



— AT THE —
CROSSROADS



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LIFE

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A SERVICE FOR
EASTER SUNDAY

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LEADER'S GUIDE

———— AT THE ————
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EASTER SUNDAY: LIFE
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By Ted Schroeder. Art and design: Lindsay Galvin. © 2016 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

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ABOUT “AT THE CROSSROADS”

Many of those involved in the story of the Passion of Christ came to a crossroads and had to decide which way to go. Some chose well, some did not, and the stories of each of these experiences at various crossroads help us to know what to do and what not to do when we encounter similar crossroads in our own lives. In the end, each service in the series reveals in some way how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the path of God's will for us.

For each service the kit contains: sample bulletins with complete orders of service • sermons dialogs for two readers • prayers • music for the accompanist and contemporary music song suggestions.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website:

www.creativecommunications.com.

Bulletins For Easter Sunday Kit:

Code **CRDE** (printed) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **CRDJ** (blank) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **CRDO** (blank) • 8.5” x 14” bulletins

A Complete Series For The Weeks Of Lent Is Available:

Those who desire may supplement this service with other services for all of Lent. They are available as a kit and include all the Leader’s Guide features described above. The kit includes a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) in RTF format with text of services and of bulletins, plus PDF files of the kit, and PowerPoint documents for use on screens. Kit Code **CRDU**

Ash Wednesday

Confession • Psalm 32:1-5

As a model for us, the psalmist David reaches the crossroads of confession and confesses his sins to the Lord. We are called to confess our sins to the Son of David and find forgiveness in him.

Week 1

Betrayal • John 13:21-30

When Judas Iscariot comes to the point where he must either listen to Jesus or listen to the devil, he chooses to betray Jesus. When we are tempted by Satan to betray our Lord, we gain strength from our Savior to say, “No” to the devil.

Week 2

Judgment • Matthew 27:11-26

When Pontius Pilate is called upon by the crowds to make a judgment call about Jesus, his decision not to decide results in the death of Christ. We look to the cross of Christ to make definitive judgment calls in our lives.

Week 3

Compassion • Luke 22:47-51

When Jesus is taken into custody, he chooses to show compassion to a wounded participant in the arrest. We are called to show compassion, not anger, even to those in our midst whom we might consider our enemies.

Week 4

Declaration • Luke 22:54-62

When Peter is asked to declare whether or not he knows Jesus, he decides to deny his Savior. When questioned about our Lord, we are called to boldly declare our faith in Christ.

Week 5

Obedience • Matthew 26:36-46

When Jesus nears the time when he must die for our sins, he asks his Father if the cup might pass from him. But when the time comes, he obeys his Father's will. When we are called upon to follow God's will, we must obey.

Bulletins For The Six-Week Kit:

Code **CRDP** • Pre-printed bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **CRD2** • Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **CRDR** • Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

Palm Sunday

Suffering • John 12:12-36

When Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time, he knows the suffering that awaits him there, yet he does not turn back. Though we know suffering is part of being a follower of Christ, we must carry on for him.

Code **CRDZ** • Kit

Code **CRDT** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDW** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDX** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

Maundy Thursday

Forgiveness • Matthew 26:26-29

When Jesus institutes the first Lord's Supper, he grants forgiveness to his disciples through the bread and wine. When we receive the bread and wine of Communion this day, we receive that forgiveness and in turn forgive others in remembrance of him.

Code **CRD4** • Kit

Code **CRDC** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDG** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDM** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

Good Friday

Death • John 19:17-30

When Jesus is on the cross, he accepts the power of death upon himself and does not turn away from it. We must face death when it comes and not turn away from it, knowing that his salvation awaits us on the other side.

Code **CRD5** • Kit

Code **CRDD** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDH** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDN** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

Other Resources:

Code **CRD1** • Bookmark • 7" x 2 1/2"

Code **CRD7** • Promotional Bulletin Insert

Code **CRD8** • Display Posters • 11" x 17"

Code **PHCRD** • Cloth Banner Suitable For Worship

Bible Study Resources:

Code **CRDS** • At the Crossroads Student Guide

Code **CRDL** • At the Crossroads Leader's Guide

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A SERVICE FOR
EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY
NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a special service for Easter Sunday. In this service we recall that after the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, she responds by telling the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” We who know that our Redeemer lives must share that news with others too. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children’s sermon, a sermon dialog with Mary Magdalene and hymns that help us to fix our eyes on the crossroads of life at the threshold of heaven, where our risen Lord is eager to escort us into eternity.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to this service for Easter Sunday. In this service we recall that after the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, she responds by telling the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” We who know that our Redeemer lives must share that news with others too. Let the readings from Scripture, a children’s sermon, a sermon dialog with Mary Magdalene and hymns help you to fix your eyes on the crossroads of life at the threshold of heaven, where our risen Lord is eager to escort you into eternity.

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A SERVICE FOR
EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY: LIFE

COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** of an open tomb (purchased by you from shutterstock.com) to symbolize the crossroads of eternal life that we experience because Christ rose from the grave:

<http://www.shutterstock.com/pic-386260825/stock-photo-tomb-of-jesus-with-light-coming-out-of-opening.html?src=xPjPuS3kdYDthBCGblnmXg-1-0>

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Llanfair 77 77 and alleluias, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia! Earth and heav'n in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be giv'n, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

- This **Opening Response** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

C He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

P Rejoice then, even in your distress.

C We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

P God has claimed us as his own.

C God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the congregation and the pastor:

C Risen and rising Lord, we confess that too often we live as though we had not been given new life in you. We muddle after our own schemes. We follow after wayward leaders and cherish broken dreams. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we keep the good news of your resurrection to ourselves, hoard the blessings that you give and live as though we were still on the path of despair. Give us your Spirit, the spirit of new life, the spirit of joyful service, the spirit of loving care for all others around us. Make us truly Easter people in this broken world. Fill us with the Spirit so that we might overflow with the serving that proclaims your very presence with us.

P I have the honor and privilege, by the grace of God, of announcing to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free—free to share the steadfast love of God with all.

- A **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Duke Street LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

I know that my Redeemer lives. What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead. He lives, my ever-living Head.

He lives to bless me with his love. He lives to plead for me above.
He lives my hungry soul to feed. He lives to bless in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply. He lives to guide me with his eye.
He lives to comfort me when faint. He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears. He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart. He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise heav'nly Friend. He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing. He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath. He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare. He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives! All glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same.
What joy this blest assurance gives: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 25:6-9, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Corinthians 15:12-26, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even

Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 20:1-18, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ (*Show a cocoon—you can find a picture of one at [Monarch_Butterfly_Cocoon_6708.jpg](#) on Google. You might bring a picture of a butterfly as well.*) Do you know what this is? (*Allow responses.*) That’s right. It is a butterfly cocoon. Do you know what happens when a caterpillar makes one of these? (*Allow responses.*) Right. After a while the caterpillar comes out of the cocoon as a beautiful butterfly. How can that happen? God made the butterfly to be a kind of reminder of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The caterpillar goes into a cocoon, like Jesus went into the tomb after he had died on the cross on Good Friday. And after a while the cocoon opens and a butterfly comes out. After three days, the tomb was opened by God and Jesus came out and showed himself to his disciples and many others. The disciples were amazed when he came to life. Then Jesus sent them out to tell others about what God had done. We have the promise that we too will rise to new life because of Jesus. That is the good news we have to share. So every time you see a cocoon, you can think of Jesus and his rising from the dead for you and all people. (*Close with an echo prayer thanking God for new life or ask a child to pray.*)

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jesu, Meine Zuversicht 78 78 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave Christ will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To him the throne high o'er heav'n and earth is given.
I shall go where he is gone, live and reign with him in heaven.
God is faithful. Doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me he died, hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, praise to him and glory giving.
Freely God doth aid dispense; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well naught from me his love shall sever;
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell part me now from Christ forever.
God will be a sure Defense; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death but the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath when I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense, Jesus is my confidence!

- If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: worshiphousemedia.com) is presented on a screen at this time to highlight the Easter theme:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/58688/this-is-easter>

- The **Sermon Dialog with Mary Magdalene** is delivered by the pastor (**P**) and another reader (**R**) in the role of Mary Magdalene:

P Crossroads. They are there for all of us. We may move along from day to day easily, walking in the sunshine, enjoying the view, feeling at peace. And then it comes. A crossroad. A choice point. There

we stand, frozen to the spot. Which way now? Right? Left? Straight? What waits down each of those choices? Which way does our heart call us to go? Which makes sense? Which is God's way?

The answers aren't easy. A crossroad can bring daunting spiritual pain. And it can bring us to our knees. It can even bring us to destruction. And it can bring us to new life. Today we have an expert on crossroads, she faced many in her life. But the most important crossroad was the one where she personally met the risen Christ.

Today we welcome Mary Magdalene, follower of Jesus, and famous in her own right.

(Mary enters. She is dressed very well or in biblical costume. She is smiling, joyful)

P Welcome, Mary. You are well known to us, but can you tell us a little more about yourself?

R *I was, I guess, an early follower of Jesus. I came from a hard life. My husband had died early in our marriage. He left me what some people call "well off" but my life as a widow was hard. Many people were jealous of me. Even my so-called friends turned against me. They spread stories that I was living an immoral life. And the stories not only ruined my reputation, but made me an outcast.*

P And yet you followed Jesus.

R *I heard him teach and saw his miracles. I thought he might be the answer to my questions about life and help heal my pain, the way he did for those with physical complaints.*

P And didn't he do that?

R *Well, he gave me hope. But it was a kind of wishful hope. In some ways he disappointed me. He didn't correct the evil stories that went around about me. And he didn't seem to do anything about the evil that surrounded us. The Romans still oppressed us. The religious leaders still cheated and troubled us.*

P You were with the others when he was crucified, weren't you? Didn't you see him put to death?

R *Yes, and at that point my life really did come apart. I had followed him, trusted him and there he was at the mercy of the hated Romans, mocked by the religious leaders. I had so hope that it would be the other way, that he would bring peace to our land and peace to my soul.*

P And did that peace for you ever come?

R *Yes. But it was when I had given up on him. I was there in the garden looking for his body so I could help with his burial, and maybe remember him. I was crushed. You can't know how broken my spirit was at that time. I was desperate.*

P And yet you are here sharing joy with us.

Tune.....Llanfair 77 77 and alleluias

Measures 1-4 of the piano accompaniment. The music is in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The right hand features a melody of quarter notes and eighth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Measures 5-8 of the piano accompaniment. The musical structure continues with similar rhythmic patterns and chordal accompaniment.

Measures 9-12 of the piano accompaniment. The notation includes a repeat sign in the right hand at the beginning of measure 10.

Measures 13-16 of the piano accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Llanfair 77 77 and alleluias, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be giv'n, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

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