



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 C: The Gospel According to Luke

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 C.
Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.





First Sunday of Lent (C)

Luke 4:1–13

When Jesus returned from the Jordan River,
the power of the Holy Spirit was with him,
and the Spirit led him into the desert.
For forty days Jesus was tested by the devil,
and during that time he went without eating.
When it was all over, he was hungry.

The devil said to Jesus,
“If you are God’s Son, tell this stone to turn into bread.”

Jesus answered, “The Scriptures say,
‘No one can live only on food.’”

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place
and quickly showed him all the nations on earth.
The devil said, “I will give all this power and glory to you.
It has been given to me,
and I can give it to anyone I want to.
Just worship me, and you can have it all.”

Jesus answered, “The Scriptures say:
‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!’”

Finally, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem
and had him stand on top of the temple.
The devil said, “If you are God’s Son, jump off.
The Scriptures say:
‘God will tell his angels to take care of you.
They will catch you in their arms,
and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.’”

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

After the devil had finished testing Jesus
in every way possible,
he left him for a while.





Second Sunday of Lent (C)

Luke 9:28–36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James with him
and went up on a mountain to pray.

While he was praying,
his face changed, and his clothes became shining white.
Suddenly Moses and Elijah were there speaking with him.
They appeared in heavenly glory
and talked about all that Jesus' death
in Jerusalem would mean.

Peter and the other two disciples had been sound asleep.
All at once they woke up and saw how glorious Jesus was.
They also saw the two men who were with him.

Moses and Elijah were about to leave,
when Peter said to Jesus,
“Master, it is good for us to be here!
Let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
But Peter did not know what he was talking about.

While Peter was still speaking,
a shadow from a cloud passed over them,
and they were frightened as the cloud covered them.
From the cloud a voice spoke, “This man is my chosen Son.
Listen to what he says!”

After the voice had spoken,
Peter, John, and James saw only Jesus.
For some time they kept quiet
and did not say anything about what they had seen.





Third Sunday of Lent (C)

Luke 13:6–9

Jesus told the people this story:

“A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard.
One day he went out to pick some figs,
but he didn’t find any.
So he said to the gardener,
‘For three years I have come looking for figs on this tree,
and I haven’t found any yet.
Chop it down!
Why should it take up space?’

“The gardener answered,
‘Master, leave it for another year.
I’ll dig around it and put some manure on it to make it grow.
Maybe it will have figs on it next year.
If it doesn’t, you can have it cut down.’”





Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Tax collectors and sinners were all crowding around to listen to Jesus.
So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses started grumbling,
“This man is friendly with sinners.
He even eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this story:

“Once a man had two sons.
The younger son said to his father,
‘Give me my share of the property.’
So the father divided his property between his two sons.

“Not long after that,
the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country,
where he wasted all his money in wild living.
He had spent everything,
when a bad famine spread through that whole land.
Soon he had nothing to eat.

“He went to work for a man in that country,
and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs.
He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating,
but no one gave him a thing.

“Finally, he came to his senses and said,
‘My father’s workers have plenty to eat,
and here I am starving to death!
I will leave and go to my father and say to him,
‘Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you.
I am no longer good enough to be called your son.
Treat me like one of your workers.’”

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Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32 (continued)

“The younger son got up and started back to his father.
But when he was still a long way off,
his father saw him and felt sorry for him.
He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him.

“The son said,
‘Father I have sinned against God in heaven and against you.
I am no longer good enough to be called your son.’

“But his father said to the servants,
‘Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him.
Give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.
Get the best calf and prepare it,
so we can eat and celebrate.
This son of mine was dead,
but has now come back to life.
He was lost and has now been found.’
And they began to celebrate.

“The older son had been out in the field.
But when he came near the house,
he heard the music and dancing.
So he called one of the servants over and asked,
‘What’s going on here?’

“The servant answered,
‘Your brother has come home safe and sound,
and your father ordered us to kill the best calf.’
The older brother got so mad that he would not even go into the house.

“His father came out and begged him to go in.
But he said to his father,
‘For years I have worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you.
But you have never even given me a little goat,
so that I could give a dinner for my friends.

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Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32 (continued)

This other son of yours wasted your money on bad women.
And now that he has come home,
you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast.’

“His father replied,
‘My son, you are always with me,
and everything I have is yours.
But we should be glad and celebrate!
Your brother was dead,
but he is now alive.
He was lost and has now been found.’”





Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

John 8:1–11

Jesus spent the night on the Mount of Olives.
Then early the next morning he went to the temple.
The people came to him,
and he sat down and started teaching them.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses
brought in a woman who had been caught in bed
with a man who was not her husband.
They made her stand in the middle of the crowd.
Then they said, “Teacher, this woman was caught
sleeping with a man who is not her husband.
The Law of Moses teaches
that a woman like this should be stoned to death!
What do you say?”

They asked Jesus this question,
because they wanted to test him
and bring some charge against him.
But Jesus simply bent over
and started writing on the ground with his finger.

The crowd kept on asking Jesus about the woman.
Finally, he stood up and said,
“If any of you have never sinned,
then go ahead and throw the first stone at her!”
Once again he bent over and began writing on the ground.
The people left one by one,
beginning with the oldest one in the crowd.
Finally, Jesus and the woman were there alone.

Jesus stood up and asked her, “Where is everyone?
Isn’t there anyone left to accuse you?”

“No, sir,” the woman answered.

Then Jesus told her,
“I am not going to accuse you either.
You may go now, but don’t sin anymore.”

