



# Standing *at the* Cross

A Series of Services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter  
on Themes from Martin Luther

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Communications  
Sample**

# Standing *at the* Cross

A Worship Series for Lent, Holy Week and  
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Leader's Guide

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By Tom Eggebrecht and Carol Geisler. Art and design: Jamie Wyatt. © 2016 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved. All Luther quotes come from *Sermons of Martin Luther: The House Postils* by Martin Luther, Eugene Klug, ed., © 1996 Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group. Used by permission. Printed in the USA.

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## About the Series

*As a Lenten lead-in to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, this 10-service Standing at the Cross series on CD will focus on portions of sermons Martin Luther actually preached during Lent, Holy Week and Easter in the parishes where he served. As we stand with Luther at the foot of the cross each week, we contemplate the ways in which we stand firm in the faith as followers of Christ during this holy season.*

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Ash Wednesday:  
Standing in the Word

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Lenten sermons by Martin Luther provide the themes for our Lenten worship as we stand together at the cross. When Jesus was tempted by the devil, the Savior responded: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Join us in worship this Ash Wednesday as we are nourished in faith by the Word and by our Savior, the Bread of life.

Bulletin Notice

Today in our worship, as always, we will gather together around the Word. Jesus, the Word made flesh, is the Bread of life, and by faith we are nourished in his Word and in his holy Supper. Jesus satisfies us as no earthly food can!

# Standing *at the* Cross

A Worship Series for Lent, Holy Week and  
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Week 1:

Standing in Prayer

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

When a Canaanite woman asked Jesus to heal her daughter, Jesus did not immediately do so. But hidden beneath his “No” was the Savior’s “Yes,” and the woman’s daughter was healed. This week in our Lenten worship we will explore the “Yes!” imbedded in the heart of Jesus.

## Bulletin Notice

Today we gather to worship our Savior Jesus Christ, the “Yes!” to all the promises of God. When the time came for him to go to the cross, out of obedience to the Father and for the sake of our salvation, Jesus answered, “Yes!”

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Week 2:  
Standing Unafraid

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We fear many things, and we often fear death. This week in our Lenten service we will see how our Savior Jesus Christ, true God and true man, faced death and through his death and resurrection defeated it for us.

Bulletin Notice

Today in our Lenten worship we will stand together at the foot of the cross where our Savior died to save us from death and every evil. In him we can face both life and death unafraid, because he fearlessly faced death for us.



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Week 3:

Standing in Suffering

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

As we stand together at the cross this week, we will see how Jesus suffered the penalty that we deserved for our sins. The Lamb of God suffered the penalty of death for us so that through faith in his name we have forgiveness and life.

Bulletin Notice

God sent his Son, the innocent Lamb, to be the sacrifice for our sins. Through his suffering and death we have the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus paid the price of our salvation and by his wounds we are healed.

# Standing *at the* Cross

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Week 4:  
Standing Through Persecution

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

## Newsletter Notice

We have the freedom during this Lenten season and always to gather for worship. Many of our brothers and sisters around the world do not enjoy such freedom. As we stand together at the cross, we remember the suffering of the saints who endure persecution for the sake of the Savior who suffered for them, and for us.

## Bulletin Notice

Jesus was rejected, betrayed, deserted by his friends and arrested. He was unjustly tried and condemned to death, yet he willingly endured it all to save us. As we stand at the cross together, we pray that we will be bold witnesses for our Savior so that others will come to know and worship him as Lord.

# Standing *at the* Cross

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Week 5:  
Standing in Truth

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

In our world we are surrounded by many philosophies and religions, all claiming to have the truth. In our Lenten worship this week we will gather to worship Jesus our Savior, whose kingdom is a kingdom of truth and who is himself the Way and the Truth and Life.

Bulletin Notice

Today we will see how the Roman governor Pilate questioned Jesus about his kingdom. Jesus answered that his kingdom is not of this world and that he came to bear witness to the truth. Pilate asked, "What is truth?" He did not know that the Truth stood before him in the flesh.

# Standing *at the* Cross

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Palm Sunday:  
Standing in Humility

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, welcomed by crowds waving palm branches in celebration. At the end of the week he would take his final steps to the cross. We will follow him to stand at the cross as we learn humility from the example of our humble King.

Bulletin Notice

The crowds on Palm Sunday welcomed Jesus, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" That word means "Save us now!" and soon Jesus would do just that. Today we welcome our Savior and celebrate the salvation he won for us through his death and resurrection. From our humble King we learn to live in humility towards one another.

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## Good Friday: Standing in Forgiveness

### Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<http://www.shutterstock.com/pic-340512464/stock-photo-silhouette-jesus-and-the-cross-over-sunset-on-mountain-top.html?src=SWKrAqiEs1VIGl2-8yvUEA-1-2>

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Herzliebster Jesu 11 11 11 5, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O dearest Jesus, what law hast thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast thou to make confession,  
What dark transgression?

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt his servants owe him,  
Who would not know him.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;  
God is committed.

- This **Invocation and Responsive Reading** (John 3:16-17) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,

**C** That whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**P** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,

**C** But in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

**P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C** Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We do not follow our Savior and live in love as we should. We listen to the temptations of the devil, the world and our own sinful desires. Have mercy and forgive us for the sake of Jesus.

**P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his only Son to be our Savior. Jesus, the innocent Lamb of

God, was sacrificed for our sins. Through his death and resurrection you have forgiveness and life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C With Jesus' wounds we are healed.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Lord Jesus, when John the Baptist saw you, he announced, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” When on this Good Friday we look to the cross, we see you, the innocent Lamb, who took onto yourself our sin, guilt and shame. In you alone we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life in your presence. We pray that you would help us to walk in love as you walked, and to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Crucified and risen Lord, hear our prayers and accept our grateful praise. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Crispin 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:

God loved the world so that he gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

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

*Needed: copies of your worship bulletins from Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and today's Good Friday service, or pictures to represent those days*

**P** This week is called Holy Week. This week has seven days just like every other week of the year, but we call it “holy” because during this week we think about Jesus and how he died on the cross to save us. Some of the days in Holy Week have special names. Last Sunday was called Palm Sunday (*show the Palm Sunday worship bulletin or picture*). Why did we call that day Palm Sunday? (*Let children answer.*) On Palm Sunday Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and people waved palm branches to welcome him. Just yesterday, Thursday, we call Maundy Thursday (*show the bulletin or picture*). Maundy comes from a word that means “commandment.” On the Thursday night before he died on the cross, Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples. He washed his disciples' feet and gave them a new command, to love each other just like he loved them.

Today is called Good Friday (*show the bulletin or picture*). This is the day we remember how Jesus died on the cross. It is sad that Jesus had to die, so why do we call this day “Good”? (*Let children answer.*) This day is good because Jesus died for you and me. He died for our sins. This

day is good because we know that our sins are forgiven. This day is good because we know that we will live forever with Jesus! On Sunday we will celebrate Easter, the day that Jesus rose from the dead. Today is a good day and Sunday will be even better! Let's pray.

Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for us. It is sad that you had to die, but it is good that you did because our sins are forgiven and we will live with your forever. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Crispin 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:

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 53:4-10, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Romans 5:6-11, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that,



we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 23:33-43, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

- A **Sermon 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:

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me.  
Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.

- 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 the theme of the service:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/38820/forgiveness>

- The **Luther Quote** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader or is read silently or aloud in unison by the congregation, prompted by the pastor or worship leader:

*"In his greatest suffering, torment, and disgrace, he appears not to see or feel anything; his only concern, all that he sees and cares for, is your and my misery, our anguish, and great distress. Could there be greater, more fervent love than that?"*

*(Martin Luther, his fourth sermon for Holy Week, 1534)*

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## Week 1: Standing in Prayer

### Music Guide

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Tune..... Vienna 77 77

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Vienna 77 77". The score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The first system starts with a first finger fingering (1) in both hands. The second system starts with a fifth finger fingering (5) in both hands. The music is primarily composed of chords and simple melodic lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Creative Communications Sample" is overlaid across the lower half of the page.

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

Come, my soul, with ev'ry care, Jesus loves to answer prayer;  
He himself has bid thee pray, therefore will not turn away.

Thou art coming to a King, large petitions with thee bring;  
For his grace and pow'r are such none can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin; Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let thy blood, for sinners spilt, set my conscience free from guilt.

Lord, thy rest to me impart, take possession of my heart;  
There thy blood-bought right maintain and without a rival reign.

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Tune.....St. Thomas SM

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of chords and eighth notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It also begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of chords and eighth notes. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the final two measures of the system.

The second system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of chords and eighth notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of chords and eighth notes. A first ending bracket labeled '5' spans the final two measures of the system.

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

O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless his name whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness and without praises die!

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