



# **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 Second Wednesday in Lent

### ■ Introduction to the Day

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

The theme for the second Wednesday in Lent is “Your kingdom come . . .” The reality of the kingdom (or rule) of God was central to Jesus’ teaching and needs to be central in the teaching of the church. Today’s worship is an opportunity to give fresh content to the notion of the kingdom in the context of contemporary social and cultural life. The radical, countercultural dimension of Jesus’ proclamation of the kingdom—its ability to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted—is an important message for Christians called to live under God’s rule while waiting for the coming of the kingdom in its fullness. The preacher might focus on:

- How—depending on where the hearer is—“Your kingdom come. . .” can be heard as law or gospel.
- What exactly we are asking for when we pray “Your kingdom come. . .”
- What it means to say that the kingdom both “is” and “is not.”
- How the kingdom turns conventional notions of power, position, and privilege upside down.
- The paradox: God gives us the kingdom (Luke 12:32) but we must “strive” for it (Matthew 6:33).
- How the way of God (the rule or reign of God) is the way of love.
- Comparing images of the kingdom in Jesus’ teaching with images drawn from contemporary life.
- The power of the eschatological vision of the kingdom to encourage and empower faithful living now.

### ■ Prayer of the Day

*Use this prayer as the Prayer of the Day.*

Sovereign God, we pray that your kingdom would come into this world of violence and suffering, that your reign of justice would put an end to injustice, that your reign of love would banish fear and hate, and that we, who have been called to follow Jesus, might give ourselves to doing justice, to loving kindness, and to walking humbly with you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who proclaimed and lived within your kingdom. Amen.

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

- For the church, that in our life together we may be signs of the kingdom.
- For the world, that the kingdom values of justice and love, fairness and equity, mercy and compassion would spread through the faithfulness of God’s people.
- For those who are ill or grieving (especially those we now name in our hearts), that the promise of that great day when God will wipe away every tear and death will be no more might provide comfort and healing.
- For all those who strive first for the kingdom of God, that they may have the grace, faith, and courage to stand with and for the oppressed, the marginalized, the exploited.



## Scripture Readings

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

### ISAIAH 25:6-9

The prophet presents a profound and powerful vision of the feast on the “day of the Lord,” when God’s rule will be perfected and suffering and death will be no more.

### PSALM 33:1-5

The psalmist calls God’s people to worship and praise that is grounded both in God’s love for righteousness and justice and in God’s steadfast love for all of God’s creation.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 8:13-15

Paul describes the way things should be under the rule of God: fairness, equity, no one having too much when some have too little, everyone caring about and working for the good of others.

### LUKE 17:20-21

In answer to the Pharisees’ questions about when the kingdom of God is coming, Jesus tells them that it is not coming as they suppose, but rather is already here with and within them.

## 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

Gather Us In ELW 532, WOV 718  
Your Kingdom Come! LBW 376

### HYMN OF THE DAY

We Are Called ELW 720  
Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715  
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ELW 517, LBW 230

### 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

Blest Are They ELW 728, WOV 764  
Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation LBW 413



## 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 KINGDOM COME,  
so that you may reign in us by your grace,  
and bring us to your kingdom,  
where we shall see you clearly,  
love you perfectly and,  
happy in your company, enjoy you forever.

### ARTICLE

An online article by New Testament scholar, N. T. Wright: "Thy Kingdom Come: Living the Lord's Prayer":  
[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1058/is\\_n9\\_v114/ai\\_19241302](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1058/is_n9_v114/ai_19241302)

### ARTWORK IF YOU USE A PROJECTION SCREEN

[A contemporary representation of the kingdom parable of the mustard seed.](#)

[A contemporary presentation of the kingdom parable of the leaven bread.](#)

### A SUGGESTION FOR INTERACTION WITH THE CONGREGATION

Jesus' parables of the kingdom were filled with images drawn from daily life, from the farm, the kitchen, the fishing boat, the marketplace. Study the images of the kingdom in Matthew 13, and then preach on what these images tell us about the kingdom and what it means to live under the rule of God. Then, after giving an example or two of your own, ask the congregation to throw out images of the kingdom that are drawn from daily life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### MUSIC

For CCLI License holders, a hymn on *The Power of Prayer*: <http://www.newhymn.com/002PowerOfPrayer.htm>

