

The Sundays of Lent: Back to the Basics

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every three years we have a slightly different set of readings for the Sundays of Lent. This year in the Sunday Gospel readings before Palm Sunday, we will hear four signature interactions of Jesus from the Gospel of John. On March 1, we hear the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus from John 3. The next Sunday, the encounter between Jesus and the Woman of Samaria at the well in John 4. On March 15, Jesus heals a Man Born Blind in the 9th chapter of John and the conversation includes the religious authorities, the man himself, and even his parents. We conclude this four Sunday set of Gospel readings from John with the raising of Lazarus in John the 11th chapter. Ironically, that reading doesn't include any words from Lazarus himself, but does include the disciples and Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha.

The bible readings for each Sunday of the church year are part of a three-year cycle known as the Revised Common Lectionary. Although, as the name "Revised" might suggest, it has changed some over the years, many of the selections have their roots in the early history of the church.

The six weeks of Lent were originally a time set aside by the Church for Baptismal Preparation. Baptismal candidates, known as "Catechumens" went through instruction in the faith these six weeks, and were prayed for by the larger community. After Holy Week and culminating at the Easter Vigil, these candidates confessed their faith and were baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ. They were welcomed into the faith community and a big party ensued.

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March 1

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121 (1, 2)
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 2

Numbers 21:4-9
Hebrews 3:1-6
Psalm 128

March 3

Isaiah 65:17-25
Romans 4:6-13
Psalm 128

March 4

Ezekiel 36:22-32
John 7:53—8:11
Psalm 128

March 5

Exodus 16:1-8
Colossians 1:15-23
Psalm 95

March 6

Exodus 16:9-21
Ephesians 2:11-22
Psalm 95

March 7

Exodus 16:27-35
John 4:1-6
Psalm 95

March 8

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95 (1)
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 9

Genesis 24:1-17 2
John 1—13
Psalm 81

March 10

Genesis 29:1-4
1 Corinthians 10:1-4
Psalm 81

These four Johannine readings for the first four Sundays in March this year were considered essential reading for those preparing to be baptized. Nicodemus, the Samaritan Women, the Man Born Blind, and Mary and Martha are all archetypes for the disciples of Jesus. In their questions and interactions with him, their faith in and understanding of Jesus grows. Although incomplete, they leave these encounters with Jesus transformed.

As we worship together these next four Sundays, we too are invited to sit alongside Nicodemus, the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, and the friends of Jesus and to be transformed by his words.

There is a worship song we sometimes sing in Lent called "Ancient Words". Part of the lyrics include the following chorus...

*Ancient words, ever true
Changing me, changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

This Lenten season it is my prayer that we all take the posture of Catechumens; coming with open hearts, remembering and (re)learning the essential elements of our faith, and seeking to grow in faith toward God and fervent love toward another.

Peace!

Pastor Craig

March 11

Jeremiah 2:4-13
John 7:14-31, 37-39
Psalm 81

March 12

1 Samuel 15:10-21
Ephesians 4:25-32
Psalm 23

March 13

1 Samuel 15:22-31
Ephesians 5:1-9
Psalm 23

March 14

1 Samuel 15:32-34
John 1:1-9
Psalm 23

March 15

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23 (5)
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 16

Isaiah 59:9-19
Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 146

March 17

Isaiah 42:14-21
Colossians 1:9-14
Psalm 146

March 18

Isaiah 60:17-22
Matthew 9:27-34
Psalm 146

March 19

Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8—3:3
Revelation 10:1-11
Psalm 130

March 20

Ezekiel 33:10-16
Revelation 11:15-19
Psalm 130

March 21

Ezekiel 36:8-15
Luke 24:44-53
Psalm 130

Prayers for	Requested by	Jenna Bozarth	Amy Elliott
Anna (Grider)	Jim & Doris Grider	Jo Miller	Kimberly Macklin
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin	Joanna Painter	Dixie
Barbara Remy	Helen David	John Schaber	PC
Benjamin Bliven	George Will	Joyce Colvin	PC
Belinda Kjensrud	Kim Macklin	Judi Aus	PC
Beth Brandt	Mary W.	Keven Christiansen	PC
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary	Kim	Lisa
Bob Boonstra	PC	Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Brenden Blum	PC	Kristin Hosie	Tom Peter
Brooke	Heather W	Lance Lyon	PC
Bruce Baker's	PC	Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Bud Richard and	Kimberly Macklin	Laurie Boyce	PC
Burt Aus	Judi Aus	Linda Bradley	Lonnie Harms
Casey Jordaine	Lorrie Dyr Dahl	Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Chad Roberson	PC	Linda Graham	Barb Bannister
Charles G.	PC	Linda Williamson	Dale Williamson
Colin Brown	Heather W	Loida Steward Fami-	Betty Gerhardt
Cindy Caufield	Susan W	Lorie Beyers	Kim Beyers
Cindy Miles	PC	Lorrie D	PC
Calvin Mankin	Julie	Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Cora	Jackie Kimbal	Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Dale and Sue Wil-	Doris Grider	Marsha's Family	Julie Parelli-Minetti
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber	Marvis Gilnett	Heather W
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.	Mary Wolfe	PC
Diane Horton	Barb Bannister	Matt H	PC
Diane Schaber	PC	Melody Sledz	Mary W.
Dixie Scheehean	PC	Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Don Bassom Fam-	Dixie S.	Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Dyr Dahl Family	PC	Nancy Bayer Family	Dixie S.
Eileen Nelson	Eva Nelson	Oscar D	Sam D
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyr Dahl	Phyllis Murray, family of	Marie G.
Eric Wechter	PC	Piper	Heather W
Ernie Peter	PC	Richard Dyr Dahl	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Evie and Ron Berg	PC	Robert	Jordain
Frank Schoenfeld	PC	Roy Steven	Joyce
Gary Erb Family	Barb B.	Sam Dyr Dahl	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Gregory R	Kimberly Pearson	Shannon	Lonnie
Heide Hendrick	PC	Shirley Ann Andrea-	Ilene Mamella
Helen David	Barb Bannister	Steve Grider	Doris Grider
Hollinger Family,	Kimberly Macklin	Traci	Barb B.
Howard & Kathy	Mary W.	Vi Anderson	Judi
Jamie Mehus Fam-	PC	Wendy & Family	PC
Jan G	PC	William Wood	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Jean Ruter	Mary W.	Yvonne, Family of	Julie Parelli-Minetti
Jenna Bozarth	Amy Elliott		

March 22
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130 (5)
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 23
1 Kings 17:17-24
Acts 20:7-12
Psalm 143

March 24
2 Kings 4:18-37
Ephesians 2:1-10
Psalm 143

March 25
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41
Matthew 22:23-33
Psalm 143

Mar 26
1 Samuel 16:11-13
Philippians 1:1-11
Psalm 31:9-16

Mar 27
Job 13:13-19
Philippians 1:21-30
Psalm 31:9-16

Mar 28
Lamentations 3:55-66
Mark 10:32-34
Psalm 31:9-16

March 29
Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66

March 30
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11 (7)
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

March 31
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14 (6)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Rick and Karmen Pettit's wedding January 31.

Seventy years ago, two people (my parents) stood in Christ Lutheran Church and promised to build a life together. The candles glowed. The music played. The air carried that quiet electricity that only weddings seem to give.

January 31st, Karmen and I stood in the very same sacred space, next to the very same candlelabras that towered behind my parents. Music played. It felt less like a coincidence and more like a circle closing... or maybe a story turning a page as Karmen and I have known each other since 1st grade, and the story is continuing on its own handwriting.

We did not just get married in a church. We stepped into a legacy.

The same walls that heard my parents vows, heard ours. The same aisle that carried them forward carried us. It's humbling. It's beautiful. It's reminded me that love is not only a spark, but a relay. It's gets passed down. It grows roots. It learns the shape of a family and then keeps blooming.

Seventy years later we didn't stand in the same church to repeat my parents story, Karmen and I stood there to honor it.

The music played. And love, it seems still finds its way right back to where it once began.

Our marriage is not just about us. It's about time, tradition, and the quiet miracle of love that echoes across generations.

Thank you all that have helped me get here. Your love and support will forever be cherished.



Kenton Wolfe	8
Susan Schweighardt	8
Jeanne Bromley	10
Tom Ripple	10
Dixie Scheehean	10
Helen David	14
Morgan Lockett	14
Mary Lyon	15
Dennis Lewis	18
Judi Aus	20
Lance Lyon	21
Kim Beyers	26



Denise & Barry McPherson	10
Jayne & Dennis Lewis	22
Cindy & Scott Caufield	24

If you wish to be included on the birthdays and anniversaries list and were inadvertently omitted, please notify me at your earliest convenience. Additionally, if you have been included in error, kindly inform me so that I may make the necessary correction.

To ensure accuracy, please provide all notifications in writing by leaving a note in my mailbox, sending a text message to 503-989-6034, or emailing me at 1brbann@gmail.com. I am unable to reliably retain verbal messages.

Barb Bannister



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 29th
10:00 am

Good Friday

April 3rd
7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

April 5
10:00 am

You're Invited! Easter Sunday Celebration

Join us for a joyful morning as we celebrate the hope and promise of Easter! Start the day with a delicious breakfast and warm fellowship, followed by a beautiful service filled with music, inspiration, and the Easter message.

All are welcome — bring family and friends!

Date: Sunday, April 5

Breakfast: 8:30 AM – Fellowship Hall

Easter Service: 10:00 AM – Sanctuary

Sunday Helpers

March 1

Reader: Dan Harms

Ushers: Dan and Lonnie Harms

Coffee Host: Barb Bannister and helper: Sonya Johnson

March 8

Reader: Lynn Ries

Ushers: Lynn and John Ries

Donuts: Marie Gunther

March 15

Reader: Kenton Wolfe

Ushers: Mary and Kenton Wolfe

Coffee Host: Joy Schulz

March 22

Reader: Marvis Gilnett

Ushers: Lynn Bloomfield and Ilene Marnella

Coffee Host: Helen David

March 29

Reader: Carolyn Popma

Ushers: Dennis Lewis and Wyatt Akin

Coffee Host for Sweet and Savory

Mini Potluck: Chris Fisher

Reminder Daylight Savings Time

Did you know that on **Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 a.m.** that Daylight Savings Time Begins? This is a reminder to move your clocks forward one (1) hour.



Oregon Synod

Walking Together Into Courageous Love

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026

May 30th

The 2026 electronic Synod Assembly will look a little different this year as we seek to respond to attendee feedback and changing times. However, much will be the same. It will begin as usual, with the nominations and submission period for resolution and memorials.

Registration will open in March for voting members (\$100, with revenues to go toward offsetting costs for the next in person assembly, as decided by the Synod Assembly in 2022). While we will have the April “pre-sessions” again this year, what is different is that these will BE the interactive business portions (presentation, discussion, and feedback space). Sessions will be led by a facilitator, but will not be “meetings”. By not being “meetings”, we can allow everyone (not just voting members) to attend and participate and the meetings do not need to adhere to Robert’s Rules of Order/Parliamentary procedure.

There will be three business sessions in April; one on resolutions and memorials, one on changes to the constitution, and one on the budget where all business will be conducted (except voting). Anyone who is a member of your congregation is invited to these sessions to come learn and participate.

On Saturday, May 30th, voting for registered voting members will take place by email electronic ballot (as they were at the last synod assembly). The online gathering on the 30th will be not an online business meeting, but an online synod-wide worship service at 10:30, to which everyone is invited. We will pray, sing, and celebrate the Way of the Gospel together. Within a week, we will report on the outcome of the voting.

To learn more visit: <https://oregonsynod.org/index.php/about/assembly/>

Questions about 2026 Assembly?

Email Rhonda Powell, synod assembly planning coordinator.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	2 6:30-8pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness	3 6 pm AA	4	5 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	6	7
8 10 am Worship 11:15 am Church Council 7 pm AA	9	10 6 pm AA	11 3-4:30 pm Marion/ Polk Mobile Pantry, Rivenes Park, Hubbard	12 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	13	14 5:15-6:15 pm AA Speaker Series
15 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	16 St Patrick's Day 6 pm AA	17	18	19 6 – 8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	20	21
22 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	23 3-4 pm North Marion Services Team 6 pm AA	24	25 3-4:30 pm Marion/ Polk Mobile Pantry, Rivenes Park, Hubbard	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	30	31 6 pm AA				

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COURIER



March 2026

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

