

2023 Lenten Series Year A
Exploring Lent Through Our Senses

Here is a plan using the Gospel lessons from the Revised Common Lectionary for a sensory exploration of Lent.

A word of caution, in that when we speak of senses and disability people will perceive these senses in different ways. Be sure to go beyond the surface meanings. For example, in using sight, perhaps consider using vision, which can have more meanings beyond sight into visioning for our future. For hearing, consider using listening, or better yet perceiving/understanding God's word.

Below are the days and scriptures and senses, along with a summary of the passage and a thought about how to incorporate that sense. Again, be aware of ablelist biases in how able-bodied people understand certain senses.

First Sunday of Lent: Matthew 4:1-11

Sense: Hearing

Jesus facing temptations in the wilderness

Listen to the Word of God

Second Sunday of Lent: John 3:1-17

Sense: Touch

Born from Above, Born Anew

Being present in our body as we are born anew, feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Third Sunday of Lent: John 4:5-42

Sense: Taste

Living Water—the woman at the well.

Taste and see the Lord is Good!

Fourth Sunday of Lent: John 9:1-41

Sense: Sight

A blind man is able to see

Envision the Beloved Community including everyone!

Fifth Sunday of Lent: John 11:1-45

Sense: Smell

The death and resurrection of Lazarus

Getting past the scent of death to find new life

Sixth Sunday of Lent: Matthew 21:1-11

Palm Sunday

Incorporating all the senses: the touch of palm branches, the sound of the crowds shouting Hosanna, the sight of the people and the donkey, the smell of the city. For taste, perhaps include vs. 18-21 about the fig tree.