



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 Fifth Wednesday in Lent

■ Introduction to the Day

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

The theme for the fifth Wednesday in Lent is “Patience.” God challenges us in our hardships to trust, have faith, and be patient. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too may walk in the newness of life. The preacher might focus on:

- How we seek comfort in troubled times and find patience.
- How God’s love and forgiveness can be a model for human behavior.
- How we can live a more patient life.
- Laying all our prayers, wants, needs, and joys at the feet of Jesus and being patient.

■ Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, as often as we ask for your listening ear, may we be patient in waiting for your answers. May we be as patient for your care as we are quick to seek your love and mercy. We come as we are and ask you to fill us with your love and mercy. Amen.

■ Readings and Psalm

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

ISAIAH 40:27-31

God the Creator never rests from giving strength to those who are powerless and lifting up those who grow weary. Those who wait for the LORD with patience will be renewed.

PSALM 30:1-5

The psalmist calls for songs of thanksgiving from those who have been rescued from the depths of despair.

ROMANS 12:12-13a

Be patient and trust in the Lord, even when suffering comes. Give generously to one another.

MARK 4:26-32

God’s kingdom is like seed scattered on the ground that grows into grain that can be harvested, or like a mustard bush that grows from the smallest seed.

Prayer Prompts

Use these prompts to supplement prayers of the community.

- God, hear the cry of your people and be near to those in need.
- Grant us patience and courage during the difficult times to trust that you will guide us through life's challenges.
- We pray, O God, for communities and nations torn by violence and for all who live in fear.
- For this community of faith, that we might be like Christ to one another. Bless and encourage all who minister to live out your love in witness and service.
- For the growth of your kingdom through the planting of the seeds of the gospel.

Hymns for Worship

Hymn suggestions to go with the readings.

GATHERING

Canticle of the Turning ELW 723

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ELW 332, LBW 497

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts ELW 658, LBW 356

On What Has Now Been Sown ELW 550

COMMUNION

We Live a Mystery, *Gather* 419

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ELW 484, WOV 711

SENDING

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life ELW 719, LBW 429

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335

Ideas and Images

FUN IMAGES OF PATIENCE

www.dphotojournal.com/patience/

www.avenuestosuccess.com/avenues_to_success_n...

CHRISTIAN MUSIC VIDEO ON THE THEME OF PATIENCE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqvShIfgacw>

COLLECTION OF QUOTES ABOUT PATIENCE

<http://thinkexist.com/quotations/patience/>