

Lent Sunday Service Kit

A kit for the Sundays in Lent — wilderness calls to worship, a Psalm 51 confession, and inserts on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

When to use it: The six Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- Rock of Ages
- O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
- Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Suggested preaching text

Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 15:11-32, John 12:20-33.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Psalm 51:10-12 (KJV)

Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful.

Joel 2:12-13 (KJV)

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:6-7 (KJV)

Invocation

Lord Jesus, thou wast led into the wilderness before thou wast lifted up. Walk with us in these forty days. Strip away what we do not need, and give us an appetite for the word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are quick to be comfortable and slow to be holy. We have fed appetites that starve us and starved the soul that thou didst make for thyself. Forgive us and turn us home. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (KJV)

Responsive reading

The Wilderness and the Word

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Matthew 4:1 (KJV)

People: **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Matthew 4:4 (KJV)

Leader: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)

People: **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)

All: **Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.**

Psalms 51:10 (KJV)

Offering sentence

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

Why forty days?

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4 (KJV)

Forty is the Bible's number for testing: forty days of rain, forty years in the desert, forty days of fasting in the wilderness. Lent is not punishment. It is training — a season to find out what your soul actually runs on.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

A verse for the week

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

Psalms 51:10-12 (KJV)

David does not ask God to improve his heart. He asks for a new one. That is the honest prayer of Lent, and it is the only prayer of its kind that God has always answered.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.