



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 Seventh Wednesday in Lent

■ Introduction to the Day

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

The seventh Wednesday in Lent brings us to the end of the Lord's Prayer. The themes for this seventh Wednesday are: (1) "Deliver us from evil," (2) "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever," and (3) "Amen." The preacher may want to skip over "Deliver us from evil" given that this "seventh" petition is somewhat redundant, and not included in Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer. The focus could then be on the doxology as a fitting way to bring the Lenten journey with the Lord's Prayer to a conclusion. The preacher could focus on:

- Why the church added the doxology to the Lord's Prayer.
- How the words of the doxology affirm that we have "heard" the first three petitions: it is your name, not my name, your kingdom, not my kingdom, your will, not my will.
- How the claim that the kingdom, power, and glory are God's is a radical and direct challenge to the "powers-that-be" in our world.
- How the word "Amen" (so be it) makes Jesus' prayer our prayer.

■ Prayer of the Day

Use this prayer as the Prayer of the Day.

Holy God, you have called us to be your people and sent us into the world to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. May we be faithful in this calling for the sake of the world you love, and so the world might know that the kingdom, the power, and the glory are indeed yours, forever and ever, through Jesus Christ, in whose life, death, and resurrection we have come to know you. Amen.

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

- For this community of faith, that we might bear Christ into the world through our words and our deeds and so show forth the glory of God.
- For Christians everywhere, that Christ might dwell in their hearts as they are being rooted and grounded in love.
- For government leaders everywhere, that they would come to recognize that the kingdom and the power and the glory are not theirs, and that their calling is not to rule, but to serve.
- For those who are ill or dying, for those who grieve, that they would be comforted by the healing presence of Holy Spirit and the promise of resurrection.



■ Scripture Readings

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

ISAIAH 40:3-8

The prophet looks forward to that time when the glory of the Lord will be revealed, in a text that Christians have taken as prophecy of the coming of Christ, the one in whom we see the true glory of God. He reminds us that human life is finite and brief, but God's word endures forever.

PSALM 24

The psalmist declares that all of creation "is the LORD's" and that God is "the king of glory." Those who are righteous, who do justice, are invited to ascend the hill of the LORD and stand in his holy place.

EPHESIANS 3:14-20

Paul prays for his fellow Christians, that, according to the riches of God's Glory, they might be strengthened, that Christ might dwell in their hearts, and that they might be "rooted and grounded in love."

JOHN 1:1-14

Jesus is declared as the very Word of God who became flesh, lived among us, and became the visible revelation of God's glory to all who receive him.

■ 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

Holy God, We Praise Your Name ELW 414, LBW 535

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! ELW 413, LBW 165

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence ELW 490, LBW 198

When Long Before Time ELW 861, WOV 799

Lord, Be Glorified ELW 744

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

How Great Thou Art ELW 856, LBW 532

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW 858, LBW 543



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.

INTRODUCING THE BIBLICAL DOXOLOGIES:

There are numerous doxologies in the Old and New Testaments—some twenty of them are cited at <http://www.studylight.org/dic/hbd/view.cgi?number=T1667>. For this last Wednesday in Lent worship, where the theme is on the doxology of the Lord's Prayer, the congregation might be interested in being introduced to other biblical doxologies. Someone with word processing skills might, with fancy fonts and colored ink, print most, if not all, of the biblical doxologies cited on the above website, and then display them in the sanctuary. Alternatively, if you use a projection screen, they could be displayed in a PowerPoint presentation

ARTWORK FOR THOSE WITH PROJECTION SCREENS:

Goya's (1772) painting of "[The Adoration of the Name of the Lord](#)"

MUSIC VIDEO

A YouTube praise music video—King of Glory—with the lyrics scrolling for a sing-along:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPCPIA3DiLE&feature=related>

COMMENTARY

Commentary from Bibletext.com on the doxology which ends the Lord's Prayer:
<http://www.bibletexts.com/versecom/mat06v09.htm>

