

Signs of Lent

A Worship Series for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

WORSHIP KIT



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Leader's Guide

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A Worship Series
for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

About the Series

This is a series of 10 worship services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter based on the concept of road signs and how their messages apply to our life in Christ during the season of Lent: U-Turn, Stop, Merge, Yield, One Way, Dead End, Road Narrows, Food, Cross Road, Road Work Ahead.

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Ash Wednesday: U-Turn

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Lenten journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Ash Wednesday worship this week, we are reminded to make a U-Turn, turning away from our sins and turning back to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bulletin Notice

The signs of Lent are everywhere! In our Ash Wednesday worship today, we are reminded to make a U-Turn, turning away from our sins and turning back to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Week 1:

Stop

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Lenten journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Lenten worship this week, we remember how Peter tried to put a Stop sign in front of Jesus on his way to the cross. But Jesus helped him (and us) to see that he could only stop when he reached the cross to save us all.

Bulletin Notice

The signs of Lent are everywhere! In our Lenten worship today, we remember how Peter tried to put a Stop sign in front of Jesus on his way to the cross. But Jesus helped him (and us) to see that he could only stop when he reached the cross to save us all.

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**Week 2:
Merge**

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Lenten journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Lenten worship this week, we are reminded to merge our lives with long history of the story of salvation that began in the Garden of Eden, continued with the Children of Israel at Passover and is revealed in the sacrifice of the promised Messiah.

Bulletin Notice

In our Lenten worship today, we are reminded to merge our lives with long history of the story of salvation that began in the Garden of Eden, continued with the Children of Israel at Passover and is revealed in the sacrifice of the promised Messiah.

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**Week 3:
Yield**

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Lenten journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Lenten worship this week, we are reminded to yield to the Father's will for us in our lives, just as Jesus yielded to his will when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will, but yours be done."

Bulletin Notice

In our Lenten worship today, we are reminded to yield to the Father's will for us in our lives, just as Jesus yielded to his will when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will, but yours be done."

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**Week 4:
One Way**

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Lenten journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Lenten worship this week, we are reminded that there is only One Way to God and only one name by which we can be saved. That Way and name is Jesus.

Bulletin Notice

In our Lenten worship this week, we are reminded that there is only One Way to God and only one name by which we can be saved. That Way and name is Jesus.

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**Week 5:
Dead End**

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Lenten journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Lenten worship this week, we are reminded that, unlike other paths in life, Jesus is not a dead end, but a start to life everlasting.

Bulletin Notice

In our Lenten worship today, we are reminded that, unlike other paths in life, Jesus is not a dead end, but a start to life everlasting.

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Palm Sunday: Road Narrows

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Holy Week journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Palm Sunday worship this week, we are reminded that wide road of palms and praises to the Son of David will narrow this week, leading directly to the pain and power of the cross of Christ.

Bulletin Notice

In our Palm Sunday worship today, we are reminded that wide road of palms and praises to the Son of David will narrow this week, leading directly to the pain and power of the cross of Christ.

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Maundy Thursday: Food

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Holy Week journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Maundy Thursday worship, we remember that we are fed and nourished in our faith journey each time we stop to partake of the very body and blood of our Lord and Savior, found in the holy food of Holy Communion's bread and wine .

Bulletin Notice

In our Maundy Thursday worship today, we remember that we are fed and nourished in our faith journey each time we stop to partake of the very body and blood of our Lord and Savior, found in the holy food of Holy Communion's bread and wine.

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**Good Friday:
Cross Road**

Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Holy Week journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Good Friday worship, we see heaven and earth intersect at the Cross Road of the cross of Christ, where the sinless Son of God takes away the sins of the whole world.

Bulletin Notice

In our Good Friday worship today, we see heaven and earth intersect at the Cross Road of the cross of Christ, where the sinless Son of God takes away the sins of the whole world.

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Easter Sunday: Road Work Ahead Newsletter Notice

Like signs we see along the roads that tell us what to do, we see signs along the way on our Holy Week journey that show us the way to Christ. In our Easter Sunday worship, we celebrate that the work of our salvation is done through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. But as Jesus told the women at the empty tomb, there is road work ahead. Our job is to go and tell the Good News.

Bulletin Notice

In our Easter Sunday worship, we celebrate that the work of our salvation is done through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. But as Jesus told the women at the empty tomb, there is road work ahead. Our job is to go and tell the Good News.

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Week 1: Stop

Order of Service

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
Matthew 16:24

Opening Hymn.....Naar Mit Öie 87 87 77

Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; they that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; ‘tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.

Responsive ReadingPsalm 1

P Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

C but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

C The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff that the wind drives away.

P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment; nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

C For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:8-11

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 2:21-25

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:21-28

Hymn O Du Liebe Meiner Liebe 87 87 D

As we walk the road before us,
See each sign along the way
Marking out the steps of Jesus
That we follow day by day.
Nothing can the Savior hinder;
To the cross he turns his face;
There to hang and there to suffer,
Dying in the sinner's place.

Sermon

Hymn of ResponseO Du Liebe Meiner Liebe 87 87 D

Jesus, as you bent beneath
The awful burden of the cross,
Teach us so to follow closely,
Counting all we know as loss.
Great the cost of our salvation,
Great the price you were to pay,
Help us as we take our crosses,
Walking in your steps each day.

Offering

Prayers

- P** Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, Word from the Father, nothing could stop you from going to the cross to accomplish our salvation.
- C** **Accept our thanks and praise for your saving work.**
- P** We pray today for those who bear crosses of hurt or fear or pain, especially...and those we name in our hearts.
- C** **By the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to serve you by serving others who need to know your love and care.**
- P** Lord Jesus, we are healed and forgiven by the wounds you suffered.
- C** **Teach us to deny ourselves and follow you.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn..... St. Peter CM

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

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Week 1: Stop

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:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/stop-sign-by-side-road-111248435?src=d3SVJBMFkdXCluuf8yLlag-1-26>

- 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:

*“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
Matthew 16:24*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Naar Mit Öie 87 87 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 to Calv'ry's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; they that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.

- The **Responsive Reading** (from Psalm 1) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

C but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

C The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff that the wind drives away.

P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment; nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

C For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

(Needed: picture of a Stop sign)

P What does this traffic sign mean? (*Hold up the Stop sign.*) This sign tells drivers to stop their cars. They can only go forward again when the way is safe. Today we're going to learn how someone tried to stop Jesus from dying on the cross! Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for us. He was born in Bethlehem, and when he grew up he chose twelve men, his disciples, to help him teach people about the kingdom of God. As the time came closer for Jesus to die on the cross, he told his disciples what was going to happen to him. He said he must go to Jerusalem,

where his enemies would arrest him. He would be put on trial and condemned to death. His enemies would hurt him and kill him, but he would rise from the dead.

The disciples didn't understand yet that Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. They loved him and they did not want him to die. Peter spoke up and tried to put a big Stop sign in front of Jesus! (*Hold up the Stop sign.*) Peter said to Jesus, "That will never happen to you!" Jesus told Peter that he was wrong. Peter was thinking about his own plans for Jesus. He was not thinking about God's plan. It was God's plan for Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins and no one could stop him from doing that. When we follow Jesus we "stop" thinking of ourselves first. (*Hold up the Stop sign.*) When we follow Jesus, we walk in his steps and think about other people first, just like Jesus did. We find ways to help them and show them Jesus' love. Because Jesus loves us, he would not let anything or anyone stop him from dying on the cross for our sins. Let's say a prayer of thanks to Jesus for his love. We can ask him to help us love others.

Jesus, we are glad that you did not let anyone stop you from dying on the cross. Thank you for forgiving our sins. Help us to love others like you love us. Amen.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 55:8-11, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
 - Ⓟ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Peter 2:21-25, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
 - Ⓟ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 16:21-28, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

- A **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Du Liebe Meiner Liebe 87 87 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

As we walk the road before us,
 See each sign along the way
 Marking out the steps of Jesus
 That we follow day by day.
 Nothing can the Savior hinder;
 To the cross he turns his face;
 There to hang and there to suffer,
 Dying in the sinner's place.

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

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/12988/the-cross>

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

¶ Outspoken Peter answered for the rest of the disciples. Jesus had asked, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Various incorrect opinions were put forward—Jesus was John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah or another prophet. Then Jesus asked his disciples, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered boldly and rightly, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” He didn’t come up with that answer on his own. It was an answer revealed to him by God the

Father. But then the conversation changed. Jesus began to reveal what would happen to him in Jerusalem. He would be arrested and killed and on the third day raised. Hearing Jesus' prediction, Peter spoke up again, but this time his answer was not a revelation from God. Peter had his own ideas about Jesus' plan. He put up a Stop sign in front of Jesus: "That will never happen to you!"

The Stop sign that Peter raised along the road to Jerusalem was not one that Jesus could obey. In his love for us, in obedience to his Father's will, he moved forward, following his path to the cross. Peter and the other disciples did not yet understand Jesus must die according the Father's plan. Peter's thoughts in this case were not the thoughts of God. Through the prophet Isaiah God had said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways...as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." There would be no stopping God's plan for our salvation. Rain and snow fall and accomplish their purpose, watering the earth and causing crops to grow. In the same way, the Word of God will accomplish its purpose: "So shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Jesus, the Word made flesh, sent forth by the Father, would accomplish his Father's will and purpose. He would go to the cross to accomplish our salvation. He would succeed in the work for which the Father sent him—there would be no stopping him.

The cross of Jesus places a Stop sign in our path. Jesus, after speaking of his own death, said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Jesus does not take the second place or the back seat to anyone or anything. To follow him is to be willing to lose all, even your own life, for his sake. In our culture, with freedom to worship as we choose, we may not risk losing our lives for our faith. But we may feel the hurt of ridicule, and experience the contempt of those who do not share our faith. Denying yourself may mean experiencing another kind of hurt. To deny yourself is to put the interests of others ahead of your own, as Jesus did for you. Sometimes that may come easily, denying yourself for the sake of a family member or close friend. But what if that other person has hurt or insulted you in some way? In such circumstances denying self for the sake of others can be a lot more painful. Yet you need not fear dying to self, denying yourself, as if you had something to lose in doing so. That self-centeredness, that sinful self, is already gone, buried with Christ in baptism. You have been raised with Jesus, renewed and forgiven. You have nothing to lose—it's already gone. You have everything—in Christ Jesus—to give.

Peter truthfully confessed his faith, yet tried to stop Jesus from going to the cross and later denied knowing Jesus. Like Peter, we truthfully confess our faith. And like Peter, we often don't want to see, much less take up, the cross before us. Like Peter, we deny the Lord in our sin and selfishness. But Jesus could not be stopped. He went to the cross for Peter. He went to the cross for you and for me. We are redeemed and forgiven. Jesus' victory is our victory. We

Tune..... Naar Mit Öie 87 87 77

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature (C). It begins with a first-measure rest, followed by a series of chords and a melodic line. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a bass line.

The second system of music continues the piece. It features two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The notation includes chords and a melodic line in the upper staff, and a corresponding accompaniment in the lower staff.

The third system of music concludes the piece. It consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature. The notation shows the final chords and melodic phrases of the tune.

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- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Naar Mit Öie 87 87 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 to Calv'ry's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; they that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
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**Week 1:
Stop**

Contemporary Music Song Suggestions

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“Can’t Stop Your Love” by Ben Cantelon, Jason Ingram, Nick Herbert

“Stop and Listen” by Ben Glover, Bethany Dillon and Joy Williams

“To the Cross” by Mike O’Brien

“I Will Follow” by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram and Reuben Morgan

“Everywhere I Go” by Jason Ingram, Paul Mabury and Tim Timmons

“I Will Go” by Jason Ingram, Mike Weaver and Seth Mosley