



## ***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 Seventh Wednesday in Lent

### ■ Introduction to the Day

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

The seventh Wednesday in Lent brings us to the end of this journey of faith in Romans 12. The theme for this seventh Wednesday is “living the Christ-like life.” The focus could be on the unconditional love our Lord shared with us the night he died on the cross and ways we can live out that love in our daily lives, being like Christ to one another. The preacher could focus on:

- How, as God’s children, we can treat others as we would like to be treated.
- What we can do to become more like Christ in our daily lives.
- How Christ’s forgiveness models our response to all, including our enemies.
- Sacramental living as an extension of the self-sacrificing death of Christ.

### ■ Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you have called us to be your people and sent us into the world to love, have patience and hope, serve your people, and live the love of Christ. May we be faithful in this calling for the sake of the world you love, so that the world might know our mission. Neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from your love, poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

### ■ Readings and Psalm

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

#### **JEREMIAH 31:10-14**

God promises to gather the people of Israel (Jacob) from exile and bring them home to Zion in Jerusalem, where they will be blessed by God’s abundance.

#### **PSALM 16:7-11**

The psalmist expresses love for and trust in God, who provides wisdom and counsel.

#### **ROMANS 12:14-21**

Living the way of Christ means living in peace even with our enemies and blessing those who persecute and curse us. Christ’s way is the way of forgiveness, and not vengeance.

#### **JOHN 13:1-15**

Jesus does the ultimate act of discipleship in the compassionate act of foot washing. His sacramental sacrifice is summed up through our holy week journey. He becomes a servant to us by dying on the cross. There is no greater love!

## Prayer Prompts

Use these prompts to supplement prayers of the community.

- For this community of faith, that we might be like Christ to one another. May we show love and patience for all and strive to make a difference in all we do.
- We give thanks for the world you have created. Equip us to care for our environment, helping to restore those areas and those people whose lives have been damaged by earthquakes, fires, or floods.
- Instill within the leaders of all nations a passion for peace and justice, and be with those who live or work in harm's way.
- We give thanks for all who have died and are gathered in your care. Remove our fears and teach us to trust in your promise of everlasting life.

## Hymns for Worship

*Hymn suggestions to go with the readings.*

### GATHERING

All Are Welcome ELW 641

O God of Mercy, God of Light ELW 714, LBW 425

### HYMN OF THE DAY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence ELW 490, LBW 198

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil ELW 721

Lord, You Give the Great Commission WOV 756, ELW 579

### COMMUNION

One Bread, One Body ELW 496, WOV 710

Now We Join in Celebration ELW 462, LBW 203

Jesus, Remember Me ELW 616, WOV 740

### SENDING

Bless Now, O God, the Journey ELW 326

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church ELW 321

We All Are One in Mission ELW 576, WOV 755

## Ideas and Images

### ARTWORK FOR PROJECTION

[http://peace.mennolink.org/adults\\_a\\_clipart.html](http://peace.mennolink.org/adults_a_clipart.html)

<http://blog.ministrygrowers.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/loveyourenemy-1.jpg>

### YOUTUBE PRESENTATION ON "THE PASSION OF CHRIST"

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=becoming+the+christ&search\\_type=&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=becoming+the+christ&search_type=&aq=f)