

Lent for Lay Leaders

Lorraine Reinhardt

Most of you are used to acting in a leadership role so this may not be new information, but here are a few Practical Considerations.

As leaders be aware of speaking slowly and loudly enough to be heard and understood.

- practice speaking everything out loud a couple of times before the service, in a level of voice louder than regular conversation
- if you will be using a microphone, practice with that as well, and make sure to speak into it and make it work for you
- speak slowly enough to be understood, but not so slowly that it sounds stilted
- read the words as though you understand their meaning, and are conveying those concepts and images to the listener

If you have strong musical leadership, either instrumental and vocal, or one or the other, you are blessed.

If you don't have that leadership,

- look to the community
 - a high school student who is taking piano or guitar or violin lessons
 - check out local music schools or teachers
 - Facebook group - Collaborative Musicians of Vancouver
 - pay them something for their service
- many hymns, and some service music can be found on Youtube
- familiar liturgies and hymns can be sung without an accompanying instrument

Resources

Sundays and Seasons is a wonderful resource that provides so much information and suggestions for each Sunday of the church year. It does cost money to subscribe but perhaps if your church budget does not allow this expense, an individual in your community may offer to pay this expense, if asked.

If you are not able to have a subscription to Sundays and Seasons, choose hymns yourself, using your own good judgment. Read all the lessons, which can be found in the front of the ELW for each Sunday of the church year. The list

begins on p. 18 in the front of the book and provides information for each of the lectionary years A, B and C. We are currently in Year A. The Lent section begins on p.26.

Write down the themes. Look for hymns first in the Lent section of the hymnal. They begin with ELW 319. Then read the lessons again to note other themes or phrases and how they might relate to hymns that you know from other parts of the hymnal, or other music resources.

worship.ca is free and can be accessed from the national ELCIC website, as well as worship.ca. Orders of worships and suggestions for each season and Sunday are prepared by people from across the church, most often members of the Programme Committee for Worship.

Sermons by email is a programme supplying sermons prepared by Lutheran and Anglican pastors for each Sunday of the church year. To subscribe and receive sermons regularly, or even occasionally, email Pr Jane Gingrich at sermonsbyemail@gmail.com. The Summer Sermon Series prepared by bishops and assistants to bishops across the church, replaces the sermons by email programme in the summer.

If you are feeling brave and have the time to research and study, you might enjoy the challenge of writing your own sermon.

Music that Makes Community offers paperless music resources. Sometimes the music is in unison, sometimes in a round, sometimes in two or three parts. It is often one line of text repeated so it is easy for people to remember. It does require a leader to teach the music.

All Creation Sings (ACS) is a wonderful hymnal. The hymn section for Lent is especially good, in my opinion.

Also the following:

Circle of Grace by Jan Richardson

How the Stars Get In Your Bones by Jan Richardson

A Wee Worship Book, Wild Goose Resource Group — GIA Publications

Touch Holiness, Resources for Worship — Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi

Lent is an Alleluia and Hymn of Praise Free Season

Check hymn texts as well. We don't want an inadvertent Alleluia to slip in.

Orders of Service

Ash Wednesday

- Invitation to Lent found in Leaders Desk Edition p. 617
- Option to use another form for worship for eg. Wild Goose publications

ACS Service of Word and Prayer

- There is a suggested Greeting, Opening Prayer and Blessing specific to Lent

ELW Service of the Word

- Always choose options for lay leaders, eg. p. 212 “God, who is rich in mercy...”
- Remember, no Hymn of Praise or Alleluia verse

Service of the Word — adapted

- Use any of the Settings for Holy Communion, then after the Offering, jump to the Lord’s Prayer followed by the Sending

Evening Lenten Services

- I encourage you to look at the Daily Prayer section in the ELW and read the Pattern for Worship on p. 295
- Vespers ELW p. 309 — note the Lenten dialogue on p. 310
- Create a Taizé service using hymns from ELW — see the list of Sources of Service Music and Hymns on ELW p. 1193 under Taizé Community
- Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen

In your planning, these are some elements to include whether you use a prepared form of worship or create your own

Include:

Confession and Forgiveness
Scripture Reading
Singing
Silence = time for reflection
Prayer
Sharing the Peace
Blessing and Sending

Omit:

Hymn of Praise — both Glory to God and Now the Feast
Alleluia

Corporate Confession and Forgiveness ELW p. 238 (adapted)

Gathering

- Hymn
- Invocation p. 238
- Prayer of Preparation p. 239

OR

From Touch Holiness, Resources for Worship – Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi

- p. 179 Invocations and Prayers of Approach No. 3 or No.21
- p. 200 Prayers of Confession – Inclusivity

Silence

Hymn – Kyrie is a very appropriate hymn for Lent. eg ELW 151-158 *OR* a Kyrie from one of the 12 settings of liturgy

Word

- two or three lessons appointed for the day
 - Gospel lesson with a Lenten Gospel Acclamation
- Could also use one of the following:
 - * ELW 176 or 177
 - * ACS 1078 There is a Longing in Our Hearts *Refrain only*
 - * ACS 1083 Be Still and Know
 - * or from one of the 12 settings of the liturgy
- Sermon – sermons by email; quiet time for reflection and sharing
- Hymn – based on themes from the gospel reading and the sermon
- Confession p. 239-240 and Forgiveness p. 241 (choose the lay option-R side)
- Sharing the peace
- ELW 199 Jesus, Lamb of God (receiving the offering)

Prayers

- Prayers of Intercession
 - Have a combination of prepared prayers, and also leave time for spontaneous prayer from those gathered
 - Sundays and Seasons has prayers for each Sunday on their website which you can download and tailor to your specific situation
 - Final petition, specific to Lent: ACS p. 44
 - God of all compassion, gather our prayers in your mercy and grant to us what you know we need, that we may walk in the life and peace of your Spirit,

through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation. **Amen.**

– Lord’s Prayer

– There are a variety of translations available for the Lord’s Prayer. Perhaps for the Lenten season you might choose one of these. Reciting the petitions using different images can bring them to life anew.
eg. New Zealand Lord’s Prayer

God our mother and father,
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.

– The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

Sending

– Blessing (eg, ACS p. 45)

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God.

Amen

OR Beloved is Where We Begin p. 96 Circle of Grace - Jan Richardson

OR A Wee Worship Book p. 30, or p. 75

OR Rough Translations p. 108 Circle of Grace - Jan Richardson

– Hymn

– Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ has made you free. **Thanks be to God.**

Always remember: The end goal is worship of God. God will take what you offer and use it to nurture and sustain the people of God.