



THY WILL
BE DONE

GOD'S WILL
and GOD'S
PROMISE

WORSHIP KIT

**Creative
Communications
Sample**

THY WILL BE DONE

GOD'S WILL *and*
GOD'S PROMISE

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

WORSHIP KIT

THY WILL BE DONE

GOD'S WILL *and* GOD'S PROMISE

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

INDEX

Notes/Ordering Information	5-9
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices	10
Order of Service	11-14
Complete Script For Leaders	15-29
Scripture Readings	30-31
Children's Message	32-33
Sermon	34-40
Prayers	41-42
Discussion Questions	43-44
Music Guide	45-54

By Justin Rossow. Children's message and prayers by Mark Zimmermann. Art and design: Lindsay Taylor. © 2018 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship.

THY WILL BE DONE

GOD'S WILL *and* GOD'S PROMISE

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

ABOUT "THY WILL BE DONE"

"Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Written by Rev. Justin Rossow, each service in the series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters are used as insightful reference points each week to guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day.

For each service the kit contains

- sample bulletins with complete orders of service
- monolog sermons (in character role) or outlines for a regular sermon
- children's message
- prayers
- music for the accompanist

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Jeff Greunke for excellent contemporary music selections and worship flow support.

Thanks to Rev. Richard Rossow for thinking through creative worship and helping shape the final product.

Thanks to Roxanne Smith for reading and praying all of the prayers and making substantive comments and encouragement.

Thanks to Rev. Matt Hein for camaraderie and an excellent Palm Sunday sermon.

Thanks to Conrad Gempf for creative writing and creative editing of midweek monologs.

And special thanks to St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, MI, who were the first to live through this Lenten material.

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 Ash Wednesday Kit:

Code TWUB (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code TWF (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code TWK (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 **TWU**

Ash Wednesday

God's Will and God's Promise • Abraham and Isaac

By faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when his Son Jesus came into the world to redeem his people.

Week 1

God's Will and My Inadequacy • Moses

At first, Moses did not think he could free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But God worked

through him to set his people free. In Lent we remember that God sent his Son to do his will and set all people free from the slavery of sin.

Week 2

God's Will and My Dreams • David

Anointed by God to rule in Israel, King David followed God's will to shepherd his people, but often failed to live up to God's dream for him. We welcome the Good Shepherd into our lives who fulfills God's dream perfectly to gather his wandering sheep into the sheepfold of heaven.

Week 3

God's Will and My Identity • Mary

In humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God had given her to become the mother of our Savior. That Son would later accept his role, faithfully following the path his Father had in mind for him to save us all.

Week 4

God's Will and My Worldview • Paul

On the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of the Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God's will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

Week 5

God's Will and My Response • Lydia

Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.

Bulletins For The Six-Week Kit:

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

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

Code **TWR** • 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 **TW9**

Palm Sunday

God's Will When We Are Not Willing

We are not always willing to do what God asks of us, but in his Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, Christ reveals to us that even tough roads are worth traversing for the sake of the Kingdom.

Code **TWZ • Kit**

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

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

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

Maundy Thursday

God's Will and Joyful Service

Christ asks his disciples to wash one another's feet, as he washed theirs, a sign of their love for him. Serving one another with joy is a tribute to him who is the Servant of All.

Code **TW5 • Kit**

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

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

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

Good Friday

God's Will Is Done

On the cross Christ followed through with the will of God, crying out, "It is finished" as he breathed his last. This ultimate sacrifice serves as a model as we offer our lives as a holy sacrifice to him.

Code **TW6 • Kit**

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

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

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

Easter Sunday

God's Will for the New Creation

When Christ rose from the tomb, he opened the door to a new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. God's will for us as Easter people is to fix our eyes on the new creation, the perfect paradise prepared for us in heaven.

Code TW7 • Kit

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

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

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

Other Resources:

Code **TWU1** • Bookmark • 7" x 2 1/2"

Code **TWB7** • Promotional Bulletin Insert

Code **TW8** • Display Posters • 11" x 17"

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

Bible Study Resources:

Code **TWSG** • Thy Will Be Done Student Guide

Code **TWLG** • Thy Will Be Done Leader's Guide

THY WILL BE DONE

GOD'S WILL *and* GOD'S PROMISE

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Ash Wednesday. In this service we remember that by faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when his Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem his people.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Ash Wednesday, we remember that by faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when his Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem his people.

THY WILL BE DONE

GOD'S WILL *and* GOD'S PROMISE

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

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-illustration/high-definition-star-field-background-starry-521690539>

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son.” Hebrews 11:17

- The **Imposition of Ashes** take place at this time. Participants may come forward and receive the sign of the cross on their forehead, traditionally made with ashes from the burnt palms of Palm Sunday. Those imposing the ashes may say “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return” or another appropriate

phrase.

- The **Welcome to Worship** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ After the fall of Adam and Eve, God’s word of Promise rang out – He would reclaim His now fallen creation. His Promise, His Covenant, would prevail. Despite the scheming of Satan and the failures of mankind, the long-awaited, promised one, the Messiah, would come. Against all odds, through the rolling ages of time, the Promise would be kept. Death would die as the Prince of Life completed the Word of Promise. As a part of that narrative, tonight we consider “Abraham and Isaac: God’s Will and God’s Promise”

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

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

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

Ⓟ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Ⓒ Amen.

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation and responsive hymn verses are sung to the tune Woodworth LM:

Ⓟ Abraham has a pretty comfortable life with God. Sure, he had his challenges, his skeletons in his closet, but life seems good, faith walk is stable. The Promise of God feels secure and he can see it in action. But then, all of a sudden, the rug is pulled out from under him. Everything he thought he knew changed. The God of clear promise has become, to Abraham, the God who is hard to understand. Together, let us make public confession of our sins.

Ⓒ **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I have sinned against you. I have done that which you forbid, and I have failed to do that which you command. In the weariness of a busy life, I have yielded to temptation. I have trusted myself more than I have trusted you. I have not always followed where you lead. Forgive me, I pray. By your Holy Spirit, lead me and guide me so that I may truly be used by you in your great redemptive work on earth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

Ⓟ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! (Psalm 130:1-2)

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Ⓟ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, LORD, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. (Psalm 130:3-4)

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Ⓟ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. (Psalm 130:5)

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears, within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Ⓟ My soul waits for the LORD more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. (Psalm 130:6)

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Ⓟ O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the LORD there is steadfast love; with him there is plenteous redemption. (Psalm 130:7)

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down.
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(silence for personal confession)

☐ As you believe, so may it be unto you. Based upon the merits of Christ Jesus, I announce unto you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

☐ Heavenly Father, I admit there are times when your will seems confusing to me, times when my experience says there is no God of grace, no God of power, no God at all. When it feels like you are absent, shape my trust in your promises, that I might rely on your Word even when my world is impossible to understand. In times of testing, let your will be done in my life. Amen.

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

Needed: a picture of a starry sky

☐ Hello, boys and girls. Today is Ash Wednesday, a day when we put ashes on our foreheads to remind us that we are dust. But what shape do we put those ashes in? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s right. We put the ashes in the shape of a cross. That cross of ashes is like a promise from God. He tells us through the cross of ashes that though we die, the cross of Christ will save us. That is God’s good and gracious will for us.

Today we remember Abraham and a sign of promise God gave to him long ago. God took Abraham out into the night and asked him to look up at the stars in the sky. God told Abraham that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky. I have a picture of a starry sky here to remind you of what a sky filled with stars looks like. (*Show picture.*) That’s a lot of stars, isn’t it? What makes this story even more remarkable is that Abraham did not have any children yet when God showed him the starry sky. Yet Abraham trusted that God’s will would be done in his life, even if he could not see it fully right then.

The same goes for us. We do not know exactly what the future holds for us, but we do know that God has promised salvation through the cross of Christ and a place in heaven with him. That is what Lent is all about—fixing our eyes on the cross, like Abraham fixed his eyes on the stars, always remembering and trusting in God’s promise to love and forgive us through the sacrifice of his Son Jesus. So keep your eyes on the cross this Lent and remember that God sent Jesus to be your Savior. Let us pray:

Dear God, thank for the stars in sky and the cross of your Son, which remind us of your promise to love us forever. Amen.

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

☐ 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 **New Testament Reading**, Hebrews 11:8-19, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 22:29-33, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor (or another person) as a dramatic monolog in the role of Isaac (or the pastor can use the sermon outlines that follow to develop a standard sermon):

Ⓟ “The Son of Promise.” That’s what Dad calls me: “The Son of Promise.” According to him, if all of God’s promises are going to come true, they will have to come true through me. No pressure growing up, right? But I guess when you become a father at age 100, you’re allowed to be a little ... eccentric.

Laughter. That’s what Mom calls me: “Laughter!” Well, I guess everyone calls me that: my name, Isaac, means laughter. But for Mom, it was more than just a name.

The way she tells the story, Mom named me laughter because of her joy at “finally having a baby at such an advanced age.”

I mean, I get it; around here, not having kids is grounds for divorce. But Dad was always a little different from our neighbors. He loved Mom all those years, even though they couldn’t have children. So when I finally came along, it’s no wonder Mom laughed!

But you see, I’ve also heard Dad tell the story of my naming. And because I’m always the Son of Promise to him, he tells it a little differently.

[both hands in fists on hips, imitating Abraham]

“O, your mom laughed when you were born all right,” he says, “but I remember how she laughed the year before, laughed at an angel of God, can you believe it?”

(Dad usually pats his belly and shakes his great beard at that point, for emphasis.)

“Sarah laughed and laughed at the promise that she would give me a son from her own body. Never laugh at the promises of God, boy; your God can do the impossible!”

You have to stick out your chin when you say it:

[one hand on hips, sticking out chin, and waving a finger]

“Your God can do the impossible!”

That’s Dad for you.

[Isaac smiles to himself, as if thinking fondly of his parents. Then restarts the telling of the story]

So you can call me Isaac, or Laughter, or even Son of Promise—they’re all related ... though I remember a time when they didn’t seem related at all. Dad clung to that Son of Promise bit, but

Mom sure didn't laugh when she found out, later, after it was all over.

You might not know, but my dad is kind of a big deal in these parts. Although we don't come from around here, Dad's pretty well off, and he gets a lot of respect. So it wasn't all that crazy for the old eccentric to decide we were going on a field trip, especially if it meant a chance to worship his God, a God our neighbors honestly didn't quite understand.

I'm not sure Dad quite understood God all the time either, but even when he didn't understand completely, Dad trusted. So the Almighty God said, "Field trip!" And Dad packed up the donkey. Mom made some falafel to go, and had us each take a servant along, you know, just in case.

Mom's like that.

I remember being pretty excited about going on an adventure with Dad. I knew the trip was something special, because we had to cut wood for the sacrifice before we left. Dad didn't think we would find enough kindling at higher elevations.

So we packed firewood and our tinderbox and headed up into the mountains. On the third day, Dad called for a halt. I distinctly remember what he said to the servants: "Wait here with the donkey while I and the boy go a bit further, to that peak in the distance. There we will worship, and then WE will come back to you."

Dad took the tinderbox and I offered to carry the wood, so he put it on my shoulders. It was heavier than I expected, and I got a few splinters on my way up the hill.

It wasn't until we were almost there that I did the math: "Hey, Dad?" I asked when we stopped for a breather, "I see fire, and I see wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering? You forgot the most important part!"

Dad just stuck out his chin and said, as if he were trying to convince himself more than me,

[one hand on hips, sticking out chin, and waving a finger]

"God himself will provide the lamb for the sacrifice, my son."

At the time, it almost sounded like a promise, but a promise he was working hard to believe.

I'm not sure how Dad knew exactly where to stop, but it was a beautiful spot. You could hear a spring nearby, and the hill we were on looked down on a young grove of olives on one side, and up to a limestone peak on the other. Chunks of limestone littered our hill, too, and it only took a dozen or so to put a suitable altar together.

We laid out the wood carefully, in a kind of bowl, so it would cradle the offering while it

Tune..... Naar Mit Öie 87 87 77

The image displays a musical score for a piano piece. It consists of three systems of music, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system starts with a measure number '1' in both staves. The second system starts with a measure number '5'. The third system starts with a measure number '9'. The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with some melodic lines in the treble clef. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid diagonally across the middle of the page.

- The **Closing 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 poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; ye shall walk with God in light.

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.

Creative
Communications
Sample

THY WILL BE DONE

GOD'S WILL *and* GOD'S PROMISE

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

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.

“Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)” by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Scott Cash

“Standing on the Promises” by Justin Graves

“Lord God of Abraham” by Steve Merkel and Wes Tuttle

“Thy Will” by Hillary Scott

“Set a Fire” by Will Reagan

“Once Again” by Matt Redman

“Dwell” by Casey Corum

“You Are Merciful to Me” by Ian White