

First Sunday: Water

In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering God's covenant and the sign of the rainbow. God will never again destroy the earth by flood, and water, once a way of destruction, is now a way to new life through baptism.

We light this candle on the first Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness through the sign of his covenant.

(light the first candle)

Prayer: As the days lengthen and the rivers fill with spring waters, dear God, may we be filled with your love. Let wellsprings of living water spring up in us. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

Second Sunday: Earth

In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob, Rachel and Leah. God blessed them and their descendants to be God's people, and God has been faithful. When Abraham and Sarah came to Canaan, they came to a new place, a land promised to them by God. God prepared a new home for them, a new place to grow their family, and as we near spring, we are reminded of the earth, the land, that is ready for new things to grow.

We light this candle on this second Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness to us through the signs of spring in the earth.

(light the second candle)

Prayer: As the days lengthen and bulbs are preparing deep in the earth, dear God, may we be ready for what you are preparing to grow in us. Nourish us so that we might bear spiritual fruit. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

Third Sunday: Stone

In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering God's deliverance of the people from Egypt, and God's commandments given down through Moses, and over the generations to us. God gave Moses these commandments so the people might live better as a community of faith, and we are reminded by these commandments written in stone that we do not go on this journey alone.

We light this candle on this third Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness and that God is our Rock and our Redeemer.

(light the third candle)

Prayer: As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember your faithfulness is like that of stone that cannot be eroded by spring rains, but remains strong and true. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

Fourth Sunday: Sand

In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering that the people wandered in the desert for forty years, and that though Jesus himself was tempted in the wilderness, he often went to a deserted place to pray. God knows the trials and temptations we face in our lives can be like crossing through a wilderness, and yet sometimes it is only once we have passed through those difficult times that we have been able to experience how only God helped us through.

We light this candle on this fourth Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness and that God is the one who leads us on the pathways through the desert and wilderness, and turns the desert into pools of water.

(light the fourth candle)

Prayer: As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember that it is you who brings us safely through the wilderness, and that it is you who brings life to deserted places. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

Fifth Sunday: Fire

In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering that though we, the people of God, have forgotten the covenants God has made with us, God has established a new covenant within our hearts, one that can never be forgotten. We are baptized by water as John the Baptist baptized, but Jesus baptizes by the Holy Spirit and with fire. Fire purifies, cleans out the old, and allows for new things to come, just as forest fires clean out the old, dead wood, and allow for new plants and life to flourish.

We light this candle on this fifth Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness through the ashes that mark this season, that new life comes out of death. This covenant is written in our hearts, that we will all know the Lord, and we will be forgiven, cleansed from within, our sin remembered no more.

(light the fifth candle)

Prayer: As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember that spring comes only after a long winter, that new life, eternal life, comes only after passing through death. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

Palm Sunday: Wood

In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering that long ago God planted the Tree of Life, and yet it is on a tree that Christ is crucified. We are again reminded that life comes out of death, and we are promised that death does not have the final word.

We light this candle on this Palm Sunday, the last Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness through the cross upon which our Lord was crucified, that death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for Christ triumphs over death.

(light the sixth candle)

Prayer: As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember that you are the one who calls life out of death, that you are the Lord of our lives. In the name of Christ, may we have the strength found in him to journey towards the cross. Amen.