



The Gospels of Lent

Family Handout

The five readings in this packet are the gospel readings for this year's cycle adapted for children. Take time to read them with your family before attending Mass on Sunday.

Year A: The Gospel According to Matthew

In the Liturgy, there are three cycles of readings (A, B, and C). Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew, Year B on the Gospel of Mark, and Year C on the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of John appears in all three cycles.

Throughout the year, you can prepare for the week's gospel reading by using the Sunday Connection, which can be found online at www.LoyolaPress.com/Sunday. This site also offers many family resources for Lent and beyond.

The text for the Gospels of Lent are from
Lectionary for Masses with Children: Year A.
Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.





First Sunday of Lent (A)

Matthew 4:1–11

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert,
so that the devil could test him.

After Jesus went without eating for forty days and nights,
he was very hungry.

Then the devil came to him and said,

“If you are God’s Son,
tell these stones to turn into bread.”

Jesus answered,

“The Scriptures say: ‘No one can live only on food.
People need every word that God has spoken.’”

Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city
and had him stand on the highest part of the temple.

The devil said, “If you are God’s Son, jump off.

The Scriptures say:

‘God will give his angels orders about you.
They will catch you in their arms,
and you won’t hurt your feet on the stones.’”

Jesus answered, “The Scriptures also say,
‘Don’t try to test the Lord your God!’”

Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain
and showed him all the kingdoms on earth
and their power.

The devil said to him, “I will give all this to you,
if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus answered, “Go away Satan!

The Scriptures say:

‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left Jesus,
and angels came to help him.





Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Matthew 17:1–9

Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with him.
They went up on a very high mountain
where they could be alone.

There in front of the disciples Jesus was completely changed.
His face was shining like the sun,
and his clothes became white as light.

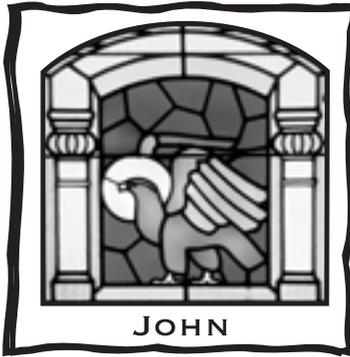
All at once Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus.
So Peter said to him, “Lord, it is good for us to be here!
Let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While Peter was still speaking,
the shadow of a bright cloud passed over them.
From the cloud a voice said,
“This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.
Listen to what he says!”

When the disciples heard the voice,
they were so afraid that they fell flat on the ground.
But Jesus came over and touched them.
He said, “Get up and don’t be afraid!”
When they opened their eyes, they saw only Jesus.

On their way down the mountain,
Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone
what they had seen
until after the Son of Man had been raised from death.





Third Sunday of Lent (A)

John 4:5–15, 19b–26, 39a, 40–42

On his way to Galilee,
Jesus came to the town of Sychar.
It was near the field that Jacob had long ago given
to his son Joseph.
The well that Jacob had dug was still there,
and Jesus sat down beside it
because he was tired from traveling.
It was noon,
and after Jesus' disciples had gone into town
to buy some food,
a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well.

Jesus asked her,
“Would you please give me a drink of water?”

“You are a Jew,” she replied,
“and I am a Samaritan woman.
How can you ask me for a drink of water
when Jews and Samaritans won't have anything to do
with each other?”

Jesus answered,
“You don't know what God wants to give you,
and you don't know who is asking you for a drink.
If you did, you would ask him for the water that gives life.”

“Sir,” the woman said,
“you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep.
Where are you going to get this life-giving water?
Our ancestor Jacob dug this well for us,
and his family and animals got water from it.
Are you greater than Jacob?”

Jesus answered,
“Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again.
But no one who drinks the water I give
will ever be thirsty again.
The water I give is like a flowing fountain
that gives eternal life.”

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Third Sunday of Lent (A)

John 4:5–15, 19b–26, 39a, 40–42 (continued)

The woman replied,
“Sir, please give me a drink of that water!
Then I won’t get thirsty
and have to come to this well again.”

She also told him,
“Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.
My ancestors worshiped on this mountain,
but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship.”

Jesus said to her: “Believe me,
the time is coming when you won’t worship God
either on this mountain or in Jerusalem.
You Samaritans don’t really know the one you worship.
But we Jews do know the God we worship,
and by using us God will save the world.
But a time is coming, and it is already here!
Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit
to worship the Father according to the truth.
These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him.
God is Spirit,
and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit
to worship him according to the truth.”

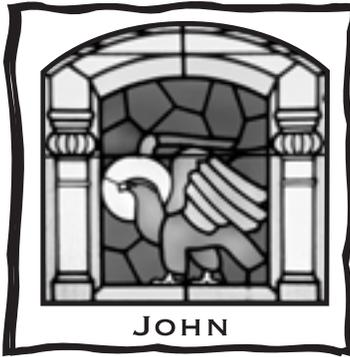
The woman said, “I know that the Messiah will come.
He is the one we call Christ.
When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

“I am that one,” Jesus told her,
“and I am speaking to you now.”

A lot of Samaritans in that town put their faith in Jesus.
They came and asked him to stay in their town,
and he stayed on for two days.

Many more Samaritans put their faith in Jesus
because of what they heard him say.
They told the woman, “We no longer have faith in Jesus
just because of what you told us.
We have heard him ourselves,
and we are certain that he is the Savior of the world!”





Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

John 9:1,6–12,35–38

One day as Jesus walked along,
he saw a man who had been blind since birth.
Jesus spit on the ground.
He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes.
Then he said, "Go and wash off the mud in Siloam Pool."
The man went and washed in Siloam,
which means "One Who Is Sent."
When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

The man's neighbors
and the people who had seen him begging
wondering if he really could be the same man.
Some of them said he was the same beggar,
while others said he only looked like him.
But he told them, "I am that man."

"Then how can you see?" they asked.

He answered,
"Someone named Jesus made some mud
and smeared it on my eyes.
He told me to go and wash it off in Siloam Pool.
When I did, I could see."

"Where is he now?" they asked.

"I don't know," he answered.

When Jesus heard what had happened,
he went and found the man.

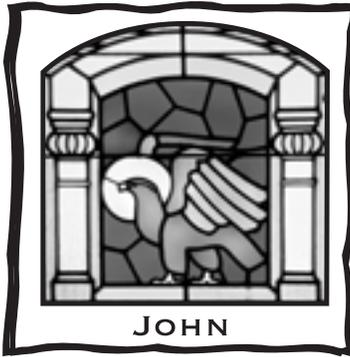
Then Jesus asked, "Do you have faith in the Son of Man?"

He replied, "Sir, if you will tell me who he is,
I will put my faith in him."

"You have already seen him," Jesus answered,
"and right now he is talking with you."

The man said, "Lord, I put my faith in you!"
Then he worshiped Jesus.





Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

John 11:3–7,17,20–27,31–45

Martha and her sister Mary sent a message to the Lord and told him that his good friend Lazarus was sick.

When Jesus heard this, he said,
“His sickness won’t end in death.
It will bring glory to God and his Son.”

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and brother.
But he stayed where he was for two more days.
Then he said to his disciples,
“Now we’ll go back to Judea.”

When Jesus got to Bethany,
he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb four days.

When Martha heard that Jesus had arrived,
she went out to meet him,
but Mary stayed in the house.
Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
Yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask.”

Jesus told her, “Your brother will live again!”

Martha answered,
“I know that he will be raised to life on the last day,
when all the dead are raised.”

Jesus then said,
“I am the one who raises the dead to life!
Everyone who has faith in me will live,
even if they die.
And everyone who lives because of faith in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?”

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Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

John 11:3–7,17,20–27,31–45 (continued)

“Yes, Lord!” she replied.

“I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God.
You are the one we hoped would come into the world.”

Many people had come to comfort Mary,
and when they saw her quickly leave the house,
they thought she was going out to the tomb to cry.
So they followed her.

Mary went to where Jesus was.
Then as soon as she saw him,
she kneeled at his feet and said,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw that Mary and the people with her
were crying,
he was terribly upset and asked,
“Where have you put his body?”

They replied, “Lord, come and you will see.”

Jesus started crying, and the people said,
“See how much he loved Lazarus.”

Some of them said, “He gives sight to the blind.
Why couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

Jesus was still terribly upset.
So he went to the tomb,
which was a cave with a stone rolled against the entrance.
Then he told the people to roll the stone away.
But Martha said, “Lord, you know that Lazarus
has been dead four days,
and there will be a bad smell.”

Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you had faith,
you would see the glory of God?”

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Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

John 11:3–7,17,20–27,31–45 (continued)

After the stone had been rolled aside,
Jesus looked up toward heaven and prayed,
“Father, I thank you for answering my prayer.
I know that you always answer my prayers.
But I said this,
so that the people here would believe that you sent me.”

When Jesus had finished praying, he shouted,
“Lazarus, come out!”
The man who had been dead came out.
His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth,
and a cloth covered his face.

Jesus then told the people, “Untie him and let him go.”

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary
saw the things that Jesus did,
and they put their faith in him.

