

WORSHIP NOTES FOR LENT AND EASTER SUNDAY

Sermon texts are underlined.

Sunday, February 10

First Sunday in Lent

“Lessons from the Fall”

Genesis 2:15–17 and 3:1–7. A serpent tricks the first humans into disobeying God.

Psalm 32. A psalmist recommends talking with God about your problems rather than keeping silent.

Romans 5:12–19. Paul counterpoises Adam and Jesus, in a theology of redemption.

Matthew 4:1–11. Matthew’s describes the temptation of Jesus.

Sunday, February 17

Second Sunday in Lent

“The Three Faces of Abraham”

Genesis 12:1-4a. Abram sets out for Canaan.

Psalm 121. God is our unfailing help.

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17. Paul recognizes Abraham as the premier example of faith.

John 3:1–17. Nicodemus interviews Jesus.

Sunday, February 24

Third Sunday in Lent

“Water Where You Least Expected It”

Exodus 17:1–7. Moses gets a rock miraculously to produce water in a dry wilderness.

Psalm 95. A hymn to the Rock of our salvation.

Romans 5:1–11. Paul explains how we have been justified by faith.

John 4:5–42. Jesus is interviewed by a Samaritan woman at a well.

Sunday, March 2

Fourth Sunday in Lent

“The Delicate Subject of Blindness”

1 Samuel 16:1–13. Samuel anoints David to succeed Saul as king... before Saul’s reign is over.

Psalm 23. The Shepherd Psalm.

Ephesians 5:8–14. We are “children of light.”

John 9:1–41. Jesus gives sight to a man born blind.

Sunday, March 9

Fifth Sunday in Lent; *Amistad* Sunday; Daylight Saving Time begins

“Thanatopsis”

Ezekiel 37:1–14. As a wind blows, dry bones suddenly spring to life as human beings.

Psalm 130. A psalmist waits for the redemption of God.

Romans 8:6–11. Paul employs metaphors of flesh and spirit, to talk about death and life, sin and righteousness

John 11:1–45. Jesus resuscitates Lazarus.

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Sunday, March 16

Palm or Passion Sunday

“Choosing the Terrorist”

Matthew 21:1–11. Anticipating the Passover festival, Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey and her colt.

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29. Most biblical scholars argue that this psalm was used to frame Matthew 21, but traditionalists argue that it actually predicted the Passion story.

Isaiah 50:4–9a. Isaiah assumes the voice of the Suffering Servant.

Psalm 31:9–16. A servant of God suffers, crying out to God for aid.

Philippians 2:5–11. An ancient hymn proclaims Jesus coequal with God.

Matthew 26:14–27:66. The Passion, according to Matthew

Thursday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–14. How to celebrate Passover.

Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19. A psalm of thanksgiving for freedom.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26. Paul describes Jesus’ last meal, at which he invited his disciples to remember him with bread and wine.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35. Jesus washes his disciples’ feet.

Rituals will include a remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, and the sacrament of the Lord’s Table.

Sunday, March 23

Easter, or the Day of Resurrection

“To Be Announced”

Acts 10:34–43. Peter preaches Christ crucified and raised, for all people to know God’s glory.

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24. The rejected stone is the cornerstone (see note for Psalm 118, for March 16).

Colossians 3:1–4. Paul advises Christians to live as if they themselves have been resurrected.

John 20:1–18. Mary Magdalene sees the risen Jesus.

Or

Jeremiah 31:1–6. God’s everlasting love restores what has been destroyed.

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24.

Acts 10, instead of Colossians 3.

Matthew 28:1–10. An angel announces the resurrection to women disciples.