

spill the beans

worship and learning resources for all ages

issue 58

lent, easter, pentecost

18 february to 24 may 2026

A resource with a Scottish flavour for
Worship Leaders, Sunday Schools,
Junior Churches and Youth Leaders.

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introduction

Welcome to the second issue in a two year series comprising eight issues of Spill the Beans through which we are embarking on a journey through the texts written by Saint Luke: both his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.

Lukan Lectionary

While working through our previous Word and World Lectionary cycle the Spill the Beans Resource Team was already working on the next steps and had long discussed the possibility of focussing for a year on one Gospel. There was not, amongst us, a great desire at this stage to return to one of the other lectionaries like the RCL or Narrative, so we started initially to work on a way to cover all of the text of Luke's Gospel.

As we completed that work it seemed natural to continue on with Luke's second book as these are two parts of one larger work. While seeking to include every verse of each book during the year we did need to do some work in order to also meaningfully mark the main seasons, so we have split how we approach the text into sections. This is particularly noticeable, of course, when journeying through the Gospel as we take a season to travel the Road to Golgotha before then taking a long season on the Ministry of Jesus. We hope that this makes some logical sense.

We keep the format for the layout of the issues as we have used in past years, which we hope encourages the development of intergenerational worship.

See [pages 4-6](#) for the details of this new lectionary so that you can plan ahead.

Intergenerational Worship

Spill the Beans has always been rooted in the power of story telling. Story binds generations together. In that shared bond of story lies the creative space for building relationships between generations. Using different ways to engage with the story recognises the variety amongst us all: some learn by listening, others by doing, others by creating. All are valuable and a part of our shared worship of God.

We are encouraging you to experiment as we will be doing with ways to worship intergenerationally in an authentic and inclusive manner. To that end we are still providing a rich variety of resources but grouped by how they help us **'tell the story'**, **'explore the story'**, and **'live the story'**. Mix and match, rewrite, contextualise for your own setting, try something different, and have fun with it! Please do give us feedback.

There are many resources online to help think more deeply about intergenerational worship. A simple but very helpful summary is provided by the Methodist Church, copied below.

Intergenerational worship IS about:

- **building relationships**—offering a key time for people to get to know each other better and build a sense of connection;
- **a time of worship and learning that is offered in a simplified and participatory way**—simple does not mean shallow; rather it enables everyone to contribute and receive in a meaningful and appropriate way;
- **providing an inclusive experience and a sense of belonging**—helping everyone of all abilities to feel part of the body of Christ, whatever their experience;
- **being a bridge**—not only between ages but also for those who are exploring what being part of a church means. This relaxed service style can provide a comfortable place for some to discover more about Christianity;
- **encouragement, nurture and inclusiveness**—it is a means by which faith can grow and, in turn, inform life-making or life-changing decisions;
- **exploring vocation**—an opportunity to discover and develop gifts and calling.

Intergenerational worship is NOT about:

- limiting the richness of resources used;
- oversimplifying the message or adding a children's talk into the 'usual' service;
- unstructured and chaotic worship;
- children having token responsibilities for roles and participation;
- limiting potential to explore faith and discipleship together;
- nuclear families exclusively worshipping together.

Information

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Sleepless Nights Publications

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Please remember you can use the bookmark system within Adobe Reader to quickly move around this document.

the team

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Key to Abbreviations

In the worship ideas section the following abbreviations may be used to indicate different sources of worship music:

ATAS	All the Assembly Songs You'll Ever Need
CG	Common Ground
CH4	Church Hymnary, 4th Edition
GTG	Glory To God: The Presbyterian Hymnal
GWA	God Welcomes All (Supplement to CH4)
JP	Junior Praise
MP	Complete Mission Praise
STF	Singing The Faith
WGP	Wild Goose Publications



lukan lectionary

Journeying With The Doctor

Welcome to our new lectionary based around the texts of Saint Luke's Gospel and Acts of the Apostles.

It is not possible just to work our way through the gospel chronologically, as there are inevitably some diversions at different points in the year to align with the liturgical calendar. So we have tried to approach this a little differently with some major themes that we will explore: the beginning birth narrative, the road to Golgotha, Holy Week and the Passion, and finally Jesus' life and ministry. We are going to be reading every verse of the gospel during the year.

For the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's sequel, we have tried to follow chronologically the events as Luke records them

as much as possible. Again, we will be reading every verse of Acts over the course of the year.

You can find the complete plan for both years in the following table.

Come join us on this journey with the good Doctor Luke.

Date	Liturgical	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
LUKAN LECTIONARY YEAR 1: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE				
The Beginning				
30 Nov 25	Advent 1	Luke 1:1-4	Joshua 22:4-6	The Setup; The Lord's Commandment
7 Dec 25	Advent 2	Luke 1:5-38	Isaiah 9:2-7	Births foretold; People walking in darkness
14 Dec 25	Advent 3	Luke 1:39-56	Psalms 146	The Magnificat; Praise for God's help
21 Dec 25	Advent 4	Luke 1:57-80	Isaiah 40:1-9	John the Baptist's birth; God's people are comforted
25 Dec 25	Christmas Day	Luke 2:1-20	Micah 5:2-5	Jesus' birth; Ruler from Bethlehem
28 Dec 25	Christmas 1	Luke 2:21-40	1 Samuel 1:19-28	Jesus presented; Samuel's dedication
4 Jan 26	Christmas 2	Luke 2:41-52	1 Samuel 2:18-21	Jesus as a boy; Samuel growing up in God's presence
The Road To Golgotha				
11 Jan 26	Epiphany 1	Luke 19:45-20:8	Proverbs 26:4-5	Jesus back in the Temple; Fools and folly
18 Jan 26	Epiphany 2	Luke 17:22-37	Genesis 19:15-29	Jesus foretells death/resurrection; Sodom & Gomorrah
25 Jan 26	Epiphany 3	Luke 6:1-11; 13:10-17	Exodus 34:21	Jesus breaking Sabbath taboos; Sabbath renewal
1 Feb 26	Epiphany 4	Luke 11:14-23	Acts 28:23-28	Jesus causing division; Paul preaching in Rome
8 Feb 26	Epiphany 5	Luke 11:29-54	Jonah 3:1-10	Signs from Jonah with Jesus' critique; Nineveh conversion
15 Feb 26	Transfiguration	Luke 9:21-36, 43b-45	Exodus 34:29-35	Jesus foretells and transfiguration; Moses beams
22 Feb 26	Lent 1	Luke 12:49-56	Micah 7:1-7	Households divided and repentance; People corrupted
1 Mar 26	Lent 2	Luke 15:1-10	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Parables of the shepherd/woman; The true shepherd
8 Mar 26	Lent 3	Luke 18:31-34	Luke 13:1-9; 21:29-33	Third foretelling of death/resurrection; On fig trees
15 Mar 26	Lent 4	Luke 20:9-19	Isaiah 5:1-7	Parable of the vineyard; Song of the unfruitful vineyard
22 Mar 26	Lent 5	Luke 20:20-26	Acts 17:1-9	Taxes and authority; Uproar in Thessalonica
29 Mar 26	Palms/Passion	Luke 19:28-44	Zechariah 9:8-12	Entrance to Jerusalem; A coming ruler
The Passion (Holy Week)				
30 Mar 26	Monday	Luke 20:27-21:4	Deuteronomy 25:5-10	Questions about resurrection and widow's mite; Levirate marriage
31 Mar 26	Tuesday	Luke 21:5-28	Revelation 6:1-17	Mini-apocalypse; The seven seals
1 Apr 26	Wednesday	Luke 21:34-22:6	John 7:45-53	Be on your guard and Judas' plans; Plotting amongst elites
2 Apr 26	Maundy Thursday	Luke 22:7-30(31-46)	Deuteronomy 16:1-8	Preparation of Passover, institution, disputes; Passover legislated
3 Apr 26	Good Friday	Luke 22:47-23:49	Psalms 31:3-5, 9-14	Arrest, execution; Prayer for deliverance
4 Apr 26	Holy Saturday	Luke 23:50-56	2 Chronicles 16:13-14	Burial of Jesus; Example of burial (Asa)
5 Apr 26	Easter Day	Luke 24:1-12	Psalms 126	At the tomb; Song of joy
12 Apr 26	Easter 2	Luke 24:13-35	1 Corinthians 10:12-17	Road to Emmaus; Partake of the one bread

Note that the double-lined breaks in the table delineate between issues.

Date	Liturgical	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
The Ministry Of Jesus				
19 Apr 26	Easter 3	Luke 3:1-22(23-38)	Isaiah 42:1-9	John with Jesus' baptism; The Servant and light to the nations
26 Apr 26	Easter 4	Luke 4:1-15	Deuteronomy 8:1-6	Jesus' temptation; Lessons from 40 years in the wilderness
3 May 26	Easter 5	Luke 4:14-30	1 Kings 17:8-16	Jesus preaching in the synagogue; Elijah and widow of Zarephath
10 May 26	Easter 6	Luke 4:31-44	2 Corinthians 5:11-15	Jesus healing and teaching; Ministry of reconciliation
17 May 26	Easter 7	Luke 5:1-11,27-28; 6:12-17	Acts 6:1-7	Jesus calling disciples; The community leadership grows
24 May 26	Pentecost	Luke 5:12-16	Acts 2:1-11	Jesus heals a leper; Pentecost spirit visits
31 May 26	Pentecost 1 (Trinity)	Luke 5:17-26	Leviticus 24:10-16	Healing of paralysed man; An example of blasphemy punished
7 Jun 26	Pentecost 2	Luke 5:29-39	Isaiah 58:3-9a	Fasting / old and new; On true fasting
14 Jun 26	Pentecost 3	Luke 6:17-31	Psalms 63	Blessings and woes; Comfort in God's presence
21 Jun 26	Pentecost 4	Luke 6:27-42	Acts 9:9-20	Do not judge / speck and plank; Saul/Paul transformed
28 Jun 26	Pentecost 5	Luke 6:43-49	James 1:2-11,22-25	Good/bad fruit/foundations; Poverty and riches, be a doer
5 Jul 26	Pentecost 6	Luke 7:1-23	Acts 10:1-35	Healing of centurion, raising of widow's son; Peter and centurion
12 Jul 26	Pentecost 7	Luke 7:24-50; 8:1-4	Exodus 30:17-21	Jesus deals with question, anointing; The bronze basin
19 Jul 26	Pentecost 8	Luke 8:4-21	Galatians 5:22-26	Parable of sower and explanation; Fruit of the Spirit
26 Jul 26	Pentecost 9	Luke 8:22-56	Psalms 107:23-32	Commanding the waters / healings; The Lord's control over chaos
2 Aug 26	Pentecost 10	Luke 9:1-20	Numbers 11:21-23	Jesus teaching and feeding multitude; Moses doubts God's power
9 Aug 26	Pentecost 11	Luke 9:37-50	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Faithless and perverse generation; A life pleasing to God
16 Aug 26	Pentecost 12	Luke 9:51-10:24	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Jesus sets face to Jerusalem, mission of 70; Pairing up
23 Aug 26	Pentecost 13	Luke 10:25-42	Leviticus 19:11-18	Parable of Good Samaritan and Mary & Martha; Moral holiness
30 Aug 26	Pentecost 14	Luke 11:1-13,24-28,33-36	Philippians 4:4-8	Jesus praying, admired, do not hide your light; Exhortations
6 Sep 26	Pentecost 15	Luke 12:1-34	1 Corinthians 5:6-8	Crowds trampling to hear Jesus; On yeast
13 Sep 26	Pentecost 16	Luke 12:35-48,57-59	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Watchfulness and preparation; Prepared for the day of the Lord
20 Sep 26	Pentecost 17	Luke 13:10-35	Acts 8:14-24	Healing and words about the Kingdom; Buying your way to blessing
27 Sep 26	Pentecost 18	Luke 14:1-24	Proverbs 25:6-7	Healing, parables of humility; Do not put yourself forward
4 Oct 26	Pentecost 19	Luke 14:25-35	Colossians 4:2-6	Cost of discipleship; Let your speech be gracious
11 Oct 26	Pentecost 20	Luke 15:11-16:13	Genesis 27:30-38	Parable of prodigal / dishonest manager; Esau's lost blessing
18 Oct 26	Pentecost 21	Luke 16:14-31	Psalms 19	Rich man and Lazarus, the Law and the Kingdom; Perfect Law
25 Oct 26	Pentecost 22	Luke 17:1-21	Leviticus 13:45-46	Sayings, cleansing of lepers, coming Kingdom; Unclean
1 Nov 26	Pentecost 23	Luke 18:1-30	Hebrews 13:1-8	Unjust judge, persistent widow, rich young ruler; Contentment
8 Nov 26	Pentecost 24	Luke 18:35-19:10	Numbers 5:5-7	Blind beggar, Zacchaeus; Restitution
15 Nov 26	Pentecost 25	Luke 19:11-27	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Parable of the ten pounds; Servants and stewards
22 Nov 26	Reign of Christ	Luke 24:36-53	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Jesus' commission of disciples; The good news flows on
LUKAN LECTIONARY YEAR 2: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES				
Introduction				
29 Nov 26	Advent 1	Acts 1:1-14	Isaiah 64:1-9	The promise of the Holy Spirit/Ascension; Prayer of penitence
6 Dec 26	Advent 2	Acts 1:15-26	2 Peter 3:8-16a	Matthias chosen to replace Judas; Promise of the Lord's coming
In Jerusalem				
13 Dec 26	Advent 3	Acts 2:12-21	Luke 1:46-55	Peter addressing the crowd; Mary's song of praise
20 Dec 26	Advent 4	Acts 2:22-36	Matthew 1:1-17	Peter's sermon continues; The genealogy of Jesus
25 Dec 26	Christmas Day	Acts 2:37-39	Matthew 1:18-25 and/or Luke 2:1-20	Peter's sermon closes; The birth of Jesus
27 Dec 26	Christmas 1	Acts 2:40-42	Galatians 3:23-29	The first converts; Children of God through faith
3 Jan 27	Christmas 2	Acts 2:43-47	Matthew 2:1-15	Life among the believers; The visit of the Magi
10 Jan 27	Epiphany 1	Acts 3:1-11	Matthew 9:1-8	Peter heals a crippled beggar; Jesus heals a paralytic
17 Jan 27	Epiphany 2	Acts 3:12-26	Matthew 3:1-17	Peter speaks in Solomon's Portico; John the Baptist's proclamation
24 Jan 27	Epiphany 3	Acts 4:1-22	Matthew 4:1-11	Peter and John before the Council; Testing of Jesus
31 Jan 27	Epiphany 4	Acts 4:23-37	Hebrews 10:19-25	The believers pray for boldness; A call to perseverance
7 Feb 27	Transfiguration	Acts 5:12-16	Mark 9:2-13	The apostles heal many; The Transfiguration



Date	Liturgical	Primary Text	Support Text	Notes
LUKAN LECTIONARY YEAR 2: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (continued)				
14 Feb 27	Lent 1	Acts 5:1-11	Micah 6:6-8	Ananias and Sapphira; What God requires
21 Feb 27	Lent 2	Acts 5:17-33	John 11:45-53	The Apostles are persecuted; The plot to kill Jesus
28 Feb 27	Lent 3	Acts 5:33-42	Psalms 37:1-11	Gamaliel's intervention; Exhortation to patience and trust
7 Mar 27	Lent 4	Acts 6:1-7	Psalms 37:12-27	Seven chosen to serve; Comparisons between righteous & wicked
14 Mar 27	Lent 5	Acts 6:8-15	Psalms 37:28-40	The arrest of Stephen; On justice
21 Mar 27	Palms/Passion	Acts 7:1-16	Mark 11:1-11	Stephen begins to address the Council; Jesus' entry to Jerusalem
22 Mar 27	Holy Week Monday	Acts 7:17-29	Psalms 24:1-2	Stephen speaks about Moses; The earth is the Lord's
23 Mar 27	Holy Week Tuesday	Acts 7:30-34	Psalms 24:1-4	Theophany on the mountain; Who shall ascend?
24 Mar 27	Holy Week Wed	Acts 7:35-43	Psalms 24:1-6	God uses Moses; Blessing from the Lord
25 Mar 27	Maundy Thursday	Acts 7:44-53	Psalms 24:1-8	Stephen challenges those who oppose God; Lift up your heads
26 Mar 27	Good Friday	Acts 7:54-8:1	Psalms 24:1-10	The stoning of Stephen; Who is this King of glory?
27 Mar 27	Holy Saturday	Acts 8:2-3	Mark 15:42-47	The burial of Stephen and Saul's violence; The burial of Jesus
28 Mar 27	Easter Day	Acts 9:32-42	Mark 16:1-8	Healing and raising from death by Peter; The resurrection of Jesus
In Judea And Samaria				
4 Apr 27	Easter 2	Acts 8:4-25	Mark 16:9-13	Philip preaches in Samaria; Jesus' appearances
11 Apr 27	Easter 3	Acts 8:25-40	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch; Paul's charge to Timothy
18 Apr 27	Easter 4	Acts 9:1-19a	2 Kings 5:1-14	The conversion of Saul; The healing of Naaman
25 Apr 27	Easter 5	Acts 9:19b-31	Matthew 13:54-58	Saul's new ministry begins; The rejection of Jesus in Nazareth
2 May 27	Easter 6	Acts 9:43-10:33	Leviticus 11:1-12	Peter and Cornelius; Clean and unclean foods
9 May 27	Easter 7	Acts 10:34-43	Romans 2:6-11	Gentiles hear the Good News; God shows no partiality
16 May 27	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-13	Acts 10:44-48	The coming of the Holy Spirit; Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
23 May 27	Pentecost 1 (Trinity)	Acts 11:1-18	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Peter's report to the Church in Jerusalem; Divisions in the Church
30 May 27	Pentecost 2	Acts 11:19-12:5	Deuteronomy 11:18-21	The Church in Antioch, James killed, Peter imprisoned; The Shema
6 Jun 27	Pentecost 3	Acts 12:6-13:3	Revelation 3:19b-22	Peter delivered from prison; I am standing at the door, knocking
The Missionary Journeys				
13 Jun 27	Pentecost 4	Acts 13:4-52	1 Samuel 8	Preaching in Cyprus, Paul and Barnabas in Antioch; Israel demands a king
20 Jun 27	Pentecost 5	Acts 14:1-28	Daniel 2:24-29	In Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and back to Antioch; Daniel's dream interpretation
27 Jun 27	Pentecost 6	Acts 15:1-35	Galatians 2:15-21	The Council at Jerusalem; Jews and Gentiles saved by faith
4 Jul 27	Pentecost 7	Acts 15:36-16:10	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Paul and Barnabas separate, Timothy joins Paul and Silas; The Thessalonians faith and example
11 Jul 27	Pentecost 8	Acts 16:11-40	Isaiah 61:1-3	Conversion of Lydia, Paul and Silas in prison; Good news of deliverance
18 Jul 27	Pentecost 9	Acts 17:1-15	1 Thessalonians 2:13-16	Uproar in Thessalonica; Giving thanks for the Thessalonian believers
25 Jul 27	Pentecost 10	Acts 17:16-34	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Paul in Athens; We do not lose heart
1 Aug 27	Pentecost 11	Acts 18:1-23	1 Corinthians 2:1-5	Paul in Corinth; Proclaiming Christ crucified
8 Aug 27	Pentecost 12	Acts 18:24-19:20	Jeremiah 33:6-9	Ministry of Apollos, Paul in Ephesus; Healing after punishment
15 Aug 27	Pentecost 13	Acts 19:21-41	Proverbs 29:8,22,25-26	The riot in Ephesus; Wisdom sayings
22 Aug 27	Pentecost 14	Acts 20:1-16	Daniel 12:1-3	Paul visits Macedonia and Greece, sleepy Eutychus; Awakening to eternal life
29 Aug 27	Pentecost 15	Acts 20:17-38	Ezekiel 34:23-31	Paul speaks to the Ephesian elders; The one shepherd
Paul's Witness Spreads To Rome				
5 Sep 27	Pentecost 16	Acts 21:1-26	Galatians 2:1-5	Paul's journey to Jerusalem, visit with James; Paul and the disciples
12 Sep 27	Pentecost 17	Acts 21:27-22:5	John 18:1-11	Paul arrested in the Temple, defends himself; Betrayal of Jesus
19 Sep 27	Pentecost 18	Acts 22:6-29	John 18:28-38	Paul continues his defense, pulls the Roman citizen card; Jesus before Pilate
26 Sep 27	Pentecost 19	Acts 22:30-23:22	Mark 12:18-27	Paul before the Council, plots to kill Paul; Sadducees try to catch out Jesus
3 Oct 27	Pentecost 20	Acts 23:23-35	Joshua 1:1-9	Paul sent to Felix the Governor; God's commission to Joshua
10 Oct 27	Pentecost 21	Acts 24:1-27	1 Timothy 1:1-7	Paul before Felix at Caesarea; Warning against false teachers
17 Oct 27	Pentecost 22	Acts 25:1-22	John 18:12-14,19-24	Paul appears to the Emperor, Festus consults King Agrippa; Jesus before the High Priest
24 Oct 27	Pentecost 23	Acts 25:23-27	John 18:38-40	Paul brought before King Agrippa; Jesus sentenced to death
31 Oct 27	Pentecost 24	Acts 26:1-32	Luke 21:12-15	Paul defends himself before Agrippa, tries to convert the king; Persecutions of the faithful
7 Nov 27	Pentecost 25	Acts 27:1-44	Jonah 1:1-17	Paul sails for Rome, stormy seas and shipwreck; Jonah tries to flee
14 Nov 27	Pentecost 26	Acts 28:1-10	Psalms 91:11-16	Paul on Malta; God's protection
21 Nov 27	Reign of Christ	Acts 28:11-31	Isaiah 6:6-13	Paul in Rome; Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?



ashes of preparation

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 18 February 2026

Introduction

Today is Ash Wednesday, a day when we come before God, thinking about the ways we live our lives.

In ancient times ashes were used to express sadness and grief. People would pour ashes on their heads or smear them on their clothes and faces to show people that they were sorry for the things that they had done wrong.

In the Old Testament Job says to God :

*I had heard of you and now I've seen you.
I hate myself and cover myself with dust and ashes.
(Job 42:5-6)*

Christians adopted the practice of using ashes as a sign of turning away from sin and towards God, and it became the custom to sprinkle ashes on the heads of believers on the first day of Lent.

On this Ash Wednesday we prepare for Lent by owning up to our sins and accepting God's forgiveness. We invite God to work in us and transform our lives during the weeks ahead.

Call To Worship

Leader: From dust we came,
to dust we will return.

All: We belong to God.

Leader: We come in penitence.
We come in confidence.

All: We belong to God.

Leader: On Ash Wednesday,
at every moment of our lives,

All: we belong to God.

Prayer Of Approach

Loving God,
at the beginning of Lent
we come to you.

You know who we are.
You know what we are like.
You know what is important to us.
You know what we regret.
You know where we hurt.

We come to you seeking forgiveness.
We come to you seeking strength for our journey.
We come to you seeking healing and love.

God of love and life and hope
we ask you to meet us here.
Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-12 for two voices.

Voice 1: Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced
righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Voice 2: Look, you serve your own interest on your fast
day and oppress all your workers.
You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Voice 1: Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say,
“Here I am.”

Voice 2: If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations
of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Praise

O God be gracious to me CH4 40

or

Have mercy, Lord, as you promised Psalm Praise 95

Act Of Penitence

Leader: Give us clean hands and loving hearts, God.

All: Heal us inside and out.

Leader: Let us say we are sorry.

All: God, you know us.

**You know that we can be loving and kind
and you know that sometimes
we get things wrong.
We are sorry for the times
we hurt other people,
forget to listen to you,
and fail to take care of your world.**

Ashes

God,
you love all that you have made
you love your people
you want us to turn away from our sins
and to give us new life.

May these ashes be for us
a sign of our turning around
and of your promise of forgiveness and new life.
Amen.

You are invited to come forward and receive a mark on your forehead or on your hand. The mark is the sign of the cross, a sign that many churches use at baptism, a sign that indicates that you are a follower of Jesus and that you belong to God,

This sign reminds us that God loves us, no matter what we have done or who we have been, and welcomes us with forgiveness and love.

Ashing

These words are said to each individual to accompany the action of ashing.

Remember that you are dust
and that unto dust you will return.
Turn away from sin
and be faithful to God.

Absolution

As you enter into this season of Lent,
may God forgive you,
Jesus bless you
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18 from The Message.

“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won’t be applauding.

“When you do something for someone else, don’t call attention to yourself. You’ve seen them in action, I’m sure—‘playactors’ I call them—treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that’s all they get. When you help someone out, don’t think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.

“And when you come before God, don’t turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat?

“Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

“When you practice some appetite-denying discipline to better concentrate on God, don’t make a production out of it. It might turn you into a small-time celebrity but it won’t make you a saint. If you ‘go into training’ inwardly, act normal outwardly. Shampoo and comb your hair, brush your teeth, wash your face. God doesn’t require attention-getting devices. He won’t overlook what you are doing; he’ll reward you well.”

Sharing Peace

As the family of God we acknowledge the strength and support we receive from God and from each other, and we share a sign of peace among us.

We do this by shaking hands, giving a wave or a hug as we say to each other, ‘Peace be with you’.

Leader: We meet in the name of Jesus

All: and we share his peace.

Share a sign of peace.

Further Liturgy

At this point the liturgy may proceed to a sharing of bread and wine or to a biblical reflection and intercessory prayers.

Closing Praise

Loving Spirit

or

We belong to God

Final Prayer/Blessing

Bless us, God,
as we walk into Lent.
Send your angels to help us;
remind us that you are always near.

Bless us, God,
as we travel towards Good Friday and Easter.
Gift us strangers and friends
as companions on our way.

Bless us, God,
today/tonight
and always.
Bless us and keep us
in your loving care.
Amen.

Praise/Hymns

CH4 597	All things of dust to dust return	GWA 108
	Forgiveness is your gift	CH4 361
CH4 726	God weeps	CH4 168
	God, come now to explore my heart	GWA 111
	Have mercy Lord, as you promised	Psalms Praise 95
	King of glory	MP 397
	Loving Spirit	CH4 597
	O God be gracious to me in your love	CH4 40
	Step by step	ATAS 219
	The great love of God	CH4 358
	Today I live	CH4 725
	We belong to God	CH4 726
	Were I the perfect child of God	GWA 79

sampler



an inevitable division

Lent 1

Sunday 22 February 2026

Lukan Lectionary Year 1

The Gospel of Luke

The Road to Golgotha

Scripture

Luke 12:49-56

Micah 7:1-7

tell the story

Bible Notes

As we embark on the season of Lent at the start of this issue, we continue the series we began in the previous issue that is focused around exploring 'The Road to Golgotha'. It is a deliberate drawing on passages that explore different dimensions of Jesus' story that lead us to the crucifix on the Hill of the Skull. From depictions of Jesus' ministry and life in art and film we may tend towards certain images of Jesus' reaction to what his ministry is stirring in the communities around him. Too beatific a vision of Jesus leads us away from the humanity of his experience. Too gritty a vision may lead us to play down the wider dimensions of what is being played out, as the divine confronts the depravity to which humanity can sink.

Our first Sunday of Lent picks a real doozy of a passage from Luke's account. It is difficult to hear, of course, particularly for sensitive compassionate souls. Yet it is important to hear Jesus' own exasperation expressed. There is frustration in these words, revealing Jesus' humanity. Here he acknowledges the stress he is under. He has set his face towards Jerusalem, and the pressure is building.

There is much talk now in global affairs about crisis points and about inflexion points—those moments when, depending on the choice that is made in a single pivotal moment, the outcomes that follow can be vastly different. The ramifications of the choices can be immense, even when at the time of decision, it seemed a relatively small one to make. The metaphor of reaching a fork in the road and the decision to go left or right which may ultimately mean ending up on one side of a country or the other tells something of the momentous nature of the decision that Jesus calls us to make in choosing to



follow his Way or in rejecting that invitation.

It was remarkable a year ago (February 2025) to see *ordo amoris* (the order of love) being resurrected from the annals of catholic theology by, on the one hand, the Vice-President of the USA, J.D. Vance, a recent convert to Catholicism, and on the other the late Pope Francis who rejected and sought to clarify the Vice-President's comments. Vance said, "You love your family, and then you love your neighbour, and then you love your community, and then you love your fellow citizens in your own country. And then after that, you can focus and prioritize the rest of the world." Pope Francis rejected Vance's understanding, stating in response, "Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups. The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the 'Good Samaritan' that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception."

Even the nature of our love for one another was creating division. No wonder, then, that Jesus recognised the reality that his invitation to a particular Way would cause division amongst family members. It was an inevitable reality, and thus it has proven over the millennia that have followed. Yet for every generation the moment of decision to follow Jesus' invitation is 'now'. It is always in the present. For Jesus himself, as the Passion comes ever closer, these decisive moments became ever more real for him too.

What a contrast this makes to the angelic messages of the coming of peace that we celebrated in Advent. The reality of conflict and division we find now is palpable and must surely resonate with us in our own divided times when people are being invited (or coerced) into decision-making that has and yet may still bring further tumultuous results. These are passionate times, when emotions and feelings are prioritised over evidence and factuality. Perhaps we share in the same frustration and anxiety that Jesus expressed all those years ago.

Story Retelling

Divided World

Andy: Ada, I hate this time we call Lent!

Ada: Wow, Andy, 'hate' is a bit of a strong word.

Andy: Aye well, I hate that I give up my chocolate every year just for Lent. I hate giving up my chocolate.

Ada: Is that not your choice, Andy? You choose to give up chocolate as if it was the end of the world!

Andy: Aye, well, it's not the only thing I hate, Ada. I hate that others don't make the kind of sacrifices I make. Some of the folk in our kirk don't do anything for Lent. I don't think that is very fair?

Ada: Fair, Andy! Really, why are you getting so grouchy about other people? Lent is meant to be a time of reflection, preparation and repentance. A time for us to get ready for the celebration which is Easter. Speaking of hating something is not a very God-like thing to do. He called us to love one another, serve one another, help one another. Hate is a pretty ungodly thing to do, Andy!

Andy: Aye but look at the mess the world is in, Ada. It is full of people hating each other, because they look different, or think differently, and act differently from us. Some of these folks don't even know about Jesus.

Ada: Yes Andy, but you were talking earlier about people in our congregation that you hated because they don't do what you think you should do. It's not the gospel of Andy we are called to proclaim, but the gospel of Jesus.

Andy: Aye, but Jesus said he would bring division.

Ada: That's because he knew not everyone would agree with him or do the things God's people are meant to do. Jesus did not preach division or bring people down or belittle them. Instead, he tried to love them, respect them, care for them.

Andy: Och, Ada, could Jesus not just make everybody do the right thing.

Ada: Like wave a magic wand or something, Andy?

Andy: That would be brilliant, Ada, I could still get to eat my chocolate, and I would really love Jesus if he did that.

Ada: Andy, life has nothing to do with chocolate!

Andy: That's easy for you to say, Ada, because you never eat chocolate.

Ada: Yes, Andy, but the divisions in our world are caused by us being selfish people. Wanting people to be exactly like us! God made each of us different, in order that we use those differences, to shape the world into a better place.

Andy: That's hard, Ada. I am not sure I am up for all that. I find it hard that people have different opinions to me, and do things differently from me, and say things out loud that I could never say.

Ada: Yes, Andy, I understand what you are saying. Jesus understood how hard life is for people, and he really wanted to find a way to change it. You can only change things when you understand them a little, and that you try and work to persuade people, that love is a better way than hate!

Andy: I get that, Ada. People find it easier to hate than to love.

Ada: Yet Jesus wants us to try our best. Lent does not need to be a negative or difficult time for people in church. You don't need to give something up, but you could do something positive to help someone. That's a start to loving rather than hating the things of our world.

Andy: You mean I could make some chocolate cookies and share them with other people?

Discussion Starters

- Ada: I guess that might be a nice thing to do, Andy, but, is it really a Jesus thing?
- Andy: Being kind is always a Jesus thing.
- Ada: Yes, it is Andy, but what other things might you do for Lent to show love?
- Andy: Well, I, er, could...em. Yes, I could give a homeless person a meal!
- Ada: That's a start.
- Andy: I could maybe tell people that I love them.
- Ada: Yes, that would be a Jesus thing.
- Andy: I could maybe work towards change rather than demanding it!
- Ada: Yes, Andy that would be good.
- Andy: Instead of moaning at people, and blaming them for not being like me, I could try and be more like Jesus!
- Ada: Now we are getting there, Andy. Jesus is the route to transformation.
- Andy: Aye, Ada, he certainly is. I am not going to say I hate things anymore, because that just adds fuel to the fire of a complex world.
- Ada: Now you are really thinking how to make Lent a positive experience, not just for you, but for the people around you.
- Andy: You always help me to see 'the way', Ada.
- Ada: Well, someone has to, Andy!

The world is full of branding and icons. Companies spend millions on trying to ensure their branding works to convey a message about who they are, or to avoid mistakes in branding in other cultures. Think of the global reach of branding like the Golden Arches of McDonalds fame, or the Nike swoosh. Famous examples of mistakes include KFC's slogan 'Finger Lickin' Good' being translated for the opening of the first store in Beijing as 'Eat your fingers off', or Mercedes Benz originally opting for the name Bensi to work with a Chinese dialect, not comprehending that this new name would have the meaning 'rush to die'.

Branding, however, can also be extremely divisive. Consider the response to brands like Tesla under the leadership of Elon Musk, or Nestle, or Amazon and others. Some brands lean into the divisiveness about their product like Marmite or Irn Bru.

And it would be remiss in a world where neo-Nazi and far-right extremism is being main-streamed once more not to also consider how branding like that of the Third Reich still has the power to excite some groups of men, while striking horror into the hearts of others.

- What do you see as totems of division in your culture?
- How are these used by people to create division?
- What is the purpose behind that stirring of division?

Now read together the gospel passage, Luke 12:49-56, together. Pay particular attention to how Jesus uses terms like baptism and fire in the passage. You may want to read it through a few times.

Jesus explores what he knows is going to be divisive and controversial about his own mission. He does not shy away from the divisive nature of his invitation to follow a different Way. He recognised the reality that what he was teaching broke down accepted norms of who was part of an in-group (family being a primary example).

- How do you feel about what Jesus says?
- What Jesus said was true, his message was one that would cause division amongst people, even within families, why do you think it was worth it?
- How does the Church speak into our own divided times today?

Work together to think about a brand slogan for your church community in this Lenten series. Think about what you would like to bear witness to during these next weeks. You might even combine ideas to create a statement of faith to utilise during the season, capturing something of the challenging nature of Jesus' teaching.



explore the story

Engaging The Text

You will need: copies of the Scripture texts, highlighters, slips of paper, pens.

Take the Luke passage for today (Luke 12:49-56) and/or Micah 7:1-7 and in groups read the passage and highlight all the words that are either negative or counter to how you would normally understand Christianity. There are a lot of divisive words.

Invite everyone to write one of these words on a small slip of paper and place them all in a central area.

Read the passage again but this time together asking people to consider what they are listening to at the beginning of Lent: words of crisis and division. It is a hint of things to come, the division caused by faith. Consider that a-while.

Now ask people to each take one of the cards from the central place and take it with them. Throughout the rest of the week, use the word to reflect on how faith challenges and calls us not to conform, but to speak truth to power, and challenge the status quo.

Welcome to Lent!

Lent Paper Chain

You will need: strips of thick paper in shades of purple/lilac, felt tip pens, poly pockets.

Each person should gather together a bundle of 40 paper strips and draw symbols of Lent or write words associated with Lent onto each strip (such as footprints, cross, heart, praying hands, 'Lent', 'Journey', 'Pray', 'Reflect', 'Follow').

Ask those participating to put their strips of paper into poly pocket and to take them home.

Throughout Lent a loop is added to the paper chain each day giving a visible reminder of the journey through Lent and as a way of encouraging people to mark Lent by bible reading or prayer or reflection or small act of kindness.

Lent Journey Decoration

You will need: four wooden lollipop sticks per person, sheets of thick A4 card folded over in greetings card style, felt tip pens or Sharpies, PVA glue, glue spreaders, stick on alphabet tiles.

Ask each person to choose a card and four lollipop sticks. They should place the card in landscape orientation with folded edge at top. Ask them to write onto one side of the stick using felt tip pens, They should write words that help them to focus on their journey through Lent and what they want to do during this period (for example, pray, give, read, reflect, act, fast). They should then glue these on to the card horizontally placing one below the other to give a kind of 'wall' effect. They should then use letter tiles to make name or word Lent or word journey or similar and stick those near to folded edge. Give time for glue to dry.

Ask people to take these home and to display the card during Lent. These can act as a reminder to people to focus on an aspect of Lent devotion each day.



Weather Watchers

You will need: umbrella(s), string, scissors, sticky tape, funky foam sheets in a variety of colours, glue sticks, felt tip pens.

Ask participants to make weather related images from funky foam, drawing and cutting out shapes adding other colours and layers if necessary. Shapes could include raindrops, clouds, sunshine, sunglasses, welly boots, lightning flashes, snowflakes, wind speed arrows. Ask participants to attach a length of string to the back of the shape using sticky tape. Open up the umbrella. The umbrella can sit with handle facing up and strings hanging down from the spokes or with handle facing down and strings hanging down from the spokes. Ask participants to tie string to end onto the spokes of the umbrella, one string per spoke. Strings should be of varying lengths to form a mobile type effect.

Talk about how we sometimes watch for signs of what kind of weather it is going to be and what the signs might be. Talk about Jesus asking us to look for signs of his way being lived in the world.

Weather!

You will need: umbrella, sun glasses, sign with word 'south', sign with word 'west'.

Place item and signs so that there is one in each corner of the room. Ask those participating to move around room. When game leader shouts 'Weather' participants choose a corner to stand in. Have one helper who will stand at side and close eyes when 'Weather' is called and then when everyone has selected the corner they are standing in, the helper calls out one of the corner names. All those who are in that corner are eliminated from the game. Repeat until there is a winner.

Talk about how we sometimes watch for signs of what kind of weather it is going to be and what the signs might be. Talk about Jesus asking us to look for signs of his way being lived in the world.

Clumps

You will need: space to move around.

Ask those participating to move around the room. When the game leader calls out a number, people gather together in groups of that number. Some people will be included, and some people will be left out. Repeat a few times using different numbers

Talk about how it feels to be included and how it feels to be left out. Talk about some of the situations and issues which cause division and people to feel included or left out. Relate this to Jesus words in the passage from Luke's gospel.

live the story

Call To Worship

Come, let us travel the Way.
Let us take what we need for this journey.
Not the soft floppy bibles
and bejewelled crosses
but the faith that provokes conflict,
that speaks of challenge,
that calls us into the theatre of division.

Come, let us hold to the faith
that will set us free
and brings the life
that gives its all
for all of us.

Prayer Of Adoration And Confession

Holy One,
through worship,
we enter into this time of Lent:
a time of preparation;
a time of reflection;
a time of waiting for
the God of our Salvation.

We give you thanks
for blessings beyond measure;
for the lengthening days,
and the hints of changing of seasons;
for the daily breath and bread
that we enjoy.

Merciful One,
we do not know how
to interpret the present time,
and we know we make errors.
We treat others with contempt.
We pervert justice and
rise up against those we love.
We are sorry.
Help us to repent and to look to you
in our confusion and distress.

Remind us to trust you
and abide by your teachings,
hold us ever closer
as we journey through these
days in penitence.
Grant us patience
to slow down
and listen for your word.
Grant us strength
to act according to your will;
bringing your kingdom
into our world.
Amen.

Prayers For Others And Ourselves

God of our salvation,
we come trusting
in your promises
and we bring to you
our prayers for others and ourselves.

Where division has erupted into conflict,
in families, communities or countries,
bring your perspective and your peace.

Where hurt and misunderstanding
have prevented communication and resolution,
offer willingness and
open-minded approach to progress.

Where illness has
complicated interactions with loved ones
and required depths of reserve yet unknown,
present strength and patience for healing.

Where death has ruptured relationship,
and grief and sorrow
threaten to overwhelm,
grant memories and tender support of loved ones.

Loving God, bring your healing to this earth,
to the land and people at war,
renew the faithful
in communities across the world,
increase the trust in a friend
and the confidence in a loved one,
broaden our understanding of neighbour
and remind us to look to you always
as we travel this way to the cross.
Amen.

Prayer Of Dedication

Generous God,
Lent is a time of penitence,
a time to think of others,
a time to be generous ourselves
with the gifts we share
and the monies we bring.

We put our confidence in you
to satisfy the hungry heart,
to take these meagre offerings
and multiply them
feeding, sheltering,
supporting those in need.
As with every request,
may your will be done.
Amen.

Reflective Prayer

Christ Jesus,
cast your fire.
Let us live with hearts ablaze.

Now.
This day.
This season of repentance.

Hearts ablaze with love,
with justice,
with hope

that the faithful
reappear in this land.

Now.
This day.
This season of repentance.

Let us wait for the God of Salvation.
Amen.

Reflection

A child asks, "Do you love God more than me?"

Silence

And their mother replies: "Yes, my child, I do."
And division arises between the child and mother.

Deeply hurt.
Diminishment.
Rejection.

A child asks, "Do you love God more than me?"

Silence

And their mother replies: "Yes, my child, I do."

Yet, there is no division
between the mother and the child.

Discovery.
Revelation.
Recognition.

Two different understandings, but one truth.
Two divided rivers merging to become one.
And there's another river connecting—
bigger, wider and deeper.

The River of Life
giving birth to joy,
love and peace,
and never drying up,
sole source from above,
flowing with a heartfelt truth
of reconciliation.
Slow river, floating stillness,
moving together in harmony,
trusting and healing,
the River of Life.

An interpretation for the present time?

Sending

Do not set out to start fires
or kindle hatred,
but go filled with hope, love and peace,
and share the Good News of Jesus.

Go and conquer division,
not by the might of weapons of war,
but with love in your heart,
and peace in your soul.

And Let God's kingdom flourish,
rooted in forgiveness,
embedded in grace,
surrounded by joy.

Praise/Hymns

Be still, for the presence of the Lord CH4 189 / MP 50

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing CH4 416 / STF 297

God, come now to explore my heart GWA 111

God loved the world so much Known Unknowns,
WGP 25

God moves in a mysterious way CH4 158 / MP 193

In Christ there is no east or west CH4 624 / MP 329

Jesus, when you live in us online at
[https://www.carolynshymns.com/
jesus_when_you_live_in_us.html](https://www.carolynshymns.com/jesus_when_you_live_in_us.html)

Not the powerful, not the privileged Known Unknowns,
WGP 51

O God of strength and everlasting kindness GWA 188

O thou who camest from above CH4 625 / MP 525

See how great a flame aspires STF 412

Shake up the morning WGP

'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said CH4 402 / MP 935

When the fight has cost us GWA 190

Within the circle of your friends Known Unknowns,
WGP 99

sampler

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