Questions:

Jesus is filled with sorrow as he looks over Jerusalem:

1. What fills you with sorrow?
 - When you look at the world?
 - In your own life?
2. Read Psalm 91
 - Do you sometimes just want to nestle under God's wing of protection?
 - What feeling does this image conjure up in you?



Pray for South Africa, her people, your city, your neighbourhood, your family, your friends, your church. For peace and joy and hope to flourish. For the love and light of God to conquer the darkness, and for each other.



Week 3: Sunday 24 March- Lent Repent or Perish

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
3rd Sunday in Lent	Isa 55:1-9	Ps 63:1-8	I Cor10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9



Luke 13:1-9

Repent or perish 13 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.’ ⁶Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig-tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, “For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?” ⁸“Sir,” the man replied, “leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig round it and fertilise it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”



SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, March 24: Third Sunday in Lent
- Monday, March 25: Psalm 39; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11
- Tuesday, March 26: Psalm 39; Ezekiel 17:1-10; Romans 2:12-16
- Wednesday, March 27: Psalm 39; Numbers 13:17-27; Luke 13:18-21
- Thursday, March 28: Psalm 32; Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5
- Friday, March 29: Psalm 32; Joshua 4:14-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-15
- Saturday, March 30: Psalm 32; Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10



Listen to: Matt Maher – Lord, I need you (You Tube)

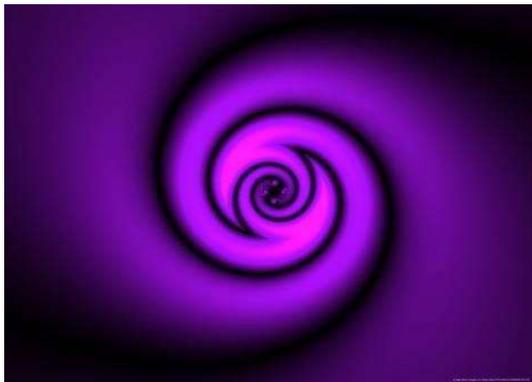


Questions:

1. How do you respond to the question of suffering?
 - the people who die in Rwanda?
 - the child that suffers abuse?
 - the coach that gets killed by lightning?
 - the school walkway that crumbles and kills pupils?
2. Where is God when we suffer?
3. How can you in this week commit to practicing spiritual mindfulness? Living the awareness of God's presence in every moment whether difficult or joyful?



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Week 4: Sunday 31 March- Lent The parable of the lost sheep

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
4th Sunday in Lent	Josh 5:9-12	Ps 32	2 Cor 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The parable of the lost sheep. ¹⁵ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.’

The parable of the lost son. ¹¹ Jesus continued: ‘There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ ‘Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent

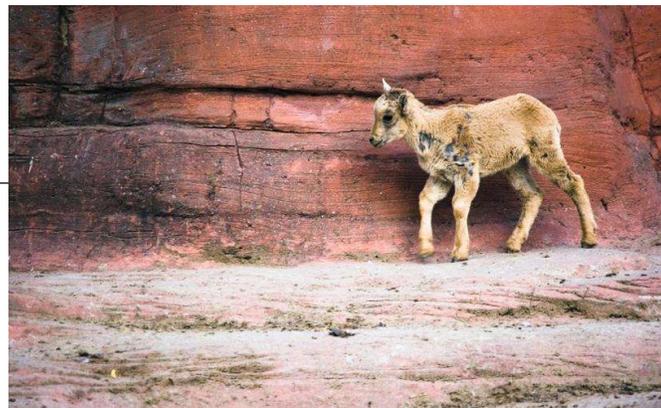


everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ ‘When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired

servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. ‘But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him. ²¹ ‘The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² ‘But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ ‘Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your

brother has come,” he replied, “and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.”²⁸ “The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”³¹ “My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

SERMON NOTES:



daily

- Sunday, March 31: Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Monday, April 1: Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8
- Tuesday, April 2: Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10
- Wednesday, April 3: Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17
- Thursday, April 4: Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24
- Friday, April 5: Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25-3:1
- Saturday, April 6: Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57



Listen to: Cory Asbury – Reckless Love (You Tube)



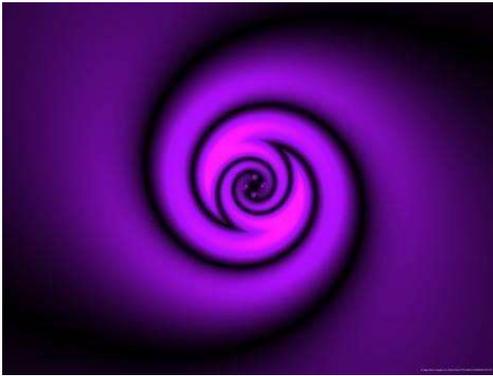
Questions:

1. Who are you in the story?
 - the younger son who wants it all – no strings attached?
 - the older son – the perfectionist – duty bound and resentful?
 - the heartbroken father?
 - the unseen mother?
2. In what ways are you lost?
3. God invites you to claim your inheritance
 - You are my beloved daughter
 - You are my beloved son



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Week 5:
Sunday 7 April- Lent
Jesus anointed at Bethany

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
5th Sunday in Lent	Isa 43:16-21	Ps 126	Phil 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8



John 12:1-8

Jesus anointed at Bethany 12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about half a litre of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages. 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. 'It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'

SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, April 7: Fifth Sunday in Lent
- Monday, April 8: Psalm 20; Exodus 40:1-15; Hebrews 10:19-25
- Tuesday, April 9: Psalm 20; Judges 9:7-15; I John 2:18-28
- Wednesday, April 10: Psalm 20; Habakkuk 3:2-15; Luke 18:31-34
- Thursday, April 11: Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 53:10-12; Hebrews 2:1-9
- Friday, April 12: Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 54:9-10; Hebrews 2:10-18
- Saturday, April 13: Psalm 31:9-16; Leviticus 23:1-8; Luke 22:1-13

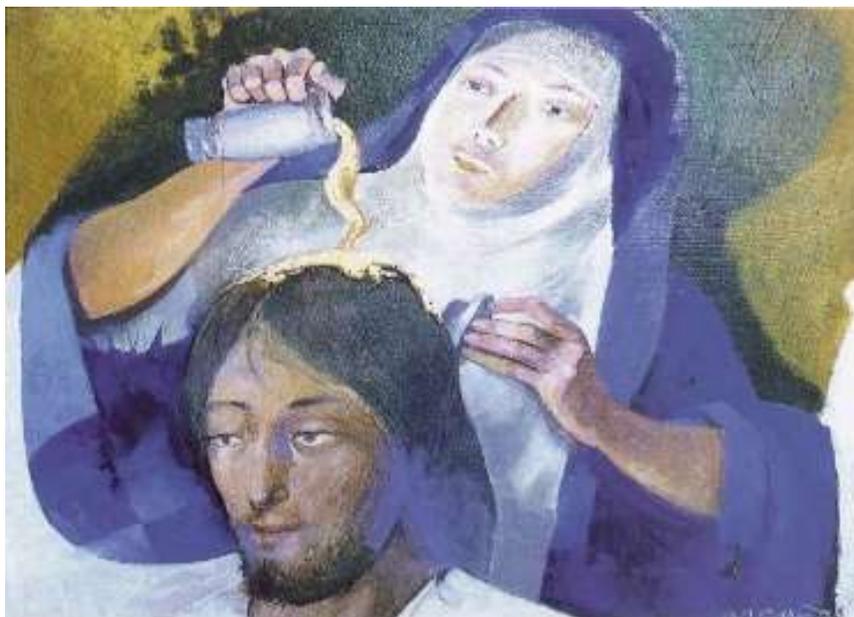


Listen to: Elevation Worship – Grateful (You Tube)



Questions:

1. What is the most extravagant present you have ever given anyone? How was the gift received?
2. Have you ever received something of great value? Do you question the motives of people that give gifts of great value? Explain.
3. What would your modern-day equivalent to Mary's act of sacrifice be?
4. How do you share the gift of Jesus with others? Give examples.



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Week 6: Sunday 14 April (Palm Sunday)

Jesus comes to Jerusalem as King

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
6th Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 19:28-40



Luke 19:28-40

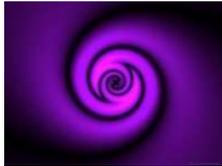
Jesus comes to Jerusalem as king. ²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ ³⁴ They replied, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ³⁸ ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’ ⁴⁰ ‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.’

SERMON NOTES:

daily

**Our Holy Week Services begin at 7pm.
Please join us!**

There will be no Small Group Questions for this week as groups are encouraged to attend the services.



Holy Week: 15-20 April

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Monday	Isa 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday	Isa 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday	Isa 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday	Isa 52:13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-14	Ps 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Pet 4:1-8	Matt 27:57-66

SERMON NOTES:



Week 7:

Sunday 21 April

The empty tomb

Easter Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Resurrection of the Lord	*Acts 10:34-43	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15:19-26	John 20:1-18



John 20:1-18

The empty tomb. ²⁰ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' ¹⁴ At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher'). ¹⁷ Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my



brothers and tell them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, April 21: Easter Vigil
- Sunday, April 21: Resurrection of the Lord
- Sunday, April 21: Easter Evening
- Monday, April 22: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 10:16-27; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
- Tuesday, April 23: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a; Revelation 12:1-12
- Wednesday, April 24: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 2 Samuel 6:1-15; Luke 24:1-12
- Thursday, April 25: Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:1-23; Acts 5:12-16
- Friday, April 26: Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:19-32; Acts 5:17-26
- Saturday, April 27: Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:32-51; Luke 24:36-40



Listen to: Kristene DiMarco & Bethel Music – It is Well (You make me brave) You Tube



Questions:

Read the prayer below slowly, let it sink into your soul, connecting you with God. What can you do for God in the coming week to show him how much you love him?

Resurrection Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new.

Thank you for the victory and power in your Name.

Thank you that you hold the keys over death, that by your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with you.

Thank you that you had a plan, that you made a way.

We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again.

We ask that you renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead.

We pray for your refreshing over us.

Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word.

And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacks our way, we trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, reminding us we are safe with you and that your purposes and plans will not fail.

We ask that you will be our defense and rear guard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls.

Lord, lead us on your level ground.

Thanks be to you God, for your indescribable gift!

To you be glory and honour, on this Resurrection Day, and forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

- Debbie McDaniel (www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer)

1. Mary gets to the grave and finds that the stone has been removed. She immediately jumps to conclusions (someone stole the body). How often do we jump to conclusions about God's actions in our lives? Is there something that happened in your life that you believe to be true at all cost? Have you examined the evidence? Why did you get to the conclusion you did?
2. Jesus asked Mary, "What are you looking for?". He also asked this to the disciples and John the Baptist (John 1:38). Jesus is asking you that question today! Do you recognise his voice? What is your answer?



Pray for South Africa, her people, your city, your neighbourhood, your family, your friends, your church. For peace and joy and hope to flourish. For the love and light of God to conquer the darkness, and for each other.



Week 8:
Sunday 28 April
Jesus appears to his disciples

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
2nd Sun of Easter	*Acts 5:27-32	Ps 118:14-29	Rev 1:4-8	John 20:19-31



John 20:19-31

Jesus appears to his disciples ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’



Jesus appears to Thomas ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.’ ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among

them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’ ²⁸ Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ The purpose of John’s gospel ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, April 28: Second Sunday of Easter
- Monday, April 29: Psalm 122; Esther 7:1-10; Revelation 1:9-20
- Tuesday, April 30: Psalm 122; Esther 8:1-17; Revelation 2:8-11
- Wednesday, May 1: Psalm 122; Esther 9:1-5, 18-23; Luke 12:4-12
- Thursday, May 2: Psalm 30; Isaiah 5:11-17; Revelation 3:14-22
- Friday, May 3: Psalm 30; Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelation 4:1-11
- Saturday, May 4: Psalm 30; Genesis 18:1-8; Luke 14:12-14



Listen to: Third day – Take my life

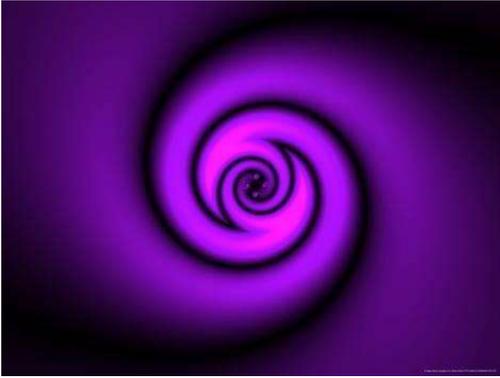


Questions:

1. We are often scornful of 'Doubting Thomas', but he often speaks our own doubts:
 - What are some of the doubts you have?
 - What are some of the questions you would ask if Jesus were to stand in front of you?
 - What parts of the Christian doctrine do you find hard to believe?
2. What would you need from Jesus for your faith to be strengthened?
 - Write it down and pray over that
 - Share it with your group or another person
 - Tell Jesus



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Week 9:

Sunday 5 May

Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
3rd Sunday of Easter	*Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19



John 21:1-19

Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish

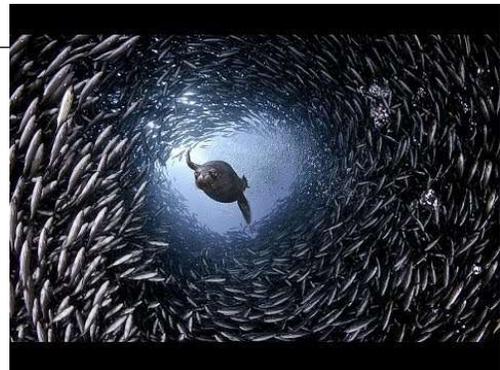
21 Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?' 'No,' they answered. ⁶He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred metres. ⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' ¹¹So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same



with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus reinstates Peter ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ he said, ‘you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my lambs.’ ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He answered, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Take care of my sheep.’ ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ He said, ‘Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep.’ ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.’ ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, ‘Follow me!’

SERMON NOTES:



daily

- Sunday, May 5: Third Sunday of Easter
- Monday, May 6: Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:1-25; Acts 9:19b-31
- Tuesday, May 7: Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:26-2:1; Acts 26:1-18
- Wednesday, May 8: Psalm 121; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11
- Thursday, May 9: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 11:1-25; Revelation 5:1-10
- Friday, May 10: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 20:39-44; Revelation 6:1-7:4
- Saturday, May 11: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 28:25-26; Luke 12:29-32



Listen to: Tim Hughes – Pocket full of faith (YouTube)



Questions:

1. Is there something or someone you go back to, when your life falls apart?
2. Jesus invites his disciples to 'Try the other side'. Is there something we should be doing differently?
3. Where do you feel you have failed Jesus?
4. What would your response be if Jesus were to ask you 'Do you love me?'
5. If you responded – 'You know I love you Lord!' How would you feed His sheep?



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Week 10:

Sunday 12 May

Further conflict over Jesus' claim

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:36-43	Ps 23	Rev7:9-17	John 10:22-30



John 10:22-30

Further conflict over Jesus' claims ²² Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'²⁵ Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.'

SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, May 12: Fourth Sunday of Easter
- Monday, May 13: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 37:15-28; Revelation 15:1-4
- Tuesday, May 14: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 45:1-9; Acts 9:32-35
- Wednesday, May 15: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 50:17-20; John 10:31-42
- Thursday, May 16: Psalm 148; Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; Revelation 10:1-11
- Friday, May 17: Psalm 148; Daniel 7: 13-14; Revelation 11:15
- Saturday, May 18: Psalm 148; Daniel 7:27; Revelation 11:16-19



Listen to: Chris Tomlin – Indescribable (You Tube)

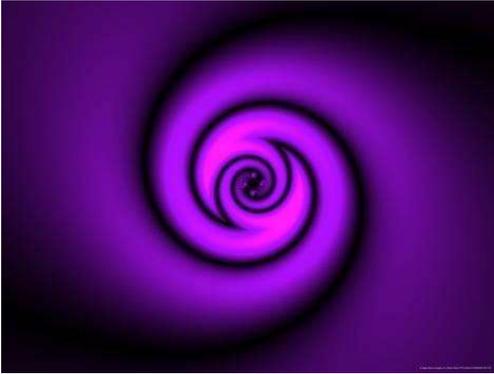


Questions:

1. Have you ever gone through a time where you denied God?
2. What happened for you to come to a place where you claimed Christ as your Saviour?
3. How do you explain Jesus to others?



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Week 11:

Sunday 19 May

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

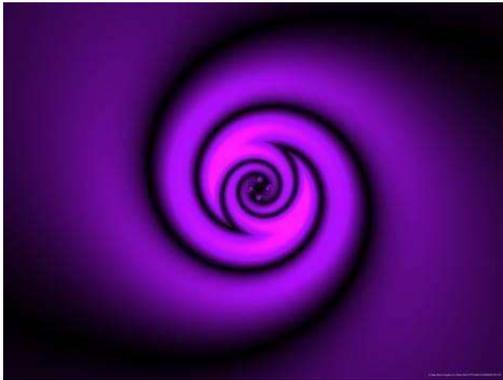
Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 11:1-18	Ps 148	Rev 21:1-6	John 13:31-35



John 13:31-35

Jesus predicts Peter's denial ³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ 'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

SERMON NOTES:



Week 12: **Sunday 26 May** *Obey my teaching*

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
6 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29



John 14:23-29

²³ Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. ²⁵ ‘All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. ²⁸ ‘You heard me say, “I am going away and I am coming back to you.” If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Sunday, May 26 Sixth Sunday of Easter
- Monday, May 27: Psalm 93; 1 Chronicles 12:16-22; Revelation 21:5-14
- Tuesday, May 28: Psalm 93; 2 Chronicles 15:1-15; Revelation 21:15-22
- Wednesday, May 29: Psalm 93; 2 Chronicles 34:20-33; Luke 2:25-38



Listen to: Jesus Culture (Kim Walker-Smith) – Holy Spirit (You Tube)

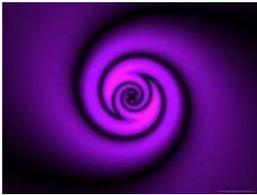


Questions:

1. How do you sense Christ's Holy Spirit in your daily life?
2. Can you remember a time when you experienced God's peace in an unexpected way? Share with your group. Give thanks to God for that time.
3. Do you feel troubled or anxious about anything in your life at present? Break into groups of 2-3 and ask the others to pray for you. Try to be as specific as you can be. Keep each other accountable.
4. How can we practice the presence of God in our lives more and more?

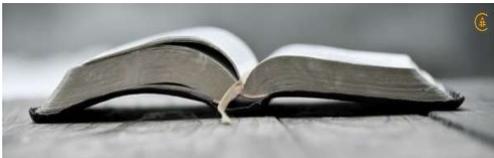


Pray for South Africa, her people, your city, your neighbourhood, your family, your friends, your church. For peace and joy and hope to flourish. For the love and light of God to conquer the darkness, and for each other



Ascension: 30 May

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ascension of the Lord	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Eph 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53



Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’ ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, ‘This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

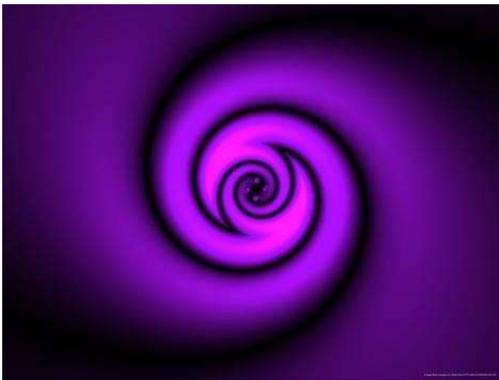
The ascension of Jesus ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

SERMON NOTES:

The small group session this week will be replaced with the Ascension Day Service!

daily

- Friday, May 31: Psalm 97; Exodus 33:12-17; Revelation 22:6-9
- Saturday, June 1: Psalm 97; Exodus 33:18-23; John 1:14-18



Week 13:
Sunday 2 June
Jesus prays for all believers

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
7 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:16-34	Ps 97	Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26



John 17:20-26

Jesus prays for all believers.²⁰ ‘My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one –²³ I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.²⁴ ‘Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world²⁵ ‘Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.²⁶ I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.’

SERMON NOTES:

daily

- Thursday, May 30: Ascension of the Lord
- Friday, May 31: Psalm 97; Exodus 33:12-17; Revelation 22:6-9
- Saturday, June 1: Psalm 97; Exodus 33:18-23; John 1:14-18
- Sunday, June 2: Seventh Sunday of Easter
- Monday, June 3: Psalm 29; Exodus 40:16-38; Acts 16:35-40
- Tuesday, June 4: Psalm 29; 2 Chronicles 5:2-14; Acts 26:19-29
- Wednesday, June 5: Psalm 29; Ezekiel 3:12-21; Luke 9:18-27
- Thursday, June 6: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Isaiah 32:11-17; Galatians 5:16-25
- Friday, June 7: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Isaiah 44:1-4; Galatians 6:7-10
- Saturday, June 8: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 2 Kings 2:1-15a; Luke 1:5-17



Listen to: Crowder – Come as you are (You Tube)



Questions:

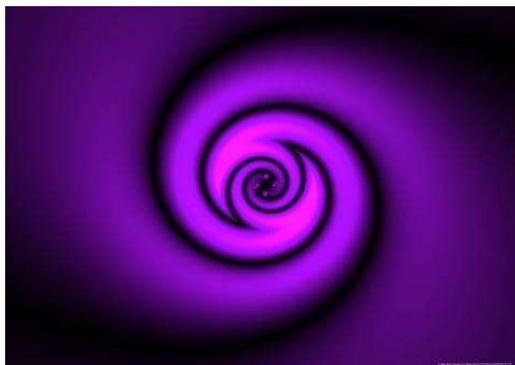
1. Read through John 17:20-26. List, in your own words, what Jesus is praying for:

How do you feel seeing it written down.
 Has God’s prayer been answered in you?

2. Has anyone ever prayed out loud for you? How did it make you feel (comforted, vulnerable, grateful, honoured, humbled, awkward but appreciative, like someone cares)? Choose someone to pray with. Make sure everyone get a chance to pray for each other.
3. Is our church living up to God’s prayer? What can we do to be “Godlier” in our actions?



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Week 14: Sunday 9 June – Pentecost

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Day of Pentecost	*Acts 2:1-21	Ps 104:24-34, 35b	Rom 8:14-17_or Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17, (25-27)



John 14:8-17, (25-27)

⁸ Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’ ⁹ Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’ ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit ¹⁵ ‘If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ²⁵ ‘All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the



Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

SERMON NOTES:



daily

- Sunday, June 9: Day of Pentecost
- Monday, June 10: Psalm 48; Joel 2:18-29; I Corinthians 2:1-11
- Tuesday, June 11: Psalm 48; Ezekiel 11:14-25; I Corinthians 2:12-16
- Wednesday, June 12: Psalm 48; Numbers 24:1-14; Luke 1:26-38
- Thursday, June 13: Psalm 8; Proverbs 3:13-18; Ephesians 1:17-19
- Friday, June 14: Psalm 8; Proverbs 3:19-26; Ephesians 4:1-6
- Saturday, June 15: Psalm 8; Proverbs 4:1-9; Luke 2:41-52



Listen to: Hillsong – The Stand (You Tube)

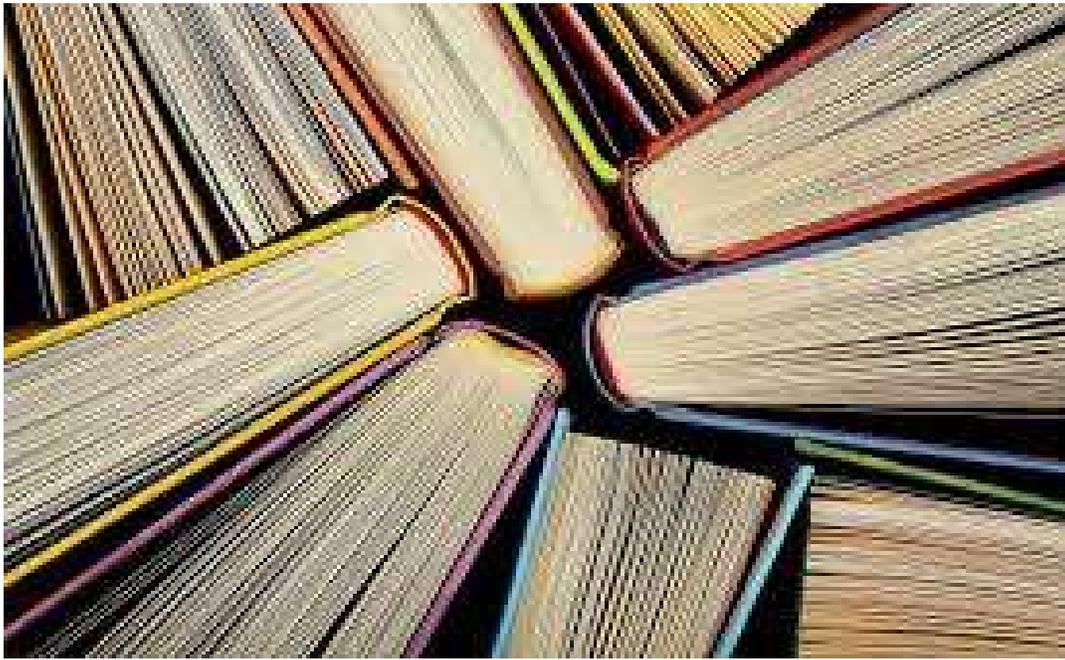


Questions:

1. Do you sometimes long for a 'God with skin on'?
2. Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask in my name".
 - Have you asked for something that seemed impossible, and God answered your prayer? Share with the group.
 - How do you react when God does not answer your prayer?
3. How important is prayer in your Christian walk? How often do you pray?
4. Pray for each other to have prayer-filled lives.



Pray for South Africa, her people, your city, your neighbourhood, your family, your friends, your church. For peace and joy and hope to flourish. For the love and light of God to conquer the darkness, and for each other.



SOURCES CONSULTED

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching>
https://redeeminggod.com/sermons/luke/luke_6_17-26/
<https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/o2235g/>
www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=C
www.bybelgenootskap.co.za
<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer>
www.biblehub.com
www.bible.com
www.bible.org.com
IMAGES: Google Images
BIBLES: Life Application Bible, Serendipity Bible
Gateway (NIVUK) version used

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Bryanston Methodist Church, March-June 2019



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Guide for Small Group meetings:

1. Welcome: How was your week? How goes it with your soul?
2. Worship: Singing or listening to songs, recite poems etc., prayer
3. Word: Read the Bible
4. Discuss the questions asked
5. Find a way to apply at least one learning to your life
6. Minister to each other (pray and encourage)
7. Reach out: Discuss opportunities to SERVE and pray for SA, the government, BMC, and others.

This booklet offers devotions, background information and questions for reflection and discussion.

Small Group members are encouraged to read the devotions, investigate the background of the Biblical passages and prepare the answers to the questions assigned to each week.



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