Lent, Easter 2023

At a Glance – Lent 2023

At a Glance – Lent is also available in the Overview and Planning folder.

Date Liturgical Date	Lections (age-level focus is in bold)	Title Essence
February 26, 2023 Lent 1	Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7 Psalm 32 Romans 5: 12–19 Matthew 4:1–11	Into the Wilderness Lent begins in an untamed garden and the wilderness where curiosity invites us to seek new insight into God's goodness in this time and place.
March 5, 2023 Lent 2	Genesis 12:1–4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9	Through the Night As Abram and Sarai go into their future, and Nicodemus' faith questions take him into the deep of night, we are challenged to figure out what really matters.
March 12, 2023 Lent 3	Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1–11 John 4:5–42	With Thirst for New Life As we listen to quarrels with God by thirsty travellers in the wilderness and the big questions asked at the well, we find the courage to use our voice to say what matters most.
March 19, 2023 Lent 4	1 Samuel 16:1–13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8–14 John 9:1–41	After Vision Shifts Perspectives shift as Samuel calls a shepherd from the field, a psalmist sings of shepherding love, and sight is restored with mud and spit, and we ponder how ordinary elements of life point to the extraordinary.
March 26, 2023 Lent 5	Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6–11 John 11:1–45	Out of the Depths In wildernesses of grief, we hear the cries of a psalmist to the Holy, watch as dry bones are called back to life, gasp as Lazarus emerges alive and is unbound by the community, and explore the concept of hope.
April 2, 2023 Lent 6	Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21:1–11 Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16 Philippians 2:5–11 Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54	Among Palms and Betrayals Wandering through a parade to shouts from the crowd to the very worst kind of death, we find our praise confused with sorrow and our hope mixed up in tragedy.

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April 9, 2023 Easter Day	Acts 10: 34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6 Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts 10:34–43 John 20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10	Joy Comes Alive When everything feels lost, we find that joy surprises us and invites us to look anew at the world and ourselves.
April 16, 2023 Easter 2	Acts 2:12a, 22–32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3–9 John 20:19–31	Resurrection Witness We push through locked doors and boundaries to take the good news of new life in our own hands and are encouraged to look to find good news everywhere we look.
April 23, 2023 Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 36–41 Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 1 Peter 1:17–23 Luke 24:13–35	Eyes of the Heart As Jesus breaks bread with Emmaus companions and a community is transformed by Peter's testimony to the risen Christ, we are inspired to open our hearts to new life in Christ.
April 30, 2023 Easter 4	Acts 2:42–47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19–25 John 10:1–10	Sensing Awe Comforted by the image of the shepherd that protects, defends, leads and feeds and the example of Tabitha's loving service and kindness, we consider how everyday acts of love, compassion, and kindness have the power to lift people to life.
May 7, 2023 Easter 5	Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14	Emboldened to Proclaim Stones can be a refuge or a weapon. We push past the obstacles that might cover our ears to understand what God most wants us to hear.
May 14, 2023 Easter 6	Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21	To See Is to Love In Jesus' assurance that we'll never be abandoned and Paul's reminder of our place as God's children, we find a tenderness to look differently at the world and ourselves.
May 21, 2023 Easter 7	Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11 John 17:1–11	Sensory Glory We feel God shower down new awareness for our eyes and ears in the words Jesus prays and the glory God offers.
May 28, 2023 Pentecost	Acts 2:1–21 <i>or</i> Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 <i>or</i> Acts 2:1–21 John 20:19–23 <i>or</i> John 7:37–39	Life-Giving Spirit In rich images of wind and fire that frame the proclamation of God's power in words that all can understand, we step into what we don't fully understand and dance in possibility.