

LENTEN

TREE

14 Readings for Lent and Holy Week

A Lenten Tree is a simple decoration made from bare twigs hung with eggs, ribbons, paper flowers etc. You can make a Lenten Tree and use it with these 14 short readings that tell the story of Easter, from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. The readings are on scrolls that you can hang on the Lenten Tree as you read them. There are readings for Ash Wednesday and each Sunday of Lent, and one for each day of Holy Week.

To make the scrolls, cut or carefully tear the readings below into 14 strips. You may like to add a coloured border on the reverse side of each strip to match the decorations on your Lenten Tree.

Starting at the top right-hand corner, roll each strip into a tight scroll, ending at the bottom left-hand corner. Curl this last corner outwards slightly. Use thread or ribbon to make a hanging loop in the top left-hand corner.

You might like to respond to the readings by making a drawing, writing or saying a prayer, or picturing the scene in your mind. Where are you in this story?

The Readings:

Ash Wednesday:	Psalm 51:1, 3-4, 9-10
First Sunday in Lent:	Mark 11:7, 9, 15b, 17b
Second Sunday in Lent:	Mark 14:16b, 22-24
Third Sunday in Lent:	Mark 14: 32-34, 36
Fourth Sunday in Lent:	Mark 14:45-46, 53, 61b-62
Fifth Sunday in Lent:	Mark 14: 66-68
Palm Sunday:	Psalm 103:2-4, 8-12
Monday of Holy Week:	Mark 15:1b, 12-13, 17, 20
Tuesday of Holy Week:	Luke 23:33-34, 36-37
Wednesday of Holy Week:	Luke 23:39-43
Maundy Thursday:	Mark 15:33-34, 37-39
Good Friday:	John 19:38a, 41-42
Holy Saturday:	Psalm 23:1-4a
Easter Sunday:	Luke 24:1-3, Matt 28:9



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Ash Wednesday

Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins! I recognize my faults; I am always conscious of my sins. I have sinned against you—only against you— and done what you consider evil. So you are right in judging me; you are justified in condemning me. Close your eyes to my sins and wipe out all my evil. Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.

First Sunday in Lent

They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks over the animal, and Jesus got on. The people who were in front and those who followed behind began to shout, “Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Jesus went to the Temple and began to drive out all those who were buying and selling. “It is written in the Scriptures that God said, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.’ But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves!”

Second Sunday in Lent

The disciples prepared the Passover meal. While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. “Take it,” he said, “this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Jesus said, “This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God's covenant.

Third Sunday in Lent

They came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James, and John with him. Distress and anguish came over him, and he said to them, “The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch.” “Father,” he prayed, “my Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet not what I want, but what you want.”

Fourth Sunday in Lent

As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” and kissed him. So they arrested Jesus and held him tight. Then Jesus was taken to the High Priest's house, where all the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law were gathering. The High Priest questioned him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?” “I am,” answered Jesus, “and you will all see the Son of Man seated at the right side of the Almighty and coming with the clouds of heaven!”

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Peter was still down in the courtyard when one of the High Priest's servant women came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him and said, “You, too, were with Jesus of Nazareth.” But he denied it. “I don't know ... I don't understand what you are talking about,” he answered, and went out into the passageway. Just then a rooster crowed.

Palm Sunday

Praise the Lord, my soul, and do not forget how kind he is. The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love. He does not keep on rebuking; he is not angry forever. He does not punish us as we deserve or repay us according to our sins and wrongs. As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is his love for those who honour him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins from us.

Monday of Holy Week

They put Jesus in chains, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke again to the crowd, "What, then, do you want me to do with the one you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorny branches, and put it on his head.

When they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Tuesday of Holy Week

When they came to the place called "The Skull," they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing."

They divided his clothes among themselves by throwing dice. The soldiers also made fun of him: they came up to him and offered him cheap wine, and said, "Save yourself if you are the king of the Jews!"

Wednesday of Holy Week

One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!"

Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."

Maundy Thursday

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours.

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" With a loud cry Jesus died.

The curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died. "This man was really the Son of God!" he said.

Good Friday

After this, Joseph, who was from the town of Arimathea, asked Pilate if he could take Jesus' body.

Pilate told him he could have the body, so Joseph went and took it away. There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been put to death, and in it there was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried.

Since it was the day before the Sabbath and because the tomb was close by, they placed Jesus' body there.

Holy Saturday

The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised.

Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me.

Easter Sunday

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.