



Book of Faith Lenten Journey: 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer

These worship helps are for congregations shaping their Lenten Wednesday worship services around the Lenten Resource—*Book of Faith Lenten Journey: 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer*. This resource focuses on one petition of the Lord's Prayer for each of the seven weeks in Lent. In these Worship Helps you will find bullet points highlighting each week's key themes from *Book of Faith Lenten Journey*, a Prayer of the Day, scripture readings, hymn suggestions, and several ideas and images to build the worship experience around. 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 *Book of Faith Lenten Journey* 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 types of material is available in each set of Worship Helps.

Introduction to the Day

Sets a thematic course for the day's worship that is aligned with the scripture readings and theme of the course session

Prayer of the Day and Prayer Prompts

A Prayer of the Day and creative prayer prompts connect to the day's theme

Scripture Readings

Support themes of the course sessions and help set the direction for the worship service. (1 Old Testament reading, 1 psalm, 1 epistle, 1 gospel reading)

Hymns for Worship

Nine hymn suggestions for each worship service

Ideas and Images for the Day

Compelling ideas from a wide variety of categories that support and interpret the day's theme in creative, engaging, and interactive ways



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 “Save us from the time of trial.” Jesus’ “trials” or “temptations” in the wilderness provide good metaphors for reflecting on the trials or temptations that we face today in (and from) contemporary culture. There is much here for the preacher’s imagination. Jesus’ temptation to turn stone to bread—a temptation to make material comfort the highest value. The temptation to grasp at “all the kingdoms of this world and their splendor”—the temptation of grasping for political, economic, military, and personal power over others. The temptation to test, rather than to trust God—the temptation to blame God when bad things happen to good people. The preacher might also focus on:

- The question of whether God is responsible for trials, testing, and temptations given that the petition can be translated: “*Lead* us not into temptation” or “And do not *bring* us to the time of trial.”
- The significance, once again, of the plural pronoun—or the community’s role in times of trial and temptation.
- In what ways this petition is for ordinary people and not spiritual athletes.
- How the modern city can be as much a “wilderness” as the desert where Jesus was tempted.
- How this petition is a prayer to be saved from cataclysmic events which we cannot control.
- The meaning of this petition for those who suffer great trials simply because they are people of faith in a world that is often hostile to faith—and those who have it.

■ Prayer of the Day

Use this prayer as the Prayer of the Day.

Protecting God, we live in a world where the lures and enticements of evil are great—save us from the time of trial. We live in a world where those around us are sorely tried and tested—save them from the time of trial. We live in a world where natural disasters and human-made calamities overwhelm us and others—save us from the time of trial, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was tried and tempted as are we. Amen.

Use these prayer prompts during the Prayers of Intercession portion of the worship service.

- For those faced with difficult trials or temptations hard to resist, that they would trust that you are with them to strengthen and guide.
- For those who see others suffering from natural disasters or human made calamities, that they would rush to bring comfort and hope and healing.
- For those who lose hope in the face of illness or accident, or in the face of death, that the community of Christ’s people would bring comfort and hope and healing.



- For this community of faith, that, when tempted to turn from the ways of God, we would be saved from the time of trial.

Scripture Readings

Use these readings and reading introductions as the day's lectionary texts.

ISAIAH 43:1-4A

The prophet declares that in times of trial and crisis, the people should not fear, for God is with them and will rescue them.

PSALM 23

The psalmist reminds us that even in the darkest times, even in the presence of death, we should “fear no evil,” for God will not abandon us.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12-13

Paul teaches that testing is common to everyone, but we should trust that God will not allow us to be tested beyond our ability to endure, and so we should face times of trial and temptation with faith and courage.

MATTHEW 11:28-29

Jesus invites us, in times when we are world weary and faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, to come to him for rest and a new sense of purpose and direction.

Hymns for Worship

Become familiar with the selections in your hymnal's Word section. Consider having your congregation learn a new hymn or song celebrating the gift of the Bible that can be sung each week during the time your congregation is engaged in the “Opening the Book of Faith” study. Consider trying a hymn or song that is different in style from what your congregation is most familiar with.

GATHERING

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less ELW 596, LBW 294
God Is Here! ELW 526, WOV 719

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, I Have Promised ELW 810, LBW 503
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us ELW 789, LBW 481
Healer of Our Every Ill ELW 612, WOV 738

OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ELW 181-184
Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring ELW 691, WOV 759 (only verses 1 & 3 if no Communion)

SENDING

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name ELW 534, LBW 262
On Eagle's Wings ELW 787, WOV 779



Ideas and Images for the Day

Use one or more of these ideas to interpret the day's theme in creative, engaging, interactive, and surprising ways during worship.

PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER BY ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI:

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
be it hidden or obvious,
sudden or persistent.

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL,
past, present or future,
Amen.

ESSAY

An essay from *Word and World* by Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman, "Learning to 'Pray This Way': Teaching the Lord's Prayer": http://www.luthersem.edu/word&world/Archives/22-1_Lord's_Prayer/22-1_Hoffman.pdf

MARTIN LUTHER

Commentary on the petitions of the Lord's Prayer from Martin Luther's *Large Catechism*:
<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/catechism/web/cat-12.html>

ARTWORK FOR THOSE WITH A PROJECTION SCREEN:

A [painting by Eastman Johnson](#) (1863), whose theme is drawn from Psalm 23

Temptation from a lighter perspective to illustrate a serious theme with a bit of humor—a website with 51 cartoons on the subject of temptation: <http://www.reverendfun.com/artchives/?search=temptation>

