

## Lenten Calendar

This wooden Lenten calendar with forty-seven images is meant as a spiritual exercise to help the participant reflect on the journey of Jesus to his death and resurrection. It starts with Luke 9:51, in which Luke speaks about “the days drawing near for Jesus to be received up.” Jesus accordingly sets his face toward Jerusalem. Readings follow the story according to Luke, referencing episodes and sayings apropos for the situation. They have not been chosen in relation to any lectionary or private devotional resource. The story could conceivably be told from the vantage point of any of the Gospels.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days until Passion Sunday. Seven days later, the Christian church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. There is a reading behind each image along with a sunflower seed or two that represents a symbol of growth and renewal. These readings can be used in a *lecto divina* sense of reflecting daily on a passage of Scripture. There is also a word for the day as well as an image to reflect on.

This calendar can also be used during worship services. I am having a larger calendar built so that it can be used as a display in front of the altar/communion table. Four readings can be read during the Ash Wednesday service, and seven readings each Sunday after that until Passion/Palm Sunday. There are eight readings for the last week because both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are included. Readings for the last week can be reserved for use during the three days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday leading to the Easter vigil, plus one for Resurrection Sunday. As noted above, these readings are not linked directly to the feast days.

## Ash Wednesday

1. *Seed of commitment*: When the days drew near for him to be received up, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem. Luke 9:51
2. *Seed of courage*: No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62
3. *Seed of call*: After this, the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. Luke 10:1
4. *Seed of compassion*: Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed mercy to him.” Luke 10:36-37

## Lent 1

5. *Seed of listening*: Now as they went their way, Jesus entered a village, and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. Luke 10:38-39
6. *Seed of prayer*: He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray." Luke 11:1
7. *Seed of request*: Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened." Luke 11:9
8. *Seed of unity*: "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? But if by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. . . . He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters." Luke 11:19,23.
9. *Seed of nurturing*: A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:27-28.
10. *Seed of light*: No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a bushel, but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. Luke 11:33
11. *Seed of fear*: I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him, who, after he has killed, has power to cast into hell!, yes I tell you, fear him! Luke 12:4-5.

## Lent 2

12. *Seed of poverty*: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, Luke 12:33.
13. *Seed of hospitality*: Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Luke 12:35-36.
14. *Seed of baptism*: I came to cast a fire upon the earth and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished. Luke 12:49.

15. *Seed of patience*: And he answered him,” Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” Luke 13:9.
16. *Seed of expediency*: You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox and his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? Luke 13:15
17. *Seed of protection*: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, Luke 13:34.
18. *Seed of giving*: But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. Luke 14:13-14

### Lent 3

19. *Seed of renunciation*: So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:33
20. *Seed of repentance*: I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Luke 15:7
21. *Seed of loss*: Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, by whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Luke 17:33-34
22. *Seed of martyrdom*: Behold, we are coming up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written of the Son of man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spat upon; they will scourge him and kill him, and on the third day, he will rise.” Luke 18:32-33.
23. *Seed of royalty*: Blessed is the King that comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Luke 19:38
24. *Seed of rejection*: The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner,” Psalm 118:22-23, Luke 20:17
25. *Seed of victory*: The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet.” Psalm 110:1, Luke 20:42-43.

#### Lent 4

26. *Seed of destruction*: As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here on stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” Luke 21:6
27. *Seed of anticipation*: And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27
28. *Seed of communion*: And he said to them,” I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Luke 22:15-16
29. *Seed of the vine*: And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. . . . this cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Luke 22:17-18, 20
30. *Seed of the body*: And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying,” This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me? Luke 22: 19
31. *Seed of temptation*: And when he came to the place, he said to them,” Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” Luke 22:40.
32. *Seed of darkness*: Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness. Luke 22:53.

#### Lent 5

33. *Seed of wrongful conviction*: Pilate released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for, but Jesus he delivered up to their will. Luke 23:25.
34. *Seed of mimesis*: And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. Luke 23:26
35. *Seed of grief and lament*: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Luke 23:29
36. *Seed of death*: And when they came to the place which is called the Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. Luke 23:33

37. *Seed of forgiveness*: And Jesus said, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

38. *Seed of division*: And they cast lots to divide his garments. Luke 23:34b.

39. *Seed of ridicule*: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

#### Passion Week

40. *Seed of entitlement*: One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

41. *Seed of guilt*: The other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not hear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? . . . And he said, “Jesus remember me when you come into my kingdom.” Luke 23:41-42

42. *Seed of Paradise*: Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43.

43. *Seed of committal*: Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father into thy hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. Luke 23:46

#### Maundy Thursday

44. *Seed of innocence*: Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, “Truly this man was innocent!” Luke 23:47

#### Good Friday

45. *Seed of embalming*: Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation and the Sabbath was beginning. Luke 23:53-54.

#### Holy Saturday

46. *Seed of rest*: On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. Luke 23:56.

#### Easter Sunday

47. *Seed of eternal life*: Two men stood by them in dazzling apparel: “Why do you see the living among the dead?” Remember how he told you, “while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.” Luke 24:5-7