



Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Marks of the Christian

These worship helps are for congregations shaping their Lenten Wednesday worship services around the Lenten Resource—*Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Marks of the Christian*. The weekly and daily themes emerge from Paul’s Letter to the Romans, chapter 12. In these Worship Notes you will find bullet points highlighting each week’s key themes from *Marks of the Christian*, a Prayer of the Day, scripture readings, hymn suggestions, and several ideas and images around which to build the worship experience. Worship planners are encouraged to pick and choose from these worship helps—and even to go beyond them—in planning Lenten worship that speaks to the context of your congregation. Each week in Lent, the worship planner should have read each of the six daily readings from *Marks of the Christian* in order to plan worship and prepare a sermon that speaks to the experience of congregational members who are working through this resource as a personal or small group Lenten discipline.

The following items are available in each set of Worship Helps.

Introduction to the Day

Provides a theme for the worship that is connected to scripture readings for the day and to the weekly themes found in the book.

Prayer of the Day

A Prayer of the Day connected to the day’s theme.

Readings and Psalm

Scripture readings that connect to the themes of the worship and help set the direction for the worship service.

Prayer Prompts

Thematic prayer petition suggestions provided to guide the prayers of the community in worship.

Hymns for Worship

Hymn suggestions from multiple hymn sources to use in building the worship.

Ideas and Images

Suggestions for interactive sources of art, media, and content to use in creative ways to enhance or expand the worship experience.



Worship Helps for the Second Wednesday in Lent

■ Introduction to the Day

To be used as a sermon starter and springboard into the worship service

The theme for the second Wednesday in Lent is “Love.” We all need to love and be loved. Love is the goal of the Christian life. Love is a way of seeing habitually and responding to the real, separate, individual needs of each of the people we encounter in our lives every single day. The preacher might focus on:

- Jesus’ unconditional love for us, which he demonstrated by offering his life for us.
- How we can be open to loving others as Christ loves us.
- How God’s grace opens up the grace to stir inside of us.
- Being open to the needs of others as an intentional part of our prayer life.

■ Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, we pray that your kingdom would come into this world of violence and suffering, that your reign of justice would put an end to injustice, that your reign of love would banish fear and hate, and that we who have been called to follow Jesus might give ourselves to doing justice, to loving kindness, and to walking humbly with you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who proclaimed and lived within your kingdom. Amen.

■ Readings and Psalm

Use these readings and reading introductions as texts for the day.

SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6-7

The song says that love is more powerful than death and stronger than the grave. Jesus’ unconditional love for us is displayed through his death on the cross.

PSALM 63:1-8

God’s love means more than life itself. The psalmist is filled with joyful praises by the power and glory that our Lord shows to us.

ROMANS 12:3-6a, 9

By grace God gives unique gifts to each of the members of Christ’s body, the church. We are called to live humbly together in community and to build up one another in love.

JOHN 15:8-11

We are called to be faithful and obedient to Jesus the true vine, who promises to love us as his father loved him.

■ Prayer Prompts

Use these prompts to supplement prayers of the community.

- For the church, that in our life together we may be signs of the kingdom.
- For the world, that the kingdom values of justice and love, fairness and equity, and mercy and compassion would spread through the faithfulness of God's people.
- For those who are ill or grieving (especially those we now name in our hearts), that the promise of that great day when God will wipe away every tear and death will provide comfort and healing.
- For all those who strive first for the kingdom of God, that they may have the grace, faith, and courage to stand with and for the oppressed, the marginalized, the exploited.

■ Hymns for Worship

Hymn suggestions to go with the readings.

GATHERING

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us ELW 358

What Wondrous Love Is This ELW 666, LBW 385

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ELW 712, LBW 423

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go LBW 324

Oh, Love, How Deep ELW 322

COMMUNION

What Feast of Love ELW 487

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church ELW 321

SENDING

The King of Love My Shepherd Is ELW 502, LBW 456

My Song is Love Unknown ELW 343, LBW 94

■ Ideas and Images

ARTWORK FOR PROJECTION

Do an internet search using the phrase “images of Christian love.” Several interesting options will be collected for viewing.

See also <http://www.fci.crossnet.se/>.

AN EXAMPLE OF LOVE IN ACTION

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action/Public-Church/Jesus-Justice-and-Jazz.aspx>