



## ***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 Third Wednesday in Lent

### ■ Introduction to the Day

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

The theme for the third Wednesday in Lent is “Seeking the Good.” Sometimes in life bad things happen that enable us to see God’s plan for the good that awaits us on the other side. When we go through those tough times, we turn to God with empty hands and an open heart, ready to receive the amazing grace that he so willingly pours out to us. The preacher might focus on:

- The blessings that find their way into our lives when we least expect them.
- How troubled times can become a source of blessing.
- The struggles you have gone through in life that have strengthened your faith.

### ■ Prayer of the Day

God of grace, you call us to seek your loving mercy, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you; grant us grace and wisdom to do your will here on earth in all the places we live, work, and play, and to do your will on earth as it is done in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### ■ Readings and Psalm

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

#### ISAIAH 49:1-6

This passage is about the work of the Lord’s servant. We are called to do God’s will and take God’s saving power to all on earth.

#### PSALM 27:1-5, 11-14

The psalmist writes about being brave and trusting in the Lord. God’s presence gives us confidence and hope even in times of danger.

#### ROMANS 12:9-11

Paul calls us to love that is genuine and to hate evil.

#### JOHN 12:20-26

Jesus’ death and resurrection is like the death of a seed that grows up to new life and bears fruit. Those who follow Jesus are called to live a new life that bears fruit.

## Prayer Prompts

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

- For this community of faith, that in our life together we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.
- For the church, that it may faithfully and boldly declare God's will and promises in a world that is hostile and indifferent to God.
- For the sick and grieving, *[especially]*. May we who are called by God be obedient to the will of God by comforting and serving them in love.
- For all of us gathered here who bear the name of Christ, that we might look first to the interests of others and so have within us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

## Hymns for Worship

*Hymn suggestions to go with the readings.*

### GATHERING

We Are Called ELW 720  
For the Life of the World, *Gather* 575

### HYMN OF THE DAY

Light Dawns on a Weary World ELW 726  
On My Heart Imprint Your Image ELW 811  
O Master, Let Me Walk with You ELW 818, LBW 492

### COMMUNION

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart ELW 800, LBW 486  
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus ELW 802

### SENDING

O Jesus, I Have Promised ELW 810, LBW 503  
Listen, God Is Calling ELW 513, WOV 712  
Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

## Ideas and Images

### A SIMPLE "LOVE" STORY

[http://www.padrebob.com/genuine\\_love.htm](http://www.padrebob.com/genuine_love.htm)

### VIDEO

On YouTube Vine and Branches (Muddy River Media)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1edX2RUZo5k>

### SIMPLE BIBLE STUDY

[http://www.bookoffaith.org/bof\\_new/resources/john15.pdf](http://www.bookoffaith.org/bof_new/resources/john15.pdf)

### ARTWORK FOR PROJECTION

<http://www.themetonlinemedia.org/images/custom/49.jpg>