



## **The Season of Lent & Holy Week**

### **Lent**

Lent is generally a forty day devotional season of fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter.

“Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. . . Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance.” (Bratcher, 1)

The term *lent* in Middle Ages English meant *spring*. (Wiki) It is derived from the Latin *quadragesima*, meaning the *fortieth*, as in the fortieth day before Easter. (Mershman)

**Lent Readings – Year C, from *The online Revised Common Lectionary***  
Year C, (Nov. 2009 to Nov. 2010)

#### **Ash Wednesday** (February 17, 2010)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### **First Sunday in Lent** (February, 2010)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

#### **Second Sunday in Lent** (February 2010)

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

#### **Third Sunday in Lent** (March 7, 2010)

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent** (March 14, 2010)

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



**Fifth Sunday in Lent** (March 21, 2010)

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

**Palm Sunday - Sixth Sunday in Lent** (March 28, 2010)

“This Sunday observes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds, who were in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and proclaiming him as the messianic king.”  
(Bratcher, 2)

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

**Holy Week** (Starting March 29, 2010)

“Holy Week is the last week of Lent, the week immediately preceding Easter Sunday. It is observed in many Christian churches as a time to commemorate and enact the suffering (Passion) and death of Jesus through various observances and services of worship.” (Bratcher, 2)

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)

A new commandment (maundy or latin *mandatum*) that was not really new (John 13:34-35):

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*  
(Bratcher, 2)

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35



### Good Friday

“Friday of Holy Week has been traditionally called Good Friday or Holy Friday. On this day, the church commemorates Jesus’ arrest (since by Jewish customs of counting days from sundown to sundown it was already Friday), his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial.” (Bratcher, 2)

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

### Holy Saturday

“This is the seventh day of the week, the day Jesus rested in the tomb. In the first three Gospel accounts this was the Jewish Sabbath, which provided appropriate symbolism of the seventh day rest. . . It is traditionally a day of quiet meditation as Christians contemplate the darkness of a world without a future and without hope apart from God and his grace.

It is also a time to remember family and the faithful who have died as we await the resurrection, or to honor the martyrs who have given their lives for the cause of Christ in the world.” (Bratcher, 2)

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16;

1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

### Works Cited:

Bratcher, Dennis.

(1) “The Season of Lent” The Voice, CRI/Voice, Institute. 2007  
(<http://www.cresourcei.org/cylent.html>)

(2) “The Days of Holy Week” The Voice, CRI/Voice, Institute. 2007  
(<http://www.cresourcei.org/cyholyweek.html>)

The online Revised Common Lectionary. The online Revised Common Lectionary is a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, a division of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.  
(<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>)

Mershman, Francis. “Quadragesima” New Advent – Catholic Encyclopedia. 1911  
(<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12589a.htm>)

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