



## ***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 Sixth Wednesday in Lent

### ■ Introduction to the Day

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

The theme for the sixth Wednesday in Lent is “Hospitality.” Jesus shows his hospitality every time we come to the table to share the bread and wine. We can find hospitality in the splendor of a sunset, or the beauty of the trees in a forest. We also find hospitality when we show grace to others by opening up our homes to share a meal or lend a hand to those in need. The preacher might also focus on:

- How showing hospitality brings us closer to God.
- How we receive joy in sharing hospitality.
- Where we can go to receive hospitality, and how we receive it.

### ■ Prayer of the Day

O God, our Creator, your creation has brought us the gift of a new day. You show hospitality to all through the cross, the sacraments, and beauty that surround us. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive and share your love with all the world. Amen.

### ■ Readings and Psalms

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

#### ISAIAH 58:6-8

God’s justice calls for hospitality, especially to the poor and needy.

#### PSALM 41:1-3

The LORD sustains those who help the poor.

#### ROMANS 12:13B, 15

Provide hospitality to strangers and be present for those who are experiencing both joy and sorrow.

#### LUKE 16:19-31

A story about showing hospitality . . . or not!

## Prayer Prompts

*Use these prompts to supplement prayers of the community.*

- For those who are lonely and need someone to love. Show them hospitality in the face of a stranger and bring them comfort and love.
- For world leaders and those who strive for justice and peace.
- For those who lose hope in the face of illness or accident, financial loss, or death, that the community of Christ's people would bring comfort and hope and healing.
- Give us a full measure of the love you have for all of the saints who have gone before us, and comfort those who mourn.

## Hymns for Worship

*Hymn suggestions to go with the readings.*

### GATHERING

We Are Called ELW 720

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807, LBW 499

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring ELW 691, WOV 759

### HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love ELW 708, WOV 765

All Are Welcome ELW 641

### COMMUNION

We Are an Offering ELW 692

We Place Upon Your Table, Lord ELW 467, LBW 217

### SENDING

This Little Light of Mine ELW 677

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant ELW 659

Rise, Shine, You People! ELW 665, LBW 393

## Ideas and Images

### ARTICLE ON HOSPITALITY IN LITURGY

<http://www.googlesyndicatedsearch.com/u/luthersem?q=hospitality>

### HOSPITALITY IMAGES AND THOUGHTS TO PROJECT OR USE IN DISCUSSION

[www.ursulafrayne.wa.edu.au/aims.html](http://www.ursulafrayne.wa.edu.au/aims.html)

[missionalchurchnetwork.com/category/hospitality/](http://missionalchurchnetwork.com/category/hospitality/)