### ELCA World Hunger

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### **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Read and reflect on** Luke 4:1-13.

**Question for reflection:** When have you and your community been lost in the wilderness?

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Generous God, provide bread for people who are hungry, shelter for people who are homeless and protection for people who are vulnerable. Listen to the cries of all who are abused or imprisoned or who suffer due to pain, anxiety or illness. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

TUE

THU

Today would be a good day to set a goal for your giving to ELCA World Hunger during Lent. Write it down and refer back to it throughout the season.

Transform us by your greatness, O God. Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people. Make us agents of change, confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

WED

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"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust'" (Psalm 91:1-2).

## SAT

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Yun lives with her husband and three daughters in Cambodia. When her husband got sick and was unable to work, she wasn't sure how she would provide for her family. With support from your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, she received chickens and training on how to raise them. The income from the chickens has helped Yun build a more secure future, and she has also begun sharing her new knowledge with her neighbors. "I am committed to using my skills and knowledge to help others," she says, "and I hope to inspire other women to get involved in our communities."





God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.



Lack of access to safe water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty. With the gift of a share of a safe-water project **(\$250),** you can give a community the powerful opportunity

**Begin ELCA World** 

Week 1 materials.

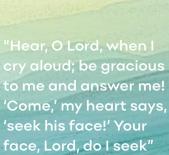
Hunger's Lent study

guide by reading the



to create change. As many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water with a simple water well, spring box or other water point. Visit goodgifts.elca.org for this gift and many more.

THU (Psalm 27:7-8).



### WORLD WATER DAY

This World Water Day, set aside time to pray for neighbors near and far facing water scarcity and water injustice, and give thanks for the local leaders whose tireless efforts inspire us with hope. Read more about World Water Day on the ELCA World Hunger blog.





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### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

ead and reflect on Luke 13:1

Question for reflection: What do you need to "cut down" in your life to help you work more effectively on behalf of others?



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Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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A woman might have the dream and skills to start her own small business, but with little savings or access to credit, getting started can be a challenge. A gift of \$125 can fund a microloan, which can be just what a woman needs to start her business, creating a steady source of income and helping her family overcome poverty.

### GOAL AMOUNT

FRI

"'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ... For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him" (Romans 10:8-12).

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SAT

"Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way; your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound; together we are seeking the road where faith is found" ("Bless Now, O God, the Journey," ELW 326).

Around the world, up to 783 million people are hungry, and each of them has a story to tell. You can make a significant impact on someone's life with a gift of \$2 a day. Throughout the season, consider setting aside that amount to donate to ELCA World Hunger.

sun

THU

"When we are tested and wrestle alone, famished for bread when the world offers stone, nourish us, God, by your word and your way, food that sustains us by night and by day" ("When We Are Tested," ACS 922).

#### **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

Read and reflect on Luke 13:31-35.

**Question for reflection:** What are the "foxes" in your community that obscure the gospel from view and help maintain unjust and inequitable systems?

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Read the Week 2 materials in ELCA World Hunger's Lent study guide.

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Your generosity has helped provide safe drinking water to over 100 households in a village in Sierra Leone. Community members used to fetch water from a local stream that was contaminated with household waste, causing serious health issues. Thanks to support from donors such as you, a well has been constructed to provide clean water for everyone in the village.



Week 3 materials in ELCA World Hunger's Lent study guide.



waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! ... Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food" (Isaiah 55:1-2).

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"Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove" ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," ELW 807).

ELCA World Hunger

## SAT

Like many rural communities, a significant number of residents of Floyd County in Virginia live more than 10 miles away from the closest supermarket. Your generosity helps these people get the food they need. Plenty! - an ELCA World Hunger grant partner – provides pantry services daily to about 10% of residents in Floyd County. Last year about 2,000 of its neighbors were served through a food pantry, library free fridge and meal delivery service.



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"From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" (2 Corinthians 5:16-17).

We pray for the health of this planet and the

well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by

droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and

delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate

change. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and

"Do not remember the former things or consider the

things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it

springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a

way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert"



FRI

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"Build a longer table, not a higher wall, feeding those who hunger, making room for all. Feasting together, stranger turns to friend, Christ breaks walls to pieces, false divisions end" ("Build a Longer Table," ACS 1062).



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Your generosity helps build peace as well as food security in Kenya. With support from ELCA World Hunger, Jemima is being trained in peace building and conflict management alongside her neighbors. Program participants can discuss the best way to share resources peacefully so everyone has what they need. Jemima says the program helps create "a harmonious community where each person is mindful of the other and we coexist as brothers and sisters."

In Fort Collins, Colo., LuMin campus ministry created not just housing but community. A grant from ELCA World Hunger enabled LuMin to provide affordable apartments for low-income students at Colorado State University. These students can focus on

their studies and graduate faster, with less debt. "LuMin has helped me to finish college,' one resident says, "and to finish in a good way."

PALM SUNDAY



### HOLY WEEK

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We pray for the church, called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Make us unflinching servants of the gospel. Deliver us from hardship as we confront the forces of injustice and practice radical compassion. Amen.

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(Isaiah 43:18-19).

"Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord. How precious is your steadfast love O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountg of life; in your light we see light" (Psalm 36:6-9)

'Lamb of God, pure and sinless, once on the cross an offering, patient, lowly, guiltless, forsaken in your suffering: from sin's grasp you have torn us, from gloom to hope have borne us. Your peace be with us, O Jesus" ("Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless," ELW 357).

THU

Gather all you've collected throughout your Lenten journey and add up your total gift to ELCA World Hunger. Make your donations online at ELCA.org/hunger/donate or to your congregation. Thank you for working creatively and courageously toward a just world where all are fed.



"You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat." Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat. You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be, to serve each other in your name in truth and charity" ("You Satisfy the Hungry Heart," ELW 484).

Read and reflect on Luke 22:14-23:56.

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FRI

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants, created in love: Train us to recognize your divine goodness in the world around us. Rouse in us a reverence for creation, that we will take greater care of its resources. Amen.

Prayers have been adapted from Sundays and Seasons (Augsburg Fortress, 2024).

### **GOAL AMOUNT**



### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

#### Read and reflect on Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

Question for reflection: When have you been afraid to walk alongside a prodigal son? How has that caused you to hesitate to support your neighbors in need?

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Read the Week 4 materials in ELCA World Hunger's Lent study guide.

Your gifts matter — in the United States, Cambodia, Sierra Leone and other countries all around the world. Learn more at ELCA.org/Hunger.

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Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT** 

**Read and reflect** on John 12:1-8. **Question for reflection:** 

When has an act of generosity or service made you feel closer to God?



**Read the Week** 5 materials in **ELCA World** Hunger's Lent study guide.

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gift of a cow (\$500) can produce a few gallons of milk each day. A family can start a small business selling extra milk, cheese, yogurt, butter and more. With food, funds and fertilizer, the gift of a cow has got it all.



FRI

"Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad, y hazla tuya, nada más; toma, sí, mi corazón y tu tronoen él tendras. / Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise" ("Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad" / "Take My Life, That I May Be," ELW 583).

**EASTER SUNDAY** 

Read, reflect on and rejoice in Luke 24:1-12.