



## ***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 Fourth Wednesday in Lent

### Introduction to the Day

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

The theme for the Fourth Wednesday in Lent is “Hope.” Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hardships and tribulations can magnify one’s hope for grace and justice.

The preacher might focus on:

- How trials can help us keep hope alive.
- How Christ’s love gives us hope in a weary world.
- How the joy of hope can come from what we lack, not what we have.

### Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, we come to you with outstretched hands seeking your love and grace to sustain us. Teach us to trust that all will be well, for you will be here. Teach our hearts to sing with hope so that we may be hope for the world. Amen.

### Readings and Psalm

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

#### ISAIAH 42:1-4

The Lord presents his faithful servant in this reading. He is the chosen one who will bring peace and justice to the nations.

#### PSALM 130

This psalm is a song for worship. It focuses on trusting the Lord in times of trouble and gives us hope for a better day.

#### ROMANS 12:12

Christian faith is marked by rejoicing born of hope and bolstered by prayer in the midst of suffering.

#### MATTHEW 12:22-28

Jesus, the son of David, rules over the powers of evil and brings God’s kingdom into our midst through the power of forgiveness.

## Prayer Prompts

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

- For those who have lost hope and need to find their way back to you. Give them a glimpse of hope to know your mercy.
- Sustain those who rule the nations and guide them in the ways of peace and justice.
- For the poor, for the homeless—especially children—for the unemployed, for those sick without healthcare, for those whose hope has turned to hopelessness, that your people might raise their voices in a chorus of complaint and work to turn their hopelessness back to hope.
- Almighty God, be present and active in all ministries of the church and fill us with your abundant joy.

## Hymns for Worship

*Hymn suggestions to go with the readings.*

### GATHERING

All Earth is Hopeful ELW 266, WOV 629  
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335

### HYMN OF THE DAY

Blessed Assurance ELW 638, WOV 699  
O Blessed Spring ELW 447, WOV 695

### COMMUNION

O Christ the Same WOV 778  
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ELW 484, WOV 711

### SENDING

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less ELW 596-597, LBW 293-294  
Day By Day ELW 790, WOV 746  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand ELW 773, WOV 731

## Ideas and Images

### CHRISTIAN HOPE: A LETTER FROM TAIZÉ

[http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article343.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article343.html)

### ARTWORK FOR PROJECTION

<http://www.ibiblio.org/rcip/hope.html>