



First Sunday in Lent

One: God holds us in a covenant of grace. The promise to Noah is our promise too: God will never destroy the whole world in order to make things new.

All: Rather, God will work through us to make things new.

One: We need change that turns us inside out, focusing us on the needs of those around us.

All: May we embrace the changes that will leave fear behind and open up a whole new world ahead.

Assurance:

One: May the God of the rainbow assure us that the world is in good hands.

All: May Christ, who shared our humanity, open our hearts to the pain of all who suffer.

One: May the Holy Spirit give us courage and conviction to stand up to oppression.

All: May we be faithful to the God of covenant and change.



Zahra's Story



In Afghanistan, Zahra, a 58-year-old widow, became the sole guardian and provider for her children last winter. Zahra's husband died due to severe bone rheumatism exacerbated by the region's bitter cold and the family's inability to afford medical treatment. Their eldest daughter, Masuma, lives with a disability affecting her hand, while their 16-year-old is also in need of medical support after an accident.

Zahra's family struggles to earn an income. Her 12-year-old daughter, Zohra, earns less than \$30 a month as a tailoring apprentice. Given their need, Zahra and her children were selected to participate in a food assistance project supported by PWS&D, which provided cash over a five-month period to enable marginalized households to buy food.

With her daughter's monthly income and the cash assistance provided through the project, Zahra and her family's most urgent food-related challenges were eased significantly. "This assistance saved us this winter from hunger, malnutrition and even death. The aid we received was used to buy food and fuel, allowing us to care for our family without borrowing money. For this, we are truly grateful."

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help nourish families by providing emergency food to families facing poverty.



Second Sunday in Lent

One: God's covenant continued through Abram and Sarai.
God promised that things would change.

**All: Even Abram and Sarai's names changed as a sign
of God's constant presence with them.**

One: The promise that God made is our promise too:
When we journey with God, God will make us fruitful
and the people of faith will increase.

**All: May we embrace the changes that leave power,
might and pride behind.**

Assurance:

One: May the God of the covenant love us so much that
we cannot stay the same.

**All: May Christ, who called people to give up everything
and follow him, also compel us to follow him.**

One: May the Holy Spirit of comfort assure us that
in every change, God is faithful.

**All: May we hear the call of the God
of covenant and change.**



From Despair to Hope in Malawi



Peter Simon is a 56-year-old father of four from Kumbewe Village in Malawi's Balaka district. Like many families in its southern region, Peter's life became more difficult when El Niño-induced droughts and floods affected the country.

"I watched almost all my fields get washed away. The little that was left did not survive," Peter shared. "Farming, which used to sustain my family, was no longer reliable."

As food became scarce and maize prices soared beyond his family's reach, Peter's once stable life began to spiral.

However, a ray of hope emerged through the El Niño Emergency Response Program. With support from PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Peter's family and 1,700 other households received monthly cash transfers to help meet their needs.

"The cash transfer changed everything," Peter said with a smile. "I was able to buy food for my family, pay my children's school fees and slowly rebuild my life. Just look at me now—so healthy!"

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to bring hope to disaster-stricken families by providing emergency food.



Third Sunday in Lent

One: God gave us the covenant of the law to guide us and help us live with our neighbours in love.

All: When we break God's law, we leave our neighbours hurt and bruised.

One: God's law is a gift to us, showing us how to keep our part of the covenant.

All: Even through old pain and wounds, may we embrace the new life that Christ can bring.

Assurance:

One: May the God of the law guide us in living lives that keep the covenant of love.

All: May Christ's forgiveness grant us new life, even when we break God's law.

One: May the Holy Spirit of conviction lead us to confession and renewal.

All: May we respond in love to the God of covenant and change.



Earning a Good Income in Nepal



“Even with a small piece of land, it’s possible to earn a good income with little cash investment.” These words from Ankhu Jaishi, a 30-year-old mother of four from Nepal’s Kalikot district, reflect the determination of farmers worldwide who participate in self-help groups.

Through these groups, farmers share knowledge about conservation agriculture, learning techniques that help maximize productivity on small plots of land despite changing climate conditions.

Before joining the program, Ankhu and her husband struggled to provide enough food for their children and his mother, who they also support.

In 2023 though, with support from PWS&D and the International Nepal Fellowship, Ankhu joined a self-help group that gave her resources to start growing vegetables.

Her farm now serves as a model for others in the community, where she teaches neighbours the skills she has learned. Reflecting on her journey, Ankhu proudly says, “Joining the self-help group changed my life.”

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help communities adapt to and mitigate the effects of a rapidly changing climate.



Fourth Sunday in Lent

One: How often, like those who wander in the wilderness,
have we failed to trust God's covenant!

All: We have let God down and hurt one another.

One: But Jesus came into the world and was lifted up
in order that love might be reborn.

**All: Let us be glad, for we are not condemned,
but held in the covenant of grace.**

Assurance:

One: May God provide for our every need as we wander
through our own wilderness.

**All: May Christ our Saviour never condemn us,
but deliver us to salvation.**

One: May the Holy Bond of Love keep us in eternal care.

**All: May we be empowered by embracing God's covenant
and accepting God's changes.**



Without Water, There is No Life



Felicita Tomás Velásquez used to have to fetch water from a source 30 minutes away because her home in Tuilelén, Guatemala, lacked piped water. Installing pipelines was too expensive for her family.

After years of effort, Felicita, who is now married with 11 children, finally obtained water access from the nearby community of La Libertad.

Since then, both Tuilelén and La Libertad have placed restrictions on new users, because water flow has decreased. That means Felicita's adult children and their families often rely on wells or neighbours for enough water.

To help address this problem, PWS&D and local partner, Maya-Mam Association for Research and Development, have installed water tanks.

Now Felicita's family and others in the community will have access to enough water.

"I am deeply grateful to the donors for providing water tanks. I recommend that the institution continue to supply other families with this type of support, since, without water, there is no life," she shares.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help communities access clean, safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities.

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

One: God promised a new covenant through the prophet Jeremiah, who said that one day the law would be written on our hearts and all would know God.

All: Often, when we are confused and closed and worn, we wonder if that day will ever come.

One: God's promise throughout the law and prophets is made alive in us. God will always be our God and we will always be God's people.

All: Let us be glad, for God remembers our sin no more.

Assurance:

One: May the God of healing grace restore our weary souls.

All: May the Christ of glory teach us that it is through service that we gain honour.

One: May the Holy Spirit grant us a new sense of purpose and direction.

All: May we anticipate with eagerness God's coming covenant and the changes it will bring.



Kolan's Journey of Resilience and Transformation



In Ghana, 40-year-old Kolan Lamisi participates in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana's Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program.

"I was involved in an accident which resulted in a permanent disability. My husband, after expending so many resources to get me medical attention, got fed up and abandoned me to my fate.

I was always indoors and had no source of livelihood. Life was very challenging. The CBR, in partnership with PWS&D, came into my life, and things have never been the same.

My life has changed positively.

I received mobility devices, including a wheelchair and a tricycle. I was trained and supported to run a shop to generate money. Currently, I earn enough through my business so that I can pay for my basic needs and live happily."

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help build sustainable livelihoods so families and individuals can meet their basic needs.



Palm/Passion Sunday

One: When the anointed of the Lord comes to fulfill the covenant, will we recognize him?

All: Will he find us despairing, cynical and hungry for power?

One: Or will he find us living in peace and hope and love?

All: May we stand ready to receive Christ in humility, praise and trust.

Assurance:

One: May the God of hosannas save us this day.

All: May Christ's humility govern our thoughts, words and actions.

One: May the Holy Spirit breathe on us with life and strength anew.

All: May we be lifted up in faith by the God of covenant and change.



Tara's Journey to Self-Worth and Independence



Tara Kumari, a 25-year-old who lives in the Champapur village of India, once dreamed of studying and shaping her own future. But these dreams ended when she was married young and forced to leave school. She also suffered abuse from her husband and in-laws.

Pregnancy did not ease her suffering. After giving birth to two daughters, the harassment worsened, as her in-laws demanded a son. Even when she finally had a boy, Tara's poverty and lack of education brought new insults and violence. Unable to bear it, she returned to her father's home.

Everything changed when she learned of the PWS&D-supported Karuna Project's vocational training courses. With determination, Tara trained as a beautician and opened her own parlour, soon becoming a successful businesswoman.

Today, she supports her parents and children, disproving her father who once thought daughters were a burden. Tara's success now inspires other families to believe in their daughters' potential.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help build self-reliance through vocational training and skills development.

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Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday

One: Eating the bread, we proclaim that we are the body of Christ.

All: Holding the cup, we say, “This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood.”

One: We remember.

All: We remember.

Assurance:

One: May the God of sorrows accompany us on this journey to the cross.

All: May the crucified Christ forgive us for the violence that plagues the human race.

One: May the Holy Spirit whisper reassurance through the darkness of this hour.

All: May the world be healed from violence and hatred by the God of covenant and change.



The Impact of the Village Education Committee



Akim, Thomas, Frizar, Medai, Tamala, Oilier, Martha and Timothy form the Village Education Committee in their community in Malawi.

The committee, supported by PWS&D through the Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program, works tirelessly to ensure that every child attends school. Committee members visit families to counsel children who have dropped out, encouraging them and working with their parents to support their return to class.

They particularly support girls affected by early marriage or pregnancy, assuring them that education can continue after childbirth and coordinating with teachers and parents to make it possible.

After witnessing high rates of school dropouts, the committee tracks attendance and monitors how many children start and complete each term.

The committee members came together because they wanted to make a difference. While there are many challenges, the committee remains dedicated and celebrates every child who returns to school.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help train communities about the importance of education to help break cycles of poverty.

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Easter

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen! The world is forever changed.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen! We are forever changed.

One: We need not fear, for the God of the covenant promises to be with us through every change.

All: May we always be open to new ways of living, relating, serving and seeing.

Assurance:

One: May the God of life remind us that death never has the final say.

All: May the risen Christ prove to us that violence and hatred will never win.

One: May the Holy Spirit, our advocate, lead us to advocate for others.

All: May we go boldly forward to live out the love, justice and hope that Easter proclaims.

Christ is Risen!



As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the transformative power of God's love and mercy. Every day, we witness the profound impact of responding to the needs of the hungry, the marginalized and the displaced.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, the church is dedicated to serving those in need with compassion, justice and love. Your faithful support through PWS&D is making a significant difference in communities around the world.

Together, we provide critical food assistance, access to health care, sanitation services and other emergency relief to those affected by crises and disasters. Our partners also work to address inequalities by strengthening communities through education, community health initiatives, sustainable agricultural practices, and skills training, while advocating for the rights and needs of refugees.

Faithful to our calling, we respond together.

This Easter, please support PWS&D.