

# The View

Madison Presbyterian Church

March 2025

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*



March is “fast” upon us. Lent was often seen as a holy time of fasting, meant to bring us closer to God. But, people who are “hangry” often find themselves at odds with loving one another!

The base of the concept of fasting is biblical – a mindfulness on doing without as a form of prayer, a mindfulness that Christ did without in the wilderness where he “fasted for forty days”. The early church turned to fish on Friday because the absence of meat is a sacrifice recognizing Friday as the day Jesus died on the cross. The other Abrahamic traditions, Judaism and Islam, also fast “religiously”.

You might know folks who focus on giving up one thing that they usually have, usually a food like bread or sweets. However, we should be mindful that the “giving up” of a kind of food is intended to be a prayer aid, not a diet aid!

I like this “Giving up list” (next page) that was shared with me by a wonderful priest at the local catholic church in Albion, NY, Father Richard Cizmar. I found later that this piece was written by William Arthur Ward (1921-1994), a Methodist lay leader, author, and teacher. I pass on to you what I also received.

By the way, Sunday is always regarded as a “little easter” – a break for Christians to feast. As you break your fast, just don’t feast on darkness, differences, or discontent. May you always be filled with the fullness of God.

I pray that this Lent finds you fasting from fear, and feasting on the promises of God.

Your sister in the journey,  
*Pastor Karen*

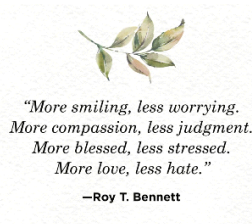
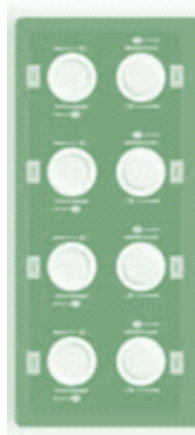


Fasting and feasting are universal human responses, and any meal, shared with love, can be an agape.

— *Elise M. Boulding* —

# Fasting and Feasting

Fast from judging others;  
**Feast on the Christ indwelling them.**  
Fast from hostility;  
**Feast on non-resistance.**  
Fast from bitterness;  
**Feast on forgiveness.**  
Fast from self-concern;  
**Feast on compassion for others.**  
Fast from personal anxiety;  
**Feast on eternal Truth.**  
Fast from discouragement;  
**Feast on hope.**  
Fast from facts that depress;  
**Feast on truths that uplift.**  
Fast from lethargy;  
**Feast on enthusiasm.**  
Fast from suspicion;  
**Feast on truth.**  
Fast from thoughts that weaken;  
**Feast on promises that inspire.**  
Fast from shadows of sorrow;  
**Feast on the sunlight of serenity.**  
Fast from idle gossip;  
**Feast on purposeful silence.**



Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
**Feast on prayer that undergirds.**  
Fast from emphasis on differences;  
**Feast on the unity of all life.**  
Fast from apparent darkness;  
**Feast on the reality of light.**  
Fast from thoughts of illness;  
**Feast on the healing power of God.**  
Fast from words that pollute;  
**Feast on phrases that purify.**  
Fast from discontent;  
**Feast on gratitude.**  
Fast from anger;  
**Feast on patience.**  
Fast from pessimism;  
**Feast on optimism.**  
Fast from worry;  
**Feast on divine order.**  
Fast from complaining;  
**Feast on appreciation.**  
Fast from negatives;  
**Feast on affirmatives.**  
Fast from unrelenting pressures;  
**Feast on unceasing prayer.**



Mission committee co-chair Jane Lamar and Pastor Karen attended the Hometown Heros gala and had the pleasure of sitting with Fay Butcher, the Skyline CAP Family Advisor, who we have worked with on several projects.


While we did not “win” the Community Service Award (“it’s an honor just to be nominated”), we are very happy that Judy Willis’s niece and husband, Drew and Laura Eames, won for their exceptional work on behalf of Madison youth for safe, equipped, and organized extra-curricular sports ball opportunities. MESA won for Organization of the Year, and the Environmental Stewardship Award went to Rapidan River Ranch. It is good to know our hometown is just chock full of people who do amazing things.



# THE SEASON OF LENT

**2025**










## LENT & HOLY WEEK



### Ash Wednesday

March 05, 2025

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

 <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> March 09, 2025	 <b>Palm Sunday</b> April 13, 2025
 <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> March 16, 2025	 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 17, 2025
 <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> March 23, 2025	 <b>Good Friday</b> April 18, 2025
 <b>Laetere Sunday</b> March 30, 2025	 <b>Holy Saturday</b> April 19, 2025
 <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> April 06, 2025	 <b>Easter Sunday</b> April 20, 2025

**Ash Wednesday** takes place on Wednesday March 5. We will hold a brief service with the imposition of ashes in the sanctuary at 6:00pm that evening.

**Sunday March 9**, the first Sunday of Lent, we will drape a standing cross in purple, the color of the season.

**Sunday March 23**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, we will host the **Madison Area Lenten Bible Study** beginning at 4:30. If you can bring a crock of soup, or a loaf of bread, butter, or fruit, please let Pastor Karen know.

**Palm Sunday** April 15, please bring blooming branches from home to celebrate the waving branches of the triumphal entry.

Palm crosses will be handed out. The service will move from the Triumphal entry to the descent into Holy week with nailing our sins to the cross and draping the cross in black.

**Maundy Thursday** will take place on Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning with a light supper and culminating with communion.

**Easter Sunday** will see the black cross drape removed and replaced with white. There will be special music and giveaways for our children. Communion will be served as we rejoice in our risen Lord.



Received on Easter Sunday, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We will collect this offering on Easter Sunday as part of our glorification and honor to the Risen Lord!

# 7 WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION



Our newest Bible Study will begin Thursday, March 6 in the Tack Room from 10:00am to 11:15, and continue meeting for on Thursdays up to Maundy Thursday, April 17.

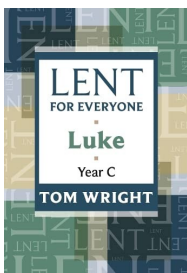
Our curriculum will be in the form of videos, handouts and discussion.

Please let Pastor know if you will be attending so we have a correct count for handouts. If you work and would like an evening or Saturday opportunity, please let the Pastor know and we will make it happen!

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## Lenten Devotional Books for Everyone!

“Lent for everyone: Year C—Luke” by NT Wright will be handed out on Transfiguration Sunday, the first Sunday in March, as Lent begins that week on Wednesday.



“There are many things that Christians from different traditions find difficult to share. But, as Bishop Tom Wright says in his Preface: “Catholics and Protestants, liberals and evangelicals, charismatics and social activists, Christians of all denominations – there is nothing to stop us reading the Bible together, and everything to suggest it would be an exciting idea. It will help make Lent, so often seen as a time of abstinence, a period of rich discovery and growth.”

Nicholas Thomas Wright FRSE, known as N. T. Wright or Tom Wright, is an English New Testament scholar, Pauline theologian and Anglican bishop. He was the bishop of Durham from 2003 to 2010.

The books you receive will have different colors as we have bought as many as possible second hand. The content is the same and the ‘used’ books look brand new.

We will deliver the books to shut-ins. If you are not shut in, but are loosing your mind with family, work, and other obligations, we are also happy to deliver one to your front door. Hollar!

The word "WORSHIP" is written in a stylized, colorful font. The letters are in shades of blue, green, and yellow, with musical notes and sound waves integrated into the design.

## **Worship Committee Update – February 17, 2025**

The Worship Committee met on February 17, 2025,

and we're excited to share some new initiatives and events that are coming soon to our church family!

### **Heifer Project: A New Mission Opportunity**

We're thrilled to announce that we will be kicking off the **Heifer Project** this fall, with the goal of providing livestock and training to help families around the world become self-sufficient. This project will begin the first week of school and will involve our Sunday School children and Congregation. We want the kids to have a hands-on role in choosing which animals to "purchase" for the families. The Sunday School teachers will also be invited to participate, working with the kids on craft projects, posters, and more to support this mission. We hope to see the whole congregation get involved, whether it's through donations or by offering encouragement to our kids as they work on purchasing their chosen animals.

### **Lenten Services and Traditions**

As we enter into the season of Lent, we're looking forward to our special services. **Ash Wednesday** will be observed at **6:00 PM** on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Our **Maundy Thursday** observance will also be held April 17<sup>th</sup> at **6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall, and we invite you to join us for these meaningful moments of reflection and remembrance.

During Lent, we'll be placing a **cross** in the sanctuary, draped in purple. On Passion Sunday there will be an opportunity for those who wish to participate in a symbolic gesture of repentance and renewal by 'nailing' a written prayer or thought (a personal sin or a prayer for healing) to the cross. On **Easter Sunday**, the cloth will be changed to white, symbolizing the resurrection and the new life we receive in Christ. During our **Easter Sunday** service, we will celebrate **Communion**.

### **Palm Sunday with a Personal Touch**

This year for **Palm Sunday**, we're inviting the congregation to bring in branches, flowers, or any flowering items from your gardens to wave during the service. In the past, we've ordered palm branches, but we feel that this new tradition will be more like the crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem and will add a more personal and meaningful touch to the celebration. Extra branches will be available in the Narthex just in case you don't have any appropriate greenery in your yard. We can't wait to see what beautiful greenery and flowers will be brought in as we wave them together in praise.

### **Community Egg Roll Outreach**

Bon Beatty is working to organize a **community egg roll** as an outreach project for the season. Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved in this wonderful opportunity to connect with our neighbors.

### **Elders Serving Communion: Training for a Smoother Experience**

We also discussed the importance of ensuring that **Elders serving Communion** can offer a smooth and reverent experience for our congregation. To improve the flow of this sacred moment, we will be conducting a **training session** for those serving communion. This session will help Elders feel more comfortable and confident, ensuring that our Communion time is seamless, meaningful, and worshipful for all. Timing to be determined.

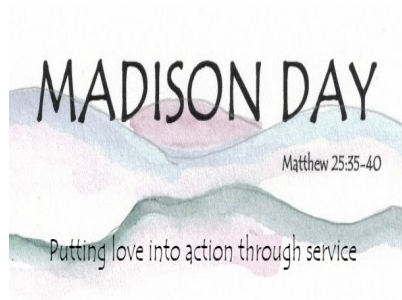
### **Contemporary Music in Worship**

Looking ahead, we are exploring the addition of **contemporary music** to our worship services. This will not replace our beloved hymns, but instead, we hope to enhance our musical experience by incorporating new genres and styles that reflect the diversity of our congregation. We'll be meeting with various people in the coming months to see how this can be integrated in a way that complements our traditional worship. Elizabeth Anne suggested starting out this summer when choir is on hiatus.

We're excited for all that's ahead, and we look forward to seeing you at these upcoming services and events. Let's continue to grow together in faith and community as we move through this season of Lent and beyond.

Blessings,

The Worship Committee



**Madison Day 2025 is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd!**

Madison Day 2024 was an amazing success with around 275 volunteers working on 18 homes/job sites in Madison County! We also can't forget the huge crew from Woodberry Forest School (all 300 of them!!) who worked on another three job sites! (Woodberry will join us again this year!)

The main goal of Madison Day has been the same since 2019 - to share God's love while helping our Madison neighbors by working on projects in the county, doing small home repairs, yard work, etc. We are praying for homes to work on in the community. If you know of anyone that needs work done on their home, please let us know. Our criteria is "warmer, dryer, safer" and the home must be owned by the resident. Any questions, please contact me at the contact info in this email.

We hope you'll join us again this year! Also, if your place of business, group, organization or church would like to form a team for Madison Day, please do! Some teams have even had their own team t-shirts the last few years! If you aren't able to help out on May 3rd, there are other ways in which you can help - there are always "before the Big Day" things to do, you can donate to help make Madison Day a success, and/or you can pray for our team organizing the event, the volunteers, the homeowners and for good weather!

**Each volunteer is required to fill out a Madison Day Registration Form** prior to the event. There is a link to the form in this email which can be filled out and sent to the Beth Car Baptist Church address below or emailed to us at [madisondayinfo@gmail.com](mailto:madisondayinfo@gmail.com). You can also register at our website [www.madisondayva.com](http://www.madisondayva.com) (see link below).

**Madison Day KIDS registration forms** can also be found on our website and below but they will need to be **mailed** to us. Madison Day KIDS offers special projects and activities for children so the entire family can put love into action on May 3rd! Children ages 4-11 will have the opportunity to be part of Madison Day 2025. Ages 12 and up can volunteer on job sites or at fire house.

**All registration forms are due by March 31st.** Turning in your forms by this date makes it easier for us to plan and place volunteers with job sites.

Donations are also needed to make this event possible! They can be sent to Beth Car Baptist Church at 411 Mud Road, Madison 22727 (note Madison Day on the memo line). Donations can also be made through our website.

Madison Day has received tremendous support from the community over the years and for that we are so grateful! Let's show Madison once again the love we have for each other and how very much God loves them!

Please contact me at 540-672-8757 or you can reply to this email for more information.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on May 3rd! It will be here before we know it (along with warm weather!).

Karen Coppage  
Madison Day Chairperson

*We serve God when we love our neighbors.*

Matthew 22:37-39

Mark 12:29-31

Luke 10:26-28

## Fearless Generosity

This is the 2025 Stewardship Theme.

*Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

*Proverbs 22:9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*



**Our congregation is pretty good at Fearless Generosity.**

-The Stewardship Committee

Hello,

Time for an update on the church grounds.

The recent ice storm left many white pine branches down. We will clean these up in March, to take advantage of the Madison County Transfer station offer to waive fees for brush.



The John Deere ride on Mower is or will be given the annual spring tune up across the street at Jones Auto Parts. They will pick up and return at no charge. Their fee is competitive with Culpeper Kubota and Piedmont Power.

Bartlett Tree representative Andrew Hoffman met me to assess the health of the Pin

Oak in the center circle in front of the church this week. It has been treated for the past two years for Bacterial Leaf Scorch, a disease spread by insects. There are a few dead branches, which they will remove at no charge when there is a crew with spare time in our area. They will perform a soil sample and then add the appropriate fertilizer later in the spring to help the tree combat the disease. I had the soil sample of the front grassy area done last fall.

Please contact me with questions,  
Heidi Sage



The grounds team invites you to help clean up the white pine branches on two Saturdays in **March - the 8th and the 15th, both beginning at 9:00 am.** I don't expect the work will be accomplished in one short morning.

Please bring saws, loppers, pick ups and trailers.  
I am looking forward to favorable weather both days,

Thank you,  
Heidi Sage



## 5 Cents a Meal

**Greetings from PHP! We begin this new year grateful for partnerships around the world and recent successes. In 2024...**

- Young entrepreneurs in Armenia participated in business training, increasing their opportunities to assist with their families' livelihoods.
- Guaraní people in Bolivia learned about climate-smart production, and now with greater access to water for irrigation and crop management, they have fresh food for their families.
- Congregation Based Community Organizing groups continued to lift the voices of communities in the U.S. to make affordable housing a reality.
- Women and young adults in Madagascar participated in vocational training. With access to a tool library, they can put into practice the quality sewing skills they have learned.

**Thank you for the support you gave in 2024, helping to make good news like this – and much more – possible.**

**We also look forward to working with some new partners in 2025!**

- *'Āina Momona* is working on the Moloka'i Island in Hawai'i to help regenerate agricultural and aquacultural practices so that communities can meet their nutritional needs without depleting the land. This is one of several partnerships being cooperatively supported by the three PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing programs.
- *Change Today, Change tomorrow* is working in Louisville to improve access to quality food options, improve mental and physical health outcomes, and reduce carbon emissions.

**Needs around the world are still great, but the mission of alleviating hunger and eliminating the causes of poverty continues – from Alaska to Zimbabwe! Seeking God's blessing and thankful for so many people who share in this work, we look forward to 2025. Peace be with you.**

**Counters March—May 2025**

<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
Heidi Sage	Dana Edelman	Nick Humphrey
Allan McLearn	Art Pearson	Joyce Humphrey

**The Card Group** makes greeting cards for nursing home residents and church members that are home bound, and for other occasions. They meet Fridays (March 7th, 14th, and 28th) in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. All are welcome to join!

**Choir Practice** meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please contact Elizabeth Anne Storey with any questions.

**Breakfast Buzz** meets at 9am on the third Friday of the month (March 21st), in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Bobbie Carroll with any questions.

**Presbyterian Women** meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday (March 12th), at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

**Men's Group** meets each Tuesday at 9am in the Tack Room. All men are welcome!

**Book Club** meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11am in the Tack Room. Please join us.

**March Communion Servers**

Berta Storey	Mary King
Audrey Sarate	Dana Edelman
Frank King	



On Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, **the cups contain only Juice.**

**March Liturgists and Greeters**

Mar 2	Mary King	Harvey & Corrine Stanley
Mar 9	Dana Edelman	Tom & Holly Thomas
Mar 16	Ann Tidball	John & Jill Quinley
Mar 23	Nancy Preston	Gavin & Becca Helme
Mar 30	George Carroll	Malcolm Davis & Audrey Sarate

**Flowers March 2025**

03/02	Communion	03/23	Available
03/09	George & Bobbie Carroll	03/30	Available
03/16	Sam and Sue Strahan		

**Social Services Needs for Families**

**Needs of the Month: MARCH  
"Foods" of the Month for Families**



Canned vegetables and fruit, soup, rice, dried beans, hot and cold cereals, packages of macaroni and cheese, crackers.

**Please place your donations in the red container in the Fellowship Hall.  
Items will be taken to Madison Social Services to help neighbors in need.**

**March Birthdays**

03/04	Bill Pattie
03/06	Heidi Rees
03/07	Allan McLearn
03/09	Sharon Weakley
03/16	Sue Strahan
03/17	Bettie Berry
03/21	Rachel Strahan
03/22	Joyce Humphrey
03/25	Cindy Pattie
03/26	Kim Peterson
03/27	Gina Hileman
03/30	Greg Kopp

**March Anniversaries**

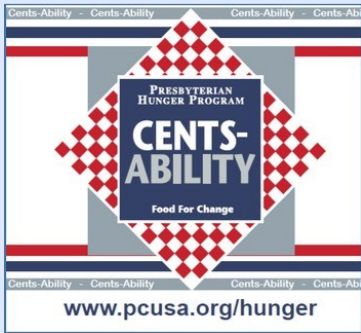
03/01	Tom and Holly Thomas
03/07	George and Bobbie Carroll
03/26	Nick and Joyce Humphrey
03/29	Jose and Valerie Cruz

**Breakfast Buzzzzzzzz**

**Friday March 21st 9AM**  
 Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and a speaker!



The First Sunday of each month we collect a special offering for **5¢ a Meal**. Please consider contributing to this worthy cause in the effort to end hunger.



**Brown Bag Book Study**

We will meet Wednesday, March 5th and 19th at 11am in the Tack Room. Our book study is "Gratitude" by Oliver Sacks. Contact Bobbie Carroll if you have any questions. 540-948-9922. All are Welcome.


**Men's Group**

Meets each Tuesday at 9:00am in the Tack Room. Bring your breakfast and enjoy some coffee and conversation. **All men are welcome!**

**Have something you would like to contribute to the Monthly Newsletter?**

Send your articles, pictures, or information to the church office at:  
[office@madisonpresbyterian.com](mailto:office@madisonpresbyterian.com)

**Deadline for APRIL is**  
 **March 24th**

	Madison Presbyterian Church	Pastor: Karen Allamon Church
	PO Box 297, 1236 Fishback Road	<a href="mailto:pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com">pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com</a>
	Madison, VA 22727	Administrator: Donna Kulesza
	540.948.6972	<a href="mailto:office@madisonpresbyterian.com">office@madisonpresbyterian.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.madisonpresbyterian.com">www.madisonpresbyterian.com</a>	Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00am – 1:00pm

## Pastor Karen Contact Information



**My cell** is 540-414-3193 Saturday through Thursday 9am-7pm.

**My Sabbath** is Friday. Emergencies only on Fridays, please.



**EMERGENCIES** call any time. PLEASE call or text directly if you or your loved one goes to the hospital, as soon as possible. Do not assume I know.



**In the Office** M, W, Th from 9 to Noon AND when you want to see me.

I am HAPPY to make afternoon, evening, or weekend appointments. My time will flex to accommodate you.

If you want to drop by to see me instead of making an appointment, I will always be glad to see you. Just know you may have to wait if someone else has scheduled time.



## MPC Office Hours

**Donna** is in the Office Mon-Thurs 8:00am-1:00pm. Please stop by, leave a message on the phone or send an email if there's anything we can help with. If you have changes to your Address, Phone, or Email please send updated information to [office@madisonpresbyterian.com](mailto:office@madisonpresbyterian.com).



*2025 Flower Calendar  
Is posted in the Narthex.*

*Send flower dedications for the  
bulletin by Tuesday each week to  
[office@madisonpresbyterian.com](mailto:office@madisonpresbyterian.com)  
or call the office at (540)948-6972.*



## Madison Presbyterian Church

**PIN: 22871 Presbytery: James ([150298](#)) Synod: Mid-Atlantic ([150](#))**

# March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 10am Communion AA 5:30pm	3	4 Men's Group 9:00am	5 Book Study 11:00am Ash Wednesday 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	6 Bible Study 10:00am Madison Womans Club 11am-6pm	7 Madison Womans Club 8am-1pm Card Group 10am	8 Grounds Clean-up 9am
9 Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	10 Quilt Guild 1:00pm	11 Men's Group 9:00am Session 6:30pm	12 Pres Women 10:00am Choir Practice 7:00pm	13 Bible Study 10:00am Garden Club 10am-2pm	14 Card Group 10:00am	15 HFA Packing 8am-2pm  Grounds Clean-up 9am
16 Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	17 Worship Team 10:00am  	18 Men's Group 9:00am	19 Book Study 11am Womans Club 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	20 Bible Study 10:00am Garden Club 11am-5pm	21 Breakfast Buzz 9:00am	22 Quilt Guild 9am-3pm
23 Worship 10am Madison Area Lenten Bible Study 4:30pm AA 5:30pm	24 Quilt Guild 6:30pm	25 Men's Group 9:00am	26 Choir Practice 7:00pm	27 Bible Study 10:00am	28 Card Group 10:00am	29 HFA Packing 8am-2pm
30 Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	31					

**Sunday, March 2 Transfiguration of the Lord** Exodus 34:29–35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]

**Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday** Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

**Sunday, March 9 First Sunday in Lent** Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13

**Sunday, March 16 Second Sunday in Lent** Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36

**Sunday, March 23 Third Sunday in Lent** Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm 63:1–8 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 Luke 13:1–9

**Sunday, March 30 Fourth Sunday in Lent** Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32