

POURING OUT GRACE: SAMPLE

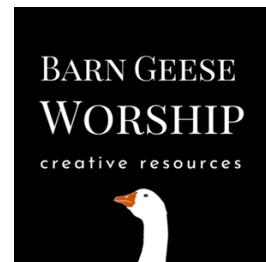
A LENTEN LITURGY FOR GRACE POURED OUT

JO SCHONEWOLF WITH BARN GEESE WORSHIP

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LITURGY

GATHERING WORDS

These words are the same each week.

On this _____ Sunday in Lent,
we journey again toward the cross.
We feel the weight of all that lies ahead.
We wrestle with coming sorrow.
We balance our growing needs.

God, we come here today
braced for the hazards of this journey.
Instead, you pour out grace.
Instead, you anoint us with oil.
Instead, you fill our cups to overflowing.

We find beauty in dry places,
abundance in want,
and welcome in despair.
You call us to the waters of life,
and we respond,
our longings now fulfilled.

INTENTIONS

The words of the Intentions change with each date. These words may be spoken aloud following the Gathering Words, printed in the bulletin, or shown on pre-service slides. They are meant to help set the tone each Sunday, framing the themes of worship. Alternatively, these words may be used as part of an invitation to anointing with oil.

ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 18)

Jesus will enter the waters of baptism
along with his cousin.
He has chosen his path.
As we join Jesus,
God prepares us
to receive new life,
grace poured out
through life and death and resurrection.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (FEBRUARY 22)

Jesus will go into the wilderness,
alone.
He has chosen his path.
As we join Jesus,
God prepares us
to receive the gift of faith,
grace poured out
like waters of justice,
like the ever-flowing stream of righteousness.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (MARCH 1)

Jesus will be visited in the dark of night
by Nicodemus,
seeking answers, refuge, and a destiny.
As we join Jesus,
God prepares us
to receive a revelation,
grace poured out
like the shade of healing trees,
like crystal-clear water from the throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This prayer remains the same throughout the season.

We know the pull of all
that separates us from God.
We long for the cleansing water
poured out over us again.
We seek anointing,
the oil running its healing course.
We feel this call to reconnect,
so we confess our sins.

**God, we have forgotten your call,
insistent though it is.**

**We stay back
though the waters of baptism call us forward.
We separate ourselves
though the bread and cup beckon us to community.
We hide our wounds
though the oil of anointing waits at the ready.**

God knows us better than we know ourselves.

Yet God does not withhold any good gift from us.
Like Naaman at the river, we are surprised at how easy it is
to experience God's outpouring of grace.
Like the woman at the well, we share living water
and watch impenetrable barriers break.
Like Mary at the feet of Jesus, we empty ourselves of all we have,
only to be filled again.

Beloved, you are forgiven.
Receive now, for yourself,
the abundant grace that opens your soul to love.
May grace flow free through us once again!

OFFERING PRAYER

This prayer remains the same throughout the season.

God of grace,
you give us all that we have.
Teach us to recognize your gifts
and to share again with you,
a good portion of all that we have,
pressed down and flowing over.

The offering is gathered.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

This prayer remains the same throughout the season.

Like the widow gathering vessels from her neighbors
at the urging of Elisha,
we have gathered up
our faithful tithes and gifts.
Though we don't yet know exactly
what you have in store,
we pray that you bring overflowing abundance
out of what we've offered here today.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

This prayer remains the same throughout the season.

Let us pray.
O Jesus, you have shared a feast
more gracious than we could ever ask,
the outpouring of your own self with us.
Send us out into the world
to be conduits for your goodness,
channels of your grace,
anointing this world
with the new life you have given us.
Amen.