



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

# poetry writing prompts

**FOR LENT-EASTER: YEAR A**

*Prompts by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity with  
storytelling scripts by Rev. Anna Strickland*

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*Use these prompts as a creative way to engage with scripture and our Lenten weekly themes. No writing experience is necessary to respond to these prompts—allow yourself freedom to play and have fun. Consider sharing these prompts with your entire congregation for a weekly poetry writing challenge! Share your community's poems in Sunday school, on social media, and/or as part of a large visual display.*

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**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**seeking:** *Is this the fast that I choose?*

## **write your own poem**

Write a stream-of-consciousness poem composed of a series of questions. Include the deeper questions that you are seeking this season, and/or the first ones that come to mind.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

**seeking:** *Who will you listen to?*

# blackout poetry

*Below is a creative retelling of Matthew 4:1-11, written by Rev. Anna Strickland. As you read the story, use a black marker or pen to underline or circle the words and phrases that speak to you. Then, blackout the rest of the words on the page. From the words that remain, you may find that a new message, poem, or image emerges. Visit this link to view examples of blackout poetry: [pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas](https://pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas)*

When Jesus had been baptized, he went into the wilderness to listen to God. After forty days, the Tempter came to try to trick Jesus into disobeying God. The Tempter knew that after not eating for so long that Jesus would be very hungry. He told Jesus, "If you really are God's son, you could turn these rocks into bread." But Jesus did not listen to the Tempter. He said, "God tells us that we do not live on bread alone." Then the Tempter took Jesus to the very top of the tallest building in Jerusalem. And the Tempter told Jesus, "If you really are God's son, you could jump off this building and angels would catch you. The Bible says so." But Jesus did not listen to the Tempter. He said, "The Bible also says not to test God." Then the Tempter took Jesus to the very top of a mountain where they could see all of the kingdoms of the world. The Tempter told Jesus, "I'll give you all of these kingdoms. Just bow down and worship me, and all the riches and power of the world will be yours." But Jesus did not listen to the Tempter. He said, "God tells us to worship only God." Realizing that he could not trick Jesus into disobeying God, the Tempter left. Then angels came to take care of Jesus.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**seeking:** *How do we begin again?*

## **write your own poem**

Write a poem describing what beginning again feels, looks, sounds, and smells like. Include many sensory details.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

**seeking:** *Will you give me a drink?*

## blackout poetry

*Below is a creative retelling of John 4:6-15, written by Rev. Anna Strickland. As you read the story, use a black marker or pen to underline or circle the words and phrases that speak to you. Then, blackout the rest of the words on the page. From the words that remain, you may find that a new message, poem, or image emerges. Visit this link to view examples of blackout poetry: [pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas](https://pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas)*

Around noon, a Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water. Jesus asked her for a drink of water, which surprised her. She asked, "Why are you, a Jewish man, asking me for a drink? Don't you know that I am a Samaritan?" Jesus responded, "If you knew who I am, you would be asking me for living water." The Samaritan woman was confused. She said, "You don't have a bucket, and the well is too deep to get water without one. Where are you going to get this living water? This is the best well around—our ancestor Jacob drank from it himself!" But Jesus wasn't talking about that kind of water. He said, "Everyone who drinks the water from this well will get thirsty again. But the water I have to give is like a spring that never runs out, so anyone who drinks it will never be thirsty again." The Samaritan woman asked Jesus, "Please give me this water so I never have to come back to the well to get water!"

*THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

**seeking:** *Who sinned?*

## **write your own poem**

Write a poem that is also a letter. Address the letter to a past version of yourself. What do you want to say to the older version of you? What about life or faith do you know now that you didn't know then?

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**seeking:** *Can these bones live?*

# blackout poetry

*Below is a creative retelling of John 11:1-45, written by Rev. Anna Strickland. As you read the story, use a black marker or pen to underline or circle the words and phrases that speak to you. Then, blackout the rest of the words on the page. From the words that remain, you may find that a new message, poem, or image emerges. Visit this link to view examples of blackout poetry: [pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas](https://pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas)*

Jesus was on his way to the town of Bethany, where his friends lived. He was traveling to Bethany because he heard that his friend Lazarus had died after being sick. Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha, had buried Lazarus in a tomb four days ago. When they heard that Jesus was on his way to see them, Mary and Martha went to meet Jesus. They were very sad because their brother had died. They told Jesus, "If you had been here, Lazarus would not have died. You could have saved him! We know you are the Messiah, and you can work miracles." Jesus told them, "Your brother will live again." But they did not understand what he meant. They thought he was talking about life in heaven. Jesus was very sad and began to cry. He asked Mary and Martha to take him to the tomb where they had buried their brother. Mary and Martha took Jesus to the tomb to see Lazarus. When they got to the tomb, Jesus called to his friend who had died, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus came out of the tomb. Since he was still wrapped in burial linens, Jesus told them to take the linens off so he could be free.

**seeking:** *Where are you headed?*

## blackout poetry

*Below is a creative retelling of Matthew 21:1-11, written by Rev. Anna Strickland. As you read the story, use a black marker or pen to underline or circle the words and phrases that speak to you. Then, blackout the rest of the words on the page. From the words that remain, you may find that a new message, poem, or image emerges. Visit this link to view examples of blackout poetry: [pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas](https://pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas)*

Jesus was traveling toward Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. His followers were with him. Before going into Jerusalem, he asked his followers to bring him a donkey to ride. They brought him a donkey to ride and laid their coats on the donkey as a saddle. As the emperor was riding his horse into the city, leading the parade, Jesus began his own parade. People laid their coats and palm branches on the ground in front of him as he rode. They were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God!" When Jesus entered the city, everyone was excited and wondered who this man could be that so many people were following him. The followers told everyone about Jesus.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**seeking:** *Will you wash my feet?*

## **write your own poem**

Write a poem to Peter in response to his initial reaction to Jesus: "No! You will never wash my feet!" What do you want to say to Peter? If you were in Peter's position, what would you need to hear in order to ease your fears and soften your resistance to receiving love?

GOOD FRIDAY

**seeking:** *Why have you forsaken me?*

## **write your own poem**

Write a poem of lament that includes the refrain, "Why have you forsaken me?" Imagine all the situations that might prompt someone to cry out with this refrain.

## EASTER SUNDAY

**seeking:** *Who are you looking for?*

# blackout poetry

*Below is a creative retelling of John 20:1-18, written by Rev. Anna Strickland. As you read the story, use a black marker or pen to underline or circle the words and phrases that speak to you. Then, blackout the rest of the words on the page. From the words that remain, you may find that a new message, poem, or image emerges. Visit this link to view examples of blackout poetry: [pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas](https://pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas)*

When Jesus died, they buried him in a garden. In the garden was a tomb where they laid Jesus' body. Jesus' follower and friend Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning to visit his body and take care of it. When she saw that the stone door had been moved away from the entrance to the tomb, Mary ran to get the other followers, worried that someone had taken Jesus' body. When they got to the tomb, Jesus' followers looked inside. They didn't see Jesus in the tomb, only the pieces of cloth his body had been wrapped in. Confused, they went home, leaving Mary alone. Then Mary looked inside the tomb. There, sitting where Jesus' body had been, were two angels. They asked her, "Why are you crying?" She told them, "They have taken my friend away and I don't know where they've put him." Just then, she turned around and saw a man. She thought the man must be the gardener, so she asked him, "Sir, did you take him away? Please tell me where you put him so I can go get him." Then the man said her name, "Mary," and she knew then that this man was Jesus! "Teacher!" she said and went to hug her friend who had been raised from the dead. But Jesus said to her, "Don't hold onto me. Even though you see me now, I must go be with God in heaven. Go tell the rest of the followers." And Mary went to tell everyone how Jesus had been raised to life.

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*A Sanctified Art LLC is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshiping communities. The Sanctified Art team works collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. Their mission is to empower churches with resources to inspire creativity in worship and beyond. Driven by the connective and prophetic power of art, they believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God. Learn more about their work at [sanctifiedart.org](https://sanctifiedart.org).*

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