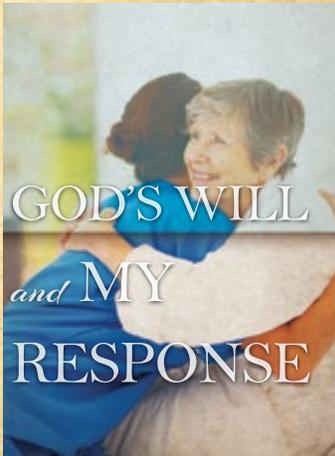
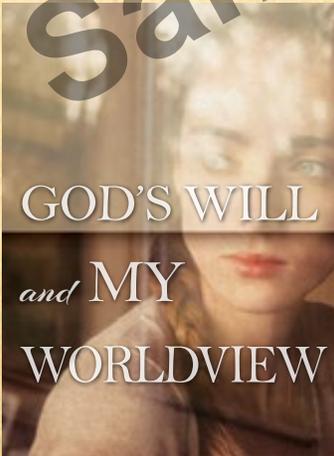
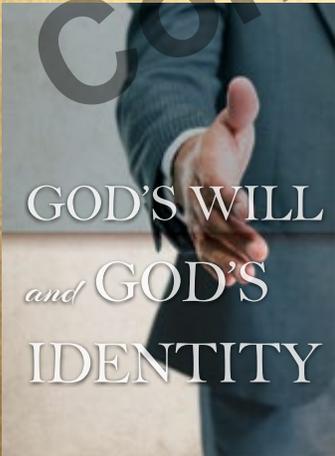
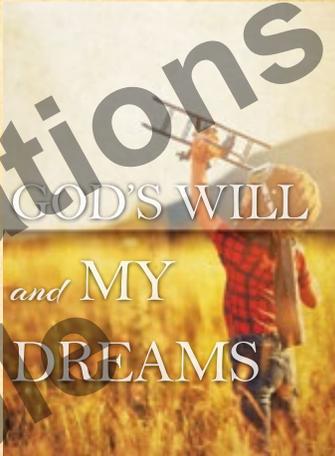
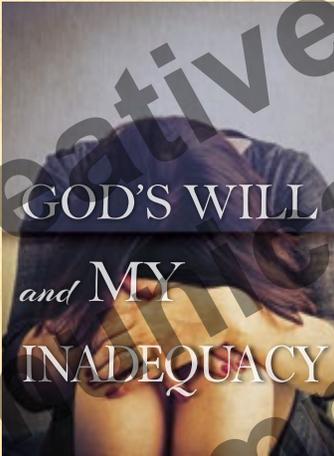
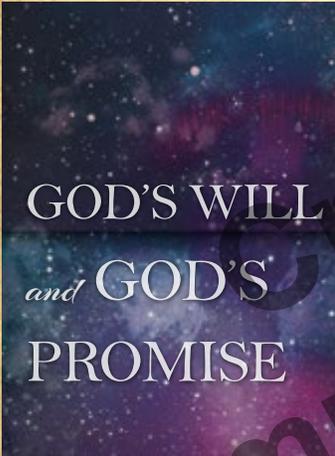




THY WILL  
BE DONE

A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT



WORSHIP KIT

**Creative  
Communications  
Sample**

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THY WILL BE DONE

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A SERIES OF SERVICES  
*for the* SEASON OF LENT

WORSHIP KIT

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

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By Justin Rossow. Children's s messages 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](http://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.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

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

### **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 Worship Kit 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

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### ASH WEDNESDAY: GOD'S WILL AND GOD'S PROMISE

#### 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.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 1: GOD'S WILL AND MY INADEQUACY

#### NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Week 1 of Lent. In this service we remember that, at first, Moses did not think he could free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But God gave him confidence 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.

#### Bulletin Notice

In this service for Week 1 of Lent, we remember that, at first, Moses did not think he could free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But God gave him confidence 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.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 2: GOD'S WILL AND MY DREAMS

#### NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Week 2 of Lent. In this service we remember that, 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.

#### BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Week 2 of Lent, we remember that, 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.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 3: GOD'S WILL AND MY IDENTITY

#### NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Week 3 of Lent. In this service we remember that, 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.

#### Bulletin Notice

In this service for Week 3 of Lent, we remember that, 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.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 4: GOD'S WILL AND MY WORLDVIEW

#### NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Week 4 of Lent. In this service we remember that, 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.

#### BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Week 4 of Lent, we remember that, 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.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 5: GOD'S WILL AND MY RESPONSE

#### NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Week 5 of Lent. In this service we remember that 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.

#### Bulletin Notice

In this service for Week 5 of Lent, we remember that 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.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 2: GOD'S WILL AND MY DREAMS ORDER OF SERVICE

*"For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant." 2 Samuel 7:21*

Opening Hymn..... Hamburg LM

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.

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father,
- C** **who made a covenant with his people,**
- P** and of the Son,
- C** **the royal son of David, who shed his blood that we might partake of a new covenant,**
- P** and of the Holy Spirit,
- C** **who worked through prophets like Nathan, and has written the covenant on our hearts, and through faith adopted us into the line and lineage of the eternal family. Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** In the Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer we say:
- C** **"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."**
- P** What does this mean?
- C** **The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**
- P** How is God's will done?
- C** **God's will is done when he breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let his kingdom come; and when he strengthens and keeps us firm in his Word and faith until we die. This is his good and gracious will.**
- P** Like King David, the shepherd king, and the prophet Nathan, our sinful natures prohibit us from knowing perfectly the will of God. Yet God provides for us a cure and direction. Together, we pray: O Lord Jesus,
- C** **We seek your compassion and forgiveness because we too are harassed by sin and helpless to free ourselves from its bondage. We have sinned in thought, word and deed. Though you have called us to be your people, we have lived as if we only needed to answer to ourselves. Even our best intentions to follow your will have met with failure. In your mercy, forgive us our sins. Send us your Spirit to help us live as your holy people.**
- P** According to the perfect and compassionate will of God, your sins are forgiven through the precious blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Response ..... Weil Ich Jesu Schäflein Bin 788 877

I am Jesus' little lamb, ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me, knows my need, and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same, even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, he bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, by his angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to his breast, there within his arms to rest.

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading ..... 2 Samuel 7:4-29

New Testament Reading ..... Hebrews 1:1-5

Gospel Reading ..... Matthew 22:41-46

Sermon

Offering

Offering Hymn ..... Belmont CM

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd in presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

Prayers

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

**P** Loving Lord of all,

**C** let us find rest in your plan for our lives.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

**P** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! (Ephesians 3:20-21).

**C** Amen.

Closing Hymn..... O Mein Jesu, Ich Muss Sterben 87 87 D

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?  
Friends through fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound him, none would interpose to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation; here the refuge of the lost;  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, is the name of which we boast.  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 2:

### GOD'S WILL AND MY DREAMS

### 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/child-pilot-aviator-airplane-dreams-traveling-600607295>

- 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:

*“For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done*

*this great thing and made it known to your servant.” 2 Samuel 7:21*

- 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:

**P** In the name of the Father,

**C** who made a covenant with his people,

**P** and of the Son,

**C** the royal son of David, who shed his blood that we might partake of a new covenant,

**P** and of the Holy Spirit,

**C** who worked through prophets like Nathan, and has written the covenant on our hearts,  
and through faith adopted us into the line and lineage of the eternal family. Amen.

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

**P** In the Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer we say:

**C** "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

**P** What does this mean?

**C** The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

Ⓟ How is God's will done?

Ⓒ **God's will is done when he breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let his kingdom come; and when he strengthens and keeps us firm in his Word and faith until we die. This is his good and gracious will.**

Ⓟ Like King David, the shepherd king, and the prophet Nathan, our sinful natures prohibit us from knowing perfectly the will of God. Yet God provides for us a cure and direction. Together, we pray: O Lord Jesus,

Ⓒ **We seek your compassion and forgiveness because we too are harassed by sin and helpless to free ourselves from its bondage. We have sinned in thought, word and deed. Though you have called us to be your people, we have lived as if we only needed to answer to ourselves. Even our best intentions to follow your will have met with failure. In your mercy, forgive us our sins. Send us your Spirit to help us live as your holy people.**

Ⓟ According to the perfect and compassionate will of God, your sins are forgiven through the precious blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- The **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Weil Ich Jesu Schäflein Bin 788 877, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

I am Jesus' little lamb, ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me, knows my need, and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same, even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, he bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, by his angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to his breast, there within his arms to rest.

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

Ⓟ Almighty God, your plans are beyond my imagining. The hopes and dreams I have for myself—for my relationships and my daily tasks and my future—I hold in open hands before you. Shape my life according to your will, and help me release the good things I have planned so I may receive with joy and thankfulness the good things you have planned, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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

*Needed: a toy airplane*

☐ Hello, boys and girls. Today I am going to talk to you about the dreams people have for their lives. Some people dream of being a pilot and so they take a toy plane like this one in their hands and pretend they are flying a plane around. (*Hold up toy plane and pretend to fly it.*) What do you dream of being when you grow up? (*Allow the children to respond.*) Those are all great dreams, boys and girls. But our worship service today is talking about the dreams that God has for our lives, which are sometimes different than what we have in mind, or are at least beyond what we imagine.

Let me give you an example. In the Bible we read about King David. He had a dream of building a big temple to God, where he and all the people of his kingdom could worship their Lord. That may have sounded like a good dream for David, but God had other dreams in mind for him. He had bigger dreams.

God’s dream for David was that he would send a Savior through David’s line. God’s own Son, Jesus, would be born to Mary and Joseph, and Joseph was of the house of David, the Bible tells us. So Jesus would be called the Son of David and the Son of God. And Jesus would save the whole world, not just David’s kingdom. Jesus would be the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords. God’s dream for David’s future included forgiveness of sins through the death and resurrection of the sinless Son of God and life forever in the mansions of heaven prepared for him. Those heavenly dwelling places would far surpass the temple David was envisioning.

This story of David reminds us that God’s dreams for us are bigger than our own dreams too. His big dream for us is the same as David’s, and it is not pretend or made up. His dream is to save us through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross for us so that we, too, can dwell in the mansions above, forever forgiven and free. Let us pray:

Dear God, thank you for showing King David and us the big dream you have to save us through your only begotten Son. May any dreams we have for our lives never turn us away from that greatest dream of all, which will make our spirits soar. Amen.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, 2 Samuel 7:4-29, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people

Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God! And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord God! Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O Lord, became their God. And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The Lord of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you. For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

- The **New Testament Reading**, Hebrews 10:1-5, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me.”

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 22:41-46, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.”

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

*[Nathan enters, stage left. He is young for a prophet, but old enough to have his own sense of identity. He takes his job as prophet seriously, but he is not somber in his personality. His love both for God and the king are evident.]*

- Ⓟ Have you ever had to tell your boss you were wrong?

Have you ever had to tell your boss he was wrong?

Have you ever had to tell the most powerful man in the world his dreams for the future were completely off base?

Yeah; me, too.

For a moment, all the pride and wrath of a powerful monarch rested on David’s brow like a crown. I actually thought I might die. And then I could see a transformation take place ...

But I am getting ahead of myself.

My name is Nathan and I am a prophet of the Most High. You probably know that my name, Nathan, means gift; and you can probably imagine that my job sometimes isn't: a gift, I mean. Sometimes, when you speak for God, you have to voice the truth even when you are wrong, even when you don't know what will happen next.

*[slightly defensive, but honest]* And I had been wrong; though I'm not sure it was entirely my fault.

It happened like this ...

*[warming up to the tale]* David the king had finally ascended the throne of a united kingdom. He conquered Jerusalem and set up his capital city there. Then we brought the Tent of the Presence up to Jerusalem. The Tabernacle had housed the Ark of the Covenant ever since the days of Moses. And now Yahweh pitched His tent in the shadow of the palace.

*[smiling at the memory]* You should have seen David dance before the Ark! Some thought the king made a fool of himself as we marched up the hill of the city and the crowd cheered; but the reckless abandon of David's dance, and the clear voice of his song showed our monarch owed allegiance to a greater King.

I didn't know David when he was just a shepherd boy, but it's easy to imagine him singing to his sheep in the hills of Bethlehem. The whole flock must have been treated to quite a private praise concert now and then! David had a beautiful voice. And he danced with the grace of a seasoned warrior.

*[picking up the thread of the story]* So the Ark camped out in a crude shelter while David enjoyed his palace. I think that rankled the king more than he let on. David knew what it was like to sleep in an army tent, or a secret cave, or even out in the open air. And now, with his power consolidated and his crown secure, it seemed somehow vulgar to have the Almighty God camped out in a lean-to David could see through his cedar plank window.

So the king called in the prophet *[indicated himself]*; always a good idea when making big plans. King David told me of his sweeping vision for a house for the Ark of the Covenant, a temple for the Mercy Seat where the Presence of Yahweh dwells. If David had a house of cedar, then so should God; our monarch owed allegiance to a greater King.

So I told David what prophets are supposed to tell kings; I honestly couldn't have known it was wrong.

King Saul got the same instructions, "Once the Holy Spirit has come upon you from on high, do what your hand finds to do; God is with you." Saul's hand went back to the plow after that, until the Philistines attacked and he took up the mantle of leadership ... but that's a different story of a different king.

The point is simply this: King David was anointed with the Holy Spirit. He was a man after Yahweh's own heart. David knew he owed his reign to the God he called King.

And now, God's chosen, anointed leader wanted to build a house for God's name. Of course I told him, "Do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you!" You would have told him the same thing! *[getting a little defensive...]*

So I'm not sure it was entirely my fault, but... I was wrong.

*[As if citing the NFL rule book]* Without a clear word to the contrary, someone who is anointed with the Holy Spirit is supposed to do what's in front of them, do what their hand finds to do.

"Clear word to the contrary!" I would say so! Yahweh himself showed up to give David "a clear word to the contrary!"

Well actually, God's Word came to me. And I had to take it to David... Did I mention my job isn't always a gift?

I was sent to tell David:

This is what the LORD Almighty says, "You want to build for me a house? No, no, no, David; I am going to build for you a house. Your son can build my house, the temple, but I will build your house, a dynasty.

"A Son of David will one day sit on an eternal throne; and I will be to him a Father, and he will be my own, beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. And when that Son of David ascends his throne, his reign will have no end."

So I was sent to tell David that his dream for the future was all wrong. At least that's what it felt like at the time...

*[thoughtfully, coming to a better understanding even as he talks it out]*

I guess I was actually sent to tell David that his dream for the future was—not all wrong—but too small. David wasn't going to get what he wanted; but what God wanted to give was so much more than David had dreamed.

Still ... it's never easy to tell the king he can't have what he wants.

*[faster, explaining why his hesitation was justified]* I mean, other kings from other nations are known to kill the messenger. And while David is a man after Yahweh's own heart, he is also a man of war. I always thought General Joab was behind some of the more bloody politics, but David himself could be pretty brutal. The man who brought news of King Saul's death was executed for treason, and David himself gave the order. *[feeling uncomfortable; perhaps]*

*fingering his own neck]*

*[making himself feel better:]* Of course, the man had gloated over the death of the king ... but being a bearer of bad news isn't always good for your health. Especially when it's the ruler of your world who doesn't like your message.

So I decided not to gloat. *[swallows]* And to make sure Joab was away on business.

*[picking up the pace again]* When I went in to the king, he was in high spirits. He was already making plans to establish God's dwelling permanently in the capital. I had to get his attention away from royal architects, stone masons, and carpenters in order to tell him the construction project would have to be put on hold.

As I told David he had to let go of his own dream for the future, his face hardened and his eyes grew dark. He dismissed the builders coldly.

I tried to tell the King that the whatever-your-hand-finds-to-do stuff was a general principle, and it wasn't my fault, and all rules have exceptions, but he didn't look like he was buying it. All he heard was me telling him no.

For a moment, all the pride and wrath of a powerful monarch rested on David's brow like a crown. I actually thought I might die. So I gave up trying to make myself look good, and just delivered the message entrusted to me. I spoke the Word of the LORD instead of my excuses. And I could actually see the transformation take place.

As I spoke God's future over David, I could see the proud king melt away and the shepherd boy return. David let go of his own dream for God's future, in order to embrace God's dream for his future. *[shaking his head, letting that thought sink in]*

When I finished the message, the king grabbed me by the elbow, marched me out of the palace, and took me right into the Tent of the Presence of Yahweh. There were no cedar beams or marble pillars, but David hadn't come to study architecture.

He sat down to pray, and how the king prayed! He poured his words out to God the same way he had danced before the Ark, with total abandon.

I wept openly as I heard a king who knew both his place and his God: "Who am I, O LORD, that you would make such promises to me?" The simple shepherd boy was back—David was always a better king when he was a shepherd first—and the shepherd boy knew how much he depended on his true King for everything he had.

David latched onto the promise of a royal heir, a Son of David, to sit on an eternal throne, a ruler whom God claimed as his beloved Son; David heard the promise, and received the

Tune..... Hamburg LM

Measures 1-5 of the piece. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody in the treble clef starts on a whole note chord (F2, A2) and moves through several chords, including a half note chord (G2, B-flat2) and a quarter note chord (A2, C3). The bass line in the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Measures 6-10 of the piece. The melody continues with a half note chord (A2, C3) and a quarter note chord (B-flat2, D3). The bass line features a half note chord (F2, A2) and a quarter note chord (G2, B-flat2). A large watermark 'Creative Communications' is overlaid on this section.

Measures 11-15 of the piece. The melody includes a half note chord (A2, C3) and a quarter note chord (B-flat2, D3). The bass line consists of a half note chord (F2, A2) and a quarter note chord (G2, B-flat2). The watermark 'Creative Communications' continues across this section.

- 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.

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

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# THY WILL BE DONE

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## A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT

### WEEK 2:

### GOD'S WILL AND MY DREAMS

### 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.

“I Can Only Imagine” by Bart Millard

“Dream Again” by Emma Mullings, Nathan Eshman, Scott Groom and Terence Mullings

“I Have a Dream (Feels Like Home)” by Aaron Powell, Elias Dummer, Eric Fusilier and Josh Vanderlaan

“Thy Will” by Hillary Scott

“Shepherd of My Heart” by Shannon Alford and Sion Alford

“You Are My Shepherd” by Tom Booth