



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 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 “Your will be done on earth as in heaven.” As a one verse summary of God’s will, worship planners might use Micah 6:8, which declares that what God “requires” of us is that we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Developing these three themes will provide plenty of sermon material and hymn suggestions on this third petition of the Lord’s Prayer. The preacher might also focus on:

- Evangelism—the idea that if God’s will is that we should all walk humbly with our God, then God’s will must be that those of us who are doing just that help others get to the same place.
- The reality that, although we say “Your will be done” with our mouths, we often say “My will be done” with our lives.
- Paul’s suggestion (Philippians 2:4-7) that God wills that we look first to the interests of others rather than our own interests.
- Paul’s suggestion (Philippians 2:13) that “God is at work in us,” enabling us to do his will on earth as it is done in heaven.

■ Prayer of the Day

Use this prayer as the Prayer of the Day.

God, you ask us to do justice, you ask us to love kindness, you ask us to walk humbly with you; grant us grace and wisdom to do your will here on earth in all the places we live and work and play as it is done in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our savior and lord. Amen.

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

- 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 this community of faith, that in our life together we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.
- For the sick and grieving (especially those we now name in our hearts), that we who are called by God would 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 that same mind that was in Christ Jesus.



Scripture Readings

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

ISAIAH 1:16-19

Speaking through the prophet, God declares that if the people turn from evil to good, and seek justice, and show kindness to those who are disadvantaged, their sin will be forgiven, and they shall “eat the good of the land.”

PSALM 25:1-10

The psalmist declares his/her trust in God and asks for God's forgiveness and God's guidance, confident that God will lead the humble in what is right and teach the humble God's way.

GALATIANS 5:13-25

Paul reminds us that we live by the Spirit and, therefore, should be guided by the Spirit in all that we do. Rather than using our Christian freedom for self-indulgence, Paul declares that we should freely choose to serve each other in love. He lists the fruit of the Spirit as marks of those who are committed to God's will being done on earth as in heaven.

MARK 3:31-34

Told that his family had come to see him, Jesus declared: “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” Being a part of the family of God involves doing the will of God.

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

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us ELW 358, WOV 666
God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705, LBW 415

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715
Let Justice Flow like Streams ELW 717, WOV 763
The Church of Christ, in Every Age ELW 729, LBW 433

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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674, WOV 754
Listen, God Is Calling ELW 513, WOV 712



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:

THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN,
so that we may love you with all our heart,
by always having you in mind;
with all our soul,
by always longing for you;
with all our mind,
by determining to seek your glory in everything;
and with all our strength,
of body and soul,
by lovingly serving you alone.
May we love our neighbors as ourselves,
and encourage them all to love you,
by bearing our share
in the joys and sorrows of others,
while giving offence to no one.

BIBLE VERSE

Theme of the week text from Micah 6:8, which could be used with a projection screen or printed in the bulletin.
The will of God in a nutshell:

He [God] has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

ARTWORK IF YOU USE A PROJECTION SCREEN:

A traditional (19th century) representation by James Tissot of [Jesus teaching his disciples the Lord's Prayer](#)

JESUS TEACHING

http://bp1.blogger.com/_bG1nhKYpbNg/R_033Nm9SI/AAAAAAAAABA/JMgewrOQB1M/s1600-h/Jesus-teaching.png

VIDEO

A YouTube video of the Lord's Prayer being sung in Syrian-Aramaic, Jesus' language—hauntingly beautiful and meditative: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAEIrp4MFBE>

