

# Journey *through* Lent

*Teaching the Liturgical Year*  
Part I

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LESSONS *for* LENT 2020

# Journey *through* Lent

*Teaching the Liturgical Year*

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**Lessons for  
Upper and Middle  
Elementary**



# Journey through Lent

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### Upper Elementary

#### Materials

- ▶ Handout A: Gospel Reading for February 26, 2020
- ▶ Handout B: Journey through Lent

#### Learning Goals

In the Gospel passage for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, Jesus teaches His disciples, and us, about the how we should give alms, pray, and fast. These three practices have traditionally formed the pillars of Catholic Lenten practice. In this lesson, students will learn about the season of Lent and consider these three pillars of Lenten practice.

#### Gospel Reflection

- Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
- Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.

#### Activity

Have students complete the **Handout B: Journey Through Lent** activity. Then discuss the answers when finished.

# Gospel Reading for February 26, 2020

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## A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18:

### The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus said to his disciples: “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see

them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

1. What did Jesus warn about when doing righteous deeds?

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2. Who will see our good deeds and almsgiving in secret?

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3. What did Jesus warn about when praying?

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4. Who will see when we pray in secret?

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*Christ Tempted by the Devil*, by John Penniman

5. What did Jesus warn about when fasting?

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6. Who will know when we fast?

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# Journey through Lent

**Directions:** Read the essay about Lent and then answer the focus and reflection questions.

For Catholics, **Ash Wednesday** is the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. We receive ashes on our foreheads as the words “Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return” are spoken. This humble act recalls the creation of Adam from the dust of the ground. And it symbolizes our need for ongoing repentance throughout our lives. Our journey through Lent begins with this focus on our need for God’s mercy.

**Lent** is a forty-day time period that leads up to the Church’s memorial of Christ’s Passion and Death during **Holy Week** and the celebration of His Resurrection from the dead on **Easter Sunday**. This time period reflects the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before the beginning of His public ministry. There, Jesus fasted, prayed, and endured temptation to strengthen Himself for the work of salvation He was about to undertake. Likewise, during Lent, we are asked to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of salvation from sin by repenting from our sins, doing good works, and by renewing our commitment to our Faith in Christ. Lent is also the time in which people who have been preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion in order to enter full communion with the Catholic Church begin their final preparations. They will be welcomed into the Body of Christ and receive their Sacraments at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

There are a number of ways that the Church offers us to enter more deeply into Lent. In



*St. Lawrence Distributing Alms,*  
by Bl. Fra Angelico.

the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, Jesus teaches His disciples about almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. These three practices are the pillars of our Lenten journey.

## Almsgiving

**Almsgiving** is giving food or money (alms) to the poor. More broadly speaking, almsgiving means to care for the needs of others, especially those who are in the most need, such as the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the outcast. In the Gospel of Matthew we read about Jesus teaching His disciples the Corporal

Works of Mercy (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, visit the sick, and bury the dead). He also taught that whenever we perform these good works, we are not just loving our neighbor, but we are loving Christ himself. The Works of Mercy should be a guide for our own actions to care for the needs of others, not only (and especially) during Lent, but throughout the year.

## Prayer

**Prayer** is to be in relationship with God. Prayer is talking with God, asking good things of Him for ourselves and for others, being in His presence, and listening to Him talk to us. There are many different ways to pray: formal prayers such as the Our Father or the Hail Mary; in our own words; reflecting on the words of Scripture or the writings of the saints; in and through the liturgies of the Church; in contemplation of the beauty of creation and the works of God; or in silence. Whatever the method of prayer, Lent is a time for us to focus on our relationship with God in an intentional way so that we can grow closer to Him.

## Fasting

**Fasting** is to intentionally give something up or deny ourselves something as a sacrificial offering. Fasting helps to strengthen our will so that we are better able to say no to temptations and avoid sin. Traditionally, many Catholics will

give up something during the entire season of Lent such as candy, soda, or watching TV. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (if they are healthy and able) are required to fast from food on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. When fasting, Catholics are permitted to eat one full meal and two small meals that together are not equal to a full meal, and should avoid snacking between meals. Also, Catholics 14 years-old and older are required not to eat meat (**abstain**) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and every Friday during Lent.

Some other Lenten practices include not saying the word Alleluia during Mass. Alleluia means “praise the Lord” and is typically sung as an acclamation before the Gospel reading during Mass. We respectfully reserve the use of this word during Lent so that we can use it again during Easter to joyfully acclaim Christ’s Resurrection. The singing of the Gloria during Mass is similarly reserved during Lent for much the same reason.

The liturgical color of Lent is purple, or violet. Purple is a color that represents penance. It serves as a reminder of the solemnness of the season and our focus on fasting and repentance from sin. It reminds us of our call to do acts of penance to make up for our sinfulness. The Church strongly encourages the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, and to extend forgiveness to those who have hurt us.

1. What is Ash Wednesday? What do we receive on this day and what is its meaning?

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2. What is Lent?

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3. How does Lent reflect Jesus' time in the wilderness before the beginning of His public ministry?  
What does this mean for us?

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4. For whom is Lent a special time of preparation?

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5. What does it mean to give alms?

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6. What is prayer?

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7. What is fasting? What are the rules of fasting during Lent?

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8. Why don't we sing or say the Alleluia during Lent?

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9. What is the liturgical color of Lent? Why?

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10. What does the Church strongly encourage the faithful to do during Lent?

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**Reflection Question**

Choose one of the three pillars of Lenten practice (almsgiving, prayer, and fasting) and write about at least two ways that you can focus on doing it in your own life during this Lent.

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# Answer Key

## Handout A: Gospel Reading for February 26, 2020

1. Not doing righteous deeds so that people can see them.
2. God our Father, who will repay us.
3. Praying like the hypocrites so that others can see you.
4. God our Father, who will repay us.
5. Looking gloomy, like the hypocrites, so that others know we are fasting.
6. God our Father, who will repay us.

## Handout B: Journey Through Lent

1. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. We receive ashes on our foreheads which symbolize the creation of Adam and our need for repentance and God's mercy.
2. Lent is the forty-day time period that leads up to the Church's memorial of Christ's Passion and Death during Holy Week and the celebration of His Resurrection on Easter.
3. During Jesus' time in the wilderness He fasted, prayed, and endured temptation to strengthen Himself for the work of salvation. For us during Lent, we are asked to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of salvation by repenting from sin, doing good works, and renewing our commitment to our faith in Christ.
4. Those who will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion for the first time and be welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church.
5. To care for the needs of others, especially those who are in most need, such as the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the outcast.
6. Being in relationship with God, talking with God, asking good things of Him, being in His presence, and listening to Him.
7. Intentionally giving something up or denying ourselves as a sacrifice to help strengthen our will so that we are better able to resist temptation and avoid sin. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (if they are healthy and able) are required to fast from food on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. When fasting, Catholics are permitted to eat one full meal and two small meals that together are not equal to a full meal, and should avoid snacking between meals. Also, Catholics 14 years-old and older are required to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and every Friday during Lent.
8. To reserve its use for Easter to joyfully acclaim Christ's Resurrection.
9. Purple, or violet.
10. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Reflection Question:** Accept reasoned answers.



# Journey through Lent

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Upper and Middle Elementary

#### Materials

- › Handout A: Gospel Reading for March 1, 2020
- › Handout B: Examen Journal
- › Teacher Resource: Examen Journal Template

#### Learning Goals

In the Gospel for this first Sunday in Lent, Jesus spends forty days in the desert preparing for His public ministry. In many ways, Lent is our time in the desert in which we prepare to receive the salvation Christ won for us on the Cross. In this lesson, students will reflect on their own daily spiritual journey using an examen.

#### Gospel Reflection

- Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
- Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.

#### Activity

Go over the **Handout B: Examen Journal** explanation with your students. Then, lead them in the examen journal exercise. You may have your students write in their own journals, or photocopy the **Teacher Resource: Examen Journal Template** for your students to use. Consider beginning religion class every day during Lent (or every other day, or once a week) with a few minutes of reflection using the **Examen Journal** as a guide.

# Gospel Reading for March 1, 2020

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## A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 4:1–11: The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.” He said in reply, “It is written: ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning

you’ and ‘with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.’” Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.” At this, Jesus said to him, “Get away, Satan! It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

1. Why did Jesus go in to the desert? What did He do there?

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2. In the first temptation, how did the devil tempt Jesus? How did Jesus respond to this temptation?

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3. In the second temptation, how did the devil tempt Jesus? How did Jesus respond to this temptation?

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4. In the third temptation, how did the devil tempt Jesus? How did Jesus respond to this temptation?

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5. What happened after the devil left Jesus?

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# Examen Journal

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The Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent tells us of the forty days Jesus spent in the desert before beginning His public ministry. During this time Jesus fasted, prayed to His Father, and resisted the temptations of Satan. Even Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, took time to reflect and to pray in order to better prepare Himself to do the will of His Father.

In part, Lent is a time for us to imitate Christ's forty days in the desert. Lent is a time for us to fast, to pray, and strengthen ourselves to resist temptation and avoid sin. One great way of reflecting on our lives during Lent is to reflect each day using a method of prayer and reflection called the examen. This style of prayerful reflection on our lives, being aware of God's presence, and recognizing how we have loved God and others and how we have failed to do so was first developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit religious order. It is simple and can be done quickly, but always invites us to be more prayerful, reflective, and aware of God's will in our lives.

Every day during Lent (or as often as your class chooses to do it) use the following examen questions to reflect and to pray.



*St. Ignatius of Loyola,*  
by Peter Paul Rubens

## 1 Begin with prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you and praise you for this day and for all the blessings that you have given to us. Help us to prayerfully reflect on all the ways we have loved you and others and all the ways that we have failed to do so. Please continue to bless us today and every day. Show us your way in all we do. Amen.

## 2 Examen reflection

Take a moment to remember and reflect upon the fact that you are always in the presence of God. He is with us every day, in everything we do, and in everyone we meet. Quietly thank Him for His love for you.

Think back over the last 24 hours (or however long it has been since your last examen reflection). Then, reflect upon and journal about the following:

- › What are you most thankful for during this time?
- › How have you loved God during this time?
- › How have you loved others during this time?
- › How have you failed to love God during this time? What is one thing you can do to make up for this?
- › How have you failed to love others during this time? What is one thing you can do to make up for this?

**3**

### **Think ahead to tomorrow**

Think ahead to the next day. Then, reflect upon and journal about the following:

- › What do you most need God's help with in the next day?
- › Who would you like to pray for?

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### **Conclude with prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for your goodness. Thank you for the gift of life and for your mercy and love. Help us today and every day to love you and to love one another according to your will. Amen.

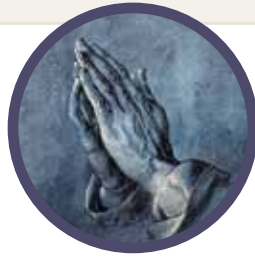


# Answer Key

## Handout A: Gospel Reading for March 1, 2020

1. He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights.
2. The devil told Him if He is the Son of God, turn stones into bread. Jesus answered “One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.”
3. The devil took Jesus to a holy city and made Him stand on a parapet (a high point) and tempted Him to throw Himself down and command His angels to save Him. Jesus responded by saying “You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.”
4. The devil took Jesus to a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil told Jesus that he would give them all to Him if He bowed and worshipped him. Jesus responded by saying “The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.”
5. Angels came and ministered to Him.





# Journey through Lent

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### Upper and Middle Elementary

#### Materials

- ▶ Handout A: Gospel Reading for March 8, 2020
- ▶ Handout B: Jesus' Divinity and Humanity
- ▶ Handout C: God and Man

#### Learning Goals

In the Gospel for the second Sunday of Lent, Jesus is revealed in His full glory as God at the Transfiguration. During Lent, we reflect in a special way on the full humanity and full divinity of Christ and how our God fully knows our human condition. In this lesson, students will analyze sacred art to help them contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation.

#### Gospel Reflection

- Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
- Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.

#### Activity

Arrange students into small groups and have them read the essay on **Handout B: Jesus' Divinity and Humanity**, and then reflect on the paintings together using the discussion questions. You may alternately choose to read the essay and reflect on the paintings together as a class. Then, have them create their own drawing of Jesus that shows that He is both God and man using **Handout C: God and Man**.

# Gospel Reading for March 8, 2020

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## A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

### 17:1–9: The Transfiguration of Jesus

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, “Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”



*Transfiguration, by Rafael*

1. Who did Jesus bring up the mountain with Him to pray?

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2. What happened to Jesus while He was praying?

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3. Who appeared with the transfigured Jesus and conversed with Him?

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4. What did Peter suggest He do?

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5. What did the voice of God say?

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6. What did Jesus ask the Apostles to do?

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# Jesus' Divinity and Humanity

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## Part I: Essay

**Directions:** Read the essay about Jesus' humanity and divinity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus is revealed in all of His glory as God. His divinity shines through, literally, as a blinding light. And yet, Jesus is still Jesus. His humanity doesn't go away. His divinity, the glory of God, whom He is fully, is made known in and through His humanity. This is part of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Son of God assuming a human nature and becoming man in the Person of Jesus Christ. How is it that Jesus is both 100% fully God and 100% fully human?

Rather than being a mystery for us to solve, the mystery of the Incarnation is a great truth that only God can make known to us. The dual nature of Christ is a profoundly beautiful reality that invites us to contemplate how great God's love is for us – that the all-powerful God of the universe would humble Himself and become

one of His creatures, a human being, in order to show us His love, be our model of holiness, and save us from sin.

During Lent, we are reminded of both the humanity and divinity of Jesus. Soon, we will memorialize Jesus' Passion and Death on the Cross. In His humanity, Jesus suffered greatly, and poured out His life for us on the Cross. But He did not stop being God in those moments of suffering. That means that our God deeply and personally knows what it is like to be one of us, even in our greatest moments of suffering. And then, on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. Our God defeated death and conquered sin!

Let us reflect on these great truths of our Faith all throughout this Lenten season.

## Part II: Sacred Art Reflection

**Directions:** Using the questions provided, reflect on the humanity and divinity of Jesus using the two paintings by Carl Bloch.

1. Take a moment to observe the first painting, *The Sermon on the Mount*. What first stands out to you about this painting?
2. In the Gospels, the Sermon on the Mount is the greatest example of Jesus teaching His disciples. How does this painting show us Jesus teaching?
3. How would you describe the people in the crowd and how they are relating to Jesus?
4. In what way does this painting emphasize Jesus' humanity? What evidence of his divinity is present in the painting?

**Sermon on the Mount**



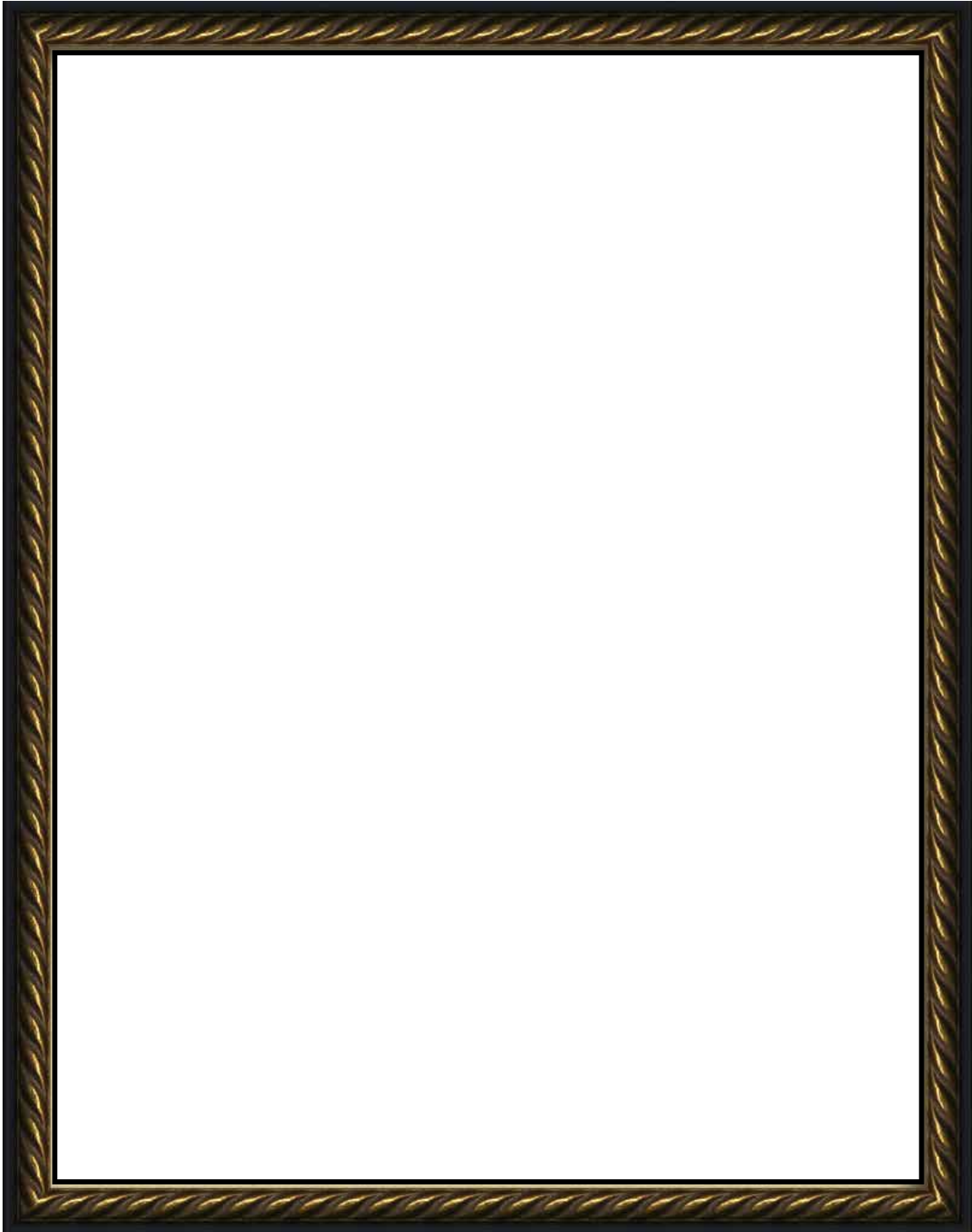
**Transfiguration**



5. Take a moment to observe the second painting, *Transfiguration*. What do you first notice about this painting?
6. How is this week's Gospel illustrated by this painting?
7. In what ways does this painting emphasize Jesus' divinity? What evidence of His humanity is present in the painting?
8. How is this painting similar to *The Sermon on the Mount* painting? How are they different?
9. Why do you think it is important that Jesus was Transfigured?

# God and Man

**Directions:** In the frame below, draw your own picture of Jesus that shows that He is both fully God and fully human.



# Answer Key

## Handout A: Gospel Reading for March 8, 2020

1. Peter, John, and James.
2. He was Transfigured so that His face shone like the sun and His clothing became white as light.
3. Moses and Elijah appeared and conversed with Jesus.
4. Peter suggested he build three tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.
5. “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”
6. Jesus asked the Apostles to not tell anyone what had happened until after He had been raised from the dead.



# Journey through Lent

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### Upper and Middle Elementary

#### Materials

- ▶ Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday March 15, 2020
- ▶ Handout B: Jesus' Example

#### Learning Goals

In the Gospel for the third Sunday of Lent, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman and invites her to know the Good News. Jesus' example in this Gospel gives us a model to follow in our own work of evangelization. In this lesson, students will analyze Jesus' example and create a model of evangelization.

#### Gospel Reflection

- Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
- Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.

#### Activity

- Arrange students into small groups and have them complete the **Jesus' Example** activity. Students will consider the steps in the process of evangelization using Jesus' own example.
- Call on groups to share their insights when finished.



# Gospel Reading for Sunday, March 15, 2020

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**Directions:** Read the Gospel passage. Then answer the questions.

## A Reading from the Gospel of John 4:5-42: The Samaritan Woman

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." [The woman] said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the well is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The

woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months

the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because

of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

1. Whom did Jesus meet at the well? What did He ask her to do? What did He tell her He would give her and what would it do?

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2. What sin did Jesus know the Samaritan woman had committed?

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3. What does Jesus teach the Samaritan woman about worshipping the Father?

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4. Who did Jesus tell the Samaritan woman that He was?

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5. Where did the Samaritan woman go after her conversation with Jesus? What did she do?

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6. Why did the townspeople believe in the end?

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# Jesus' Example

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**Directions:** Read about what the Church teaches about Evangelization and then complete the chart.

The Church “exists in order to evangelize” (Evangeli Nuntiandi, 14). With this simple statement, the Church summarizes the purpose of everything she does: to evangelize. The work of evangelization is essential to the Church’s identity and her true calling from God.

Evangelization is “the carrying forth of the Good News to every sector of the human race so that by its strength it may enter into the hearts of men and renew the human race” (EN, 18). The Good News is the Gospel message; that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, that He was buried, that He rose from the dead on the third day, and that by His Cross and Resurrection

we are saved from sin and death, and our friendship with God is restored.

The Gospel message isn’t just Good News, it’s the best news! And the message of salvation has the power to transform and renew the entire world.

How do we evangelize? Jesus models for us how to share the Good News and invite others to know Him as our Savior. One of the most powerful examples of this is from this week’s Gospel, John 4:5-42. Here we can identify a number of steps that Jesus takes in sharing the Good News, showing us a process for evangelization. We can follow Jesus’ example and evangelize as He evangelized.

Re-read the given Scripture passages from this week’s Gospel and complete the chart.

<b>John 4:5-42 – The Samaritan Woman</b>	<b>Jesus’ Example</b> <i>(Describe/summarize what happened in each section?)</i>	<b>How Can We Follow Jesus’ Example?</b>
v. 6-7		
v. 9-14		

<b>John 4:5-42 – The Samaritan Woman</b>	<b>Jesus' Example</b> ( <i>Describe/summarize what happened in each section?</i> )	<b>How Can We Follow Jesus' Example?</b>
v. 21-24		
v. 19, 25-26		
v. 15, 40		
v. 28-30, 39, 41-42		

# Answer Key

## Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday March 15, 2020

1. Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well. He asked her for a drink of water. He told her that He would give living water, which everyone who drinks of will never thirst again and will lead to eternal life.
2. She had five husbands.
3. True worship is in Spirit and Truth.
4. The Messiah, the Christ who will tell us everything.
5. She went into town and told everyone about Jesus. She brought the people back to Jesus and they began to believe.
6. Because they had heard for themselves and knew that Jesus was truly the Savior of the world.

## Handout B: Jesus' Example

<b>John 4:5-42 – The Samaritan Woman</b>	<b>Jesus' Example</b> ( <i>Describe/summarize what happened in each section?</i> )	<b>How Can We Follow Jesus' Example?</b>
v. 6-7	Jesus begins the conversation/ Jesus meets us where we are	Allow our own faith in Jesus to speak first for itself/Meet people where they are in their experience of Jesus.
v. 9-14	Jesus engages the Samaritan woman in a conversation/He tests her faith by challenging what she thinks she knows	Engage people in conversation. Walk with them and learn about them and what they know and believe. Challenge them to think about their own thinking.
v. 21-24	Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman	Teach about our faith and proclaim the Good News (Notice this doesn't come first! First we meet people where they are and journey with them, then, when a relationship is established, we can officially teach the Gospel.)

<b>John 4:5-42 – The Samaritan Woman</b>	<b>Jesus' Example</b> ( <i>Describe/summarize what happened in each section?</i> )	<b>How Can We Follow Jesus' Example?</b>
v. 19, 25-26	The Samaritan woman confesses her belief in Jesus/Jesus is revealed	Help others confess their belief in Jesus. Bring people to the Sacraments where Jesus is revealed.
v. 15, 40	The Samaritan woman and the people want more and invite Jesus to stay	Help others desire more of Jesus and the Catholic faith.
v. 28-30, 39, 41-42	The Samaritan woman tells others of her experience/she is deeply moved to share the Good News with others	Help to share the Good News of Jesus and salvation with others. A true faith will necessarily bring about a desire to share it.



# Journey through Lent

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Upper and Middle Elementary

#### Materials

- › Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday March 22, 2020
- › Handout B: Persecution

#### Learning Goals

In the Gospel for this fourth week of Lent, Jesus gives sight to a man who had been born blind. Despite this great gift from Jesus, the man experiences ridicule and persecution from the people he knows. In this lesson, students will contemplate the role of suffering and persecution in Christian life.

#### Gospel Reflection

- Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
- Review and discuss the correct answers when finished

#### Activity

Have your students complete the **Handout B: Persecution** reflection activity. When they are finished, call on students to share some of their responses.

# Gospel Reading for Sunday, March 22, 2020

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**Directions:** Read the Gospel passage. Then answer the questions.

## A Reading from the Gospel of John 9:1-41: The Man Born Blind

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "[So] how were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." [But] others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said

to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him." So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners,



but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.” They answered and said to him, “You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him,

“You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.”

1. What miracle did Jesus work? How did He do it?

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2. What question did Jesus ask about the blind man? How did Jesus answer the question?

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3. How did the blind man’s friends and family react to his healing? How did the Pharisees treat him?

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4. Despite the way he was treated by others, in the end, how did the blind man respond to Jesus?

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5. What did Jesus accuse the Pharisees of at the end of the Gospel story?

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# Persecution

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**Directions:** Read about Jesus' teaching about being persecuted for being Christian and then answer the reflection questions.

Jesus told us many times throughout the Gospels that being His follower would not be easy. Not only is it difficult to be like Jesus and to follow His teachings, but when we do so, others may not understand what we are doing or why we are doing it. They may ridicule us and even persecute us, just like how the blind man was treated in this week's Gospel. Jesus worked a miracle and gave sight to this man who was blind from birth. What a great gift! Imagine how the man's life was changed. And yet, the Pharisees and even the man's friends and family did not understand this change. They questioned him, accused him and Jesus of untruth and wickedness, and ridiculed and scorned the man.

Jesus taught us that the reward for living a Christian life will be greater than any earthly reward: "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven" (Matthew 5: 10-12).

Even though we might suffer in this life for being a Christian, our reward in the next life will be the Kingdom of Heaven itself. There is no greater victory!

1. What are three reasons that it is difficult to live as a Christian in the world today?

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2. What are two ways that the teachings of Jesus, if truly lived, could change the world for the better?

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3. Have you ever experienced ridicule or persecution for your beliefs? What happened? How did you feel? How did you respond? How does knowing that your reward will be in Heaven give you hope in the face of persecution?

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# Answer Key

## Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday March 22, 2020

1. Jesus gave sight to a man who was born blind. He did so by spitting on the ground and making clay with His saliva and spreading it on the blind man's eyes. Then He told him to wash in the pool of Siloam.
2. Whose sin caused him to be blind, his or his parents? (Note: the people of Jesus' time believed that illness and physical deformity were caused directly by one's sins.) Jesus answered the question saying that it was no one's sin that caused his blindness, rather, he was blind so that the works of God could be made visible through him.
3. They were confused and disbelieving, even suggesting that he wasn't the man they knew. The Pharisees questioned him, accused him of untruth and sinfulness, and ridiculed him.
4. He professed his belief and worshipped Him.
5. He accused them of being sinners.

## Handout B: Persecution

*Accept reasoned answers for all questions.*



# Journey through Lent

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Upper and Middle Elementary

#### Materials

- ▶ Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday March 29, 2020

#### Learning Goals

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent brings several key concepts into focus that are especially appropriate for Lent: the reality of sin, the need for forgiveness, and the miracle of the Resurrection. After reading the Gospel, students will reflect on a piece of sacred art to ponder these concepts and then discuss conversation questions.

#### Gospel Reflection / Sacred Art Activity

- A. Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students.
- B. Together, look at the painting *Jesus Wept* by James Tissot and discuss the conversation questions that follow.

# Gospel Reading for Sunday, March 29, 2020

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**Directions:** Read the Gospel passage. Then answer the questions.

## A Reading from the Gospel of John 11:1-45: The Raising of Lazarus

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him, saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” He said this, and then told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.” So the disciples said to him, “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.” But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him.” So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.” When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near



*The Raising of Lazarus,*  
by Sebastiano del Piombo

Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said to him, “I know he will

rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

# *Jesus Wept*

BY JAMES TISSOT (1886–1894)



Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY.



# Jesus Wept



*Jesus Wept*, by James Tissot (1886–1894)

**Directions:** Look at the painting *Jesus Wept* by James Tissot. What moment from the Gospel reading does this painting show us?

1. Jesus says in this Gospel that Lazarus's "illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Last week, we heard Jesus make a similar sounding statement about a man who was blind. Can you recall what Jesus said about the blind man? How do both of these stories show the glory and works of God?
2. What other connections can you make between this week's Gospel and last week's?
3. This painting shows a moment when Jesus was weeping over the death of one of His friends. Why do people die?
4. Another way of looking at this painting is that Jesus is weeping because of sin. Why?
5. What does Jesus do for Lazarus?
6. What does Jesus say to Martha when she thinks Lazarus is still dead?
7. How does this statement of Jesus' apply to our own lives?
8. How does this Gospel relate to our preparation for Easter?
9. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead. In what ways does this Gospel passage teach us about what Jesus will do for us after our own deaths?

# Answer Key

## Handout A: Gospel Reading for Sunday, March 29, 2020

1. Jesus said "it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him" (John 9:7).
2. In both stories, we see Jesus heal those who are suffering. We see the Lord's power to heal, even to restore the dead to life. It is also important to note that both sickness and death are the result of sin--not personal sin (though some sicknesses can be caused by sin), but Original Sin.
3. The Original Sin of Adam and Eve caused humans to experience death. Because of the Original Sin of Adam and Eve, which broke the communion between Heaven and earth, and wounded human nature. We became weak and inclined to sin, and sickness and death entered the world.
4. Because death is the result of sin. Sin can hurt our bodies but more importantly it hurts our souls. Mortal sin separates us from God. We need God's forgiveness in order to be reconciled to Him.
5. He raises him from the dead.
6. He says, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"
7. If we believe in Jesus and follow Him, we too will see the glory of God!
8. Jesus' raising of Lazarus is a sign of His own Resurrection. We see Jesus perform this miracle that shows God's power over death, and we anticipate the coming Easter celebration: Jesus conquered death when He rose from the dead--the most glorious miracle He ever performed.
9. Jesus will raise from the dead those who have believed in and followed Him.