

— AT THE —  
**CROSSROADS**

A SERIES OF SERVICES FOR LENT



CONFESSION



BETRAYAL



JUDGMENT



COMPASSION



DECLARATION



OBEDIENCE

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Sample**

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CROSSROADS

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LEADER'S GUIDE

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— AT THE —

# CROSSROADS

## A SERIES OF SERVICES FOR LENT

### 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](http://www.creativecommunications.com).

### **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"

### **Holy Week Services To Complete The Series:**

Those who desire may supplement this series with other services that continue the series format and theme. Each is ordered separately and includes all the Leader's Guide features described above, except the CD.

Or, order all four service kits together. As a bonus, orders for all four kits include a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) with text of services and of bulletins in .rtf (rich text format). All four kits • Code **LX9**

#### **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

## **Easter Sunday**

Life • John 20:1-18

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.

### **Code CRD6 • 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

## **Ash Wednesday Alone**

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.

### **Code CRD3 • Kit**

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

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

Code **CRDK** (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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FOR LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY  
NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for At the Crossroads, a special series of services for the season of Lent. Each service in the series reveals in some way how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the path of God's will in our many crossroads in life. In the Ash Wednesday service in this series 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. The service includes an Imposition of Ashes, readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with David and hymns that help us to see the direction we must take at the crossroads of confession.

## Bulletin Notice

Welcome to a special Ash Wednesday service in the At the Crossroads series, in which 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. Let this service's Imposition of Ashes, readings from Scripture, children's sermon, sermon dialog with David and hymns help us see the direction we must take at the crossroads of confession.

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**CROSSROADS**

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT

WEEK ONE  
NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for At the Crossroads, a special series of services for the season of Lent. Each service in the series reveals in some way how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the path of God's will in our many crossroads in life. In Week One in the series Judas Iscariot comes to the point where he must either listen to Jesus or listen to the devil and 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. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Judas and hymns that help us avoid the crossroads of betrayal.

## Bulletin Notice

Welcome to Week One in the At the Crossroads series, in which Judas Iscariot comes to the point where he must either listen to Jesus or listen to the devil and 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. Let this service's Scripture, children's sermon, sermon dialog with Judas and hymns help us avoid the crossroads of betrayal.

— AT THE —  
**CROSSROADS**

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT

WEEK TWO  
NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for At the Crossroads, a special series of services for the season of Lent. Each service in the series reveals in some way how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the path of God's will in our many crossroads in life. In Week Two in the series Pontius Pilate is called upon by the crowds to make a judgment call about Jesus, and his decision not to decide results in the death of Christ. We look to the cross of Christ as we make definitive judgment calls in our lives. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Pilate and hymns that help us come to the crossroads of judgment ready to be guided by divine wisdom.

## Bulletin Notice

Welcome to Week Two in the At the Crossroads series, in which Pontius Pilate is called upon by the crowds to make a judgment call about Jesus, and his decision not to decide results in the death of Christ. We look to the cross of Christ as we make definitive judgment calls in our lives. Let the readings from Scripture, children's sermon, sermon dialog with Pilate and hymns help us come to the crossroads of judgment ready to be guided by divine wisdom.

— AT THE —  
**CROSSROADS**

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT

WEEK THREE  
NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for At the Crossroads, a special series of services for the season of Lent. Each service in the series reveals in some way how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the path of God's will in our many crossroads in life. In Week Three in the series Jesus is taken into custody and 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. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with the servant Malchus who was healed and hymns that help us to come to the crossroads of compassion ready to love others as Christ loved us.

## Bulletin Notice

Welcome to Week Three in the At the Crossroads series, in which Jesus chooses to show compassion to a wounded participant in his own arrest. We are called to show compassion, not anger, even to those in our midst whom we might consider our enemies. Let the readings from Scripture, children's sermon, sermon dialog with the servant Malchus who was healed and hymns help us to come to the crossroads of compassion ready to love others as Christ loved us.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 27:11-26, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

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

Ⓟ *(Hold a small object—a ball, key, coin or something similar in your hand to show to the children. Choose a volunteer. Hide the object behind your back, then hold the object hidden in one of your hands in front of the volunteer. Ask him/her to choose where the object is. Compliment the child if he/she is correct.)* That’s an easy kind of choice to make. You have a one in two chance to be right. But many of the choices we have to make are harder than that. In our Bible reading we heard about someone who had to make a hard choice. Pilate, the governor, had to choose whether to free Jesus or to send him to the cross. How did he choose? *(Await responses.)* He made a bad choice—but a good choice for us. Because Jesus chose to go to the cross for us we are now forgiven, even when we make bad choices. Even when we choose something that hurts us or others, even when we really mess up, Jesus is there to forgive us. And we depend on Jesus to help us make better choices in the future. *(Close with an echo prayer asking God’s help in making choices or ask a child to pray.)*

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune CWM Rhonda 87 87 877, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;  
 I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy pow'ful hand;  
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
 Feed me now and evermore. Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
 Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;  
 Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
 Be thou still my Strength and Shield. Be thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
 Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;  
 Songs of praises, songs of praises  
 I will ever give to thee. I will ever give to thee.

- If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: [worshiphousemedia.com](http://worshiphousemedia.com)) is presented on a screen at this time to highlight who Jesus is to us as Christians:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/13231/who-is-jesus>

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

**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.

Tonight we have an expert on a crossroad choice of judgment. His choice is notorious. His name echoes through the ages. Here is Pontius Pilate.

*(Pilate enters. He is dressed well, either in biblical garb or modern dress.  
 He has an air of arrogance about him.)*

**P** Welcome, Pilate. We are honored to receive you.

- R** *You should be honored. I have always been a man of authority. I am used to having people address me with deference. I was governor of Judea for many years, appointed by Caesar and rather successful in my years of rule.*
- P** If that is true, why has your name become a symbol of weakness and dishonor, especially among Christians?
- R** (Irritated) *That was because of that trouble with the trial of Jesus. I was put in an impossible position. I had no choice.*
- P** No choice? The way we have read the story you had several points of choice during the time Jesus was on trial before you!
- R** *Yes, I suppose it all appears easy to you when you look back at what happened. But I was the one there. I was the one who had to make the choice. I did what had to be done.*
- P** Had to be done? Did you have to release a killer like Barabbas? Was anyone forcing you to make that strange choice?
- R** *Strange to you, perhaps, but necessary for me. I was trying to find a way to release Jesus without causing trouble with the religious leaders, those devious and dangerous troublemakers who brought Jesus in the first place. I knew what they were doing. They were trying to use me to do their dirty work. They hated that Jesus. He stood up to them, condemned them to their face and threatened their place of authority—and their cash flow, I might add.*
- P** So why bother with Barabbas? You could have made the choice to release Jesus. You had the power.
- R** *And have them run to the emperor with the story? Have them attack me behind my back and threaten my place? To be truthful, they had reported me before and I was on a short leash with the emperor. I had to think of my place, my future. I couldn't risk putting my position in their hands.*
- P** But even your wife warned you about condemning Jesus.
- R** (Scornfully) *My wife. What did she know? You don't understand the pressure I was under. Sure I was at a choice point, but the choosing was not really open to me. What was I supposed to do, go against common sense and risk my future by releasing Jesus just because I thought he was innocent?*
- P** Wouldn't that have been the right thing to do?
- R** (Angry) *And you all stand in judgment of me? Look at yourselves. How many times have you made a choice that would make life easier for you, even though you knew it was not the best choice, or even the right choice?*
- P** You compare us with you?

**R** *Of course. What about the businessman who cheats on his income tax, the woman who tells the story about someone even though she knows it will hurt, the youth who goes along and tries the drugs? Sure, they have pressure. They have to do what seems best in the moment. Of course a little shading here or lying there won't hurt, they think.*

**P** Is that the same as your choice?

**R** *Certainly it is. And there are those who run others down to make themselves look better, those who lie to improve their standing in the community, and ... Well, you know the sins as well as I do. What about them? Are they better than me?*

**P** I guess if we are faithful to Jesus' call to complete perfection, we have to admit that we are with you in the bad choices we make. We stand convicted.

**R** *And you have a way out. I had to live with my bad choice. You don't. The same Jesus who stood innocent before me, the same Jesus who went to the cross because of my choosing, the same Jesus who rose to give you life—he offers you forgiveness for the failed choices, for the pain your choices have caused. You are given a gift that I never had. You are forgiven and free in Jesus.*

**P** You have said it better than any of us could. We are forgiven and free. We are made new by God's grace each day. We know that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). And we can rejoice.

**R** *And I envy you that.*

**P** Thank you for being with us today and for reminding us of the gift of hope.

- **A Time of Silence for Reflection** is observed.
- The **Offering** is collected at this time. If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: [worshiphousemedia.com](http://worshiphousemedia.com)) is presented on a screen at this time for reflection on the truth of the Gospel of Jesus:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/51009/believers-creed>

- The **Prayers** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** Let us bring our prayers and petitions to God, who hears and answers the pleas of our hearts. We pray for God's world and our nation. By your mighty power and the promise of Christ, provide your presence and power to our nation and this broken world. Be with those who are suffering in places



of violence and persecution. Strengthen those who are being oppressed or who are in terrible need. Enlighten our leaders and make us agents of healing in this hurting world. In your mercy,

**C** Hear us, Lord.

**P** We pray for your church in the world. Equip and send pastors, teachers and leaders, so that they might clearly proclaim your Word and guide your people. In your mercy,

**C** Hear us, Lord.

**P** Be with us, we pray, by the power of your Spirit. Stay with us as we face the choices that confront us and the temptations of this life. Help us when we turn away from the Savior and when we come to the crossroads that demand that we choose. Strengthen our will and our willingness to follow the one who calls us. In your mercy,

**C** Hear us, Lord.

**P** We pray for the sick, the suffering, the grieving and the lonely, especially those we name in our hearts. Be with them by the power of your presence. Heal, help and comfort them according to your will. In your mercy,

**C** Hear us, Lord.

**P** These and all other petitions and requests we bring before you in the name of Jesus. Amen.

- The **Lord's Prayer** is spoken in unison at this time.
- **Holy Communion**, if offered, occurs here, according to local custom.
- The **Benediction** is spoken responsively by the pastor:

**P** May the God of peace dwell in your hearts, strengthen your faith, increase your faithfulness, empower your choices and bring you to everlasting life—in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Olivet 664 6664, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine; now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away; oh, let me from this day  
Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my Guide; bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray  
From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll, blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul.

— AT THE —

# CROSSROADS

## A SERIES OF SERVICES FOR LENT

### WEEK TWO: JUDGMENT

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Joshua 24:14-15, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
  - ▣ “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
- The **Epistle Reading**, Hebrews 4:14-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
  - ▣ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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WEEK THREE: COMPASSION

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Tune..... Gethsemane 77 77 77

The first system of musical notation for 'Gethsemane' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). The piece begins with a first-measure rest (marked '1') in both staves. The melody in the treble staff starts on G4, moving to A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It begins with a fifth-measure rest (marked '5') in both staves. The treble staff continues the melody with notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line continues with accompaniment. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'Creative Communications' is overlaid across the middle of the page.

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. It begins with a ninth-measure rest (marked '9') in both staves. The treble staff continues the melody with notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line continues with accompaniment. The watermark 'Creative Communications' is still visible.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gethsemane 77 77 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:

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

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