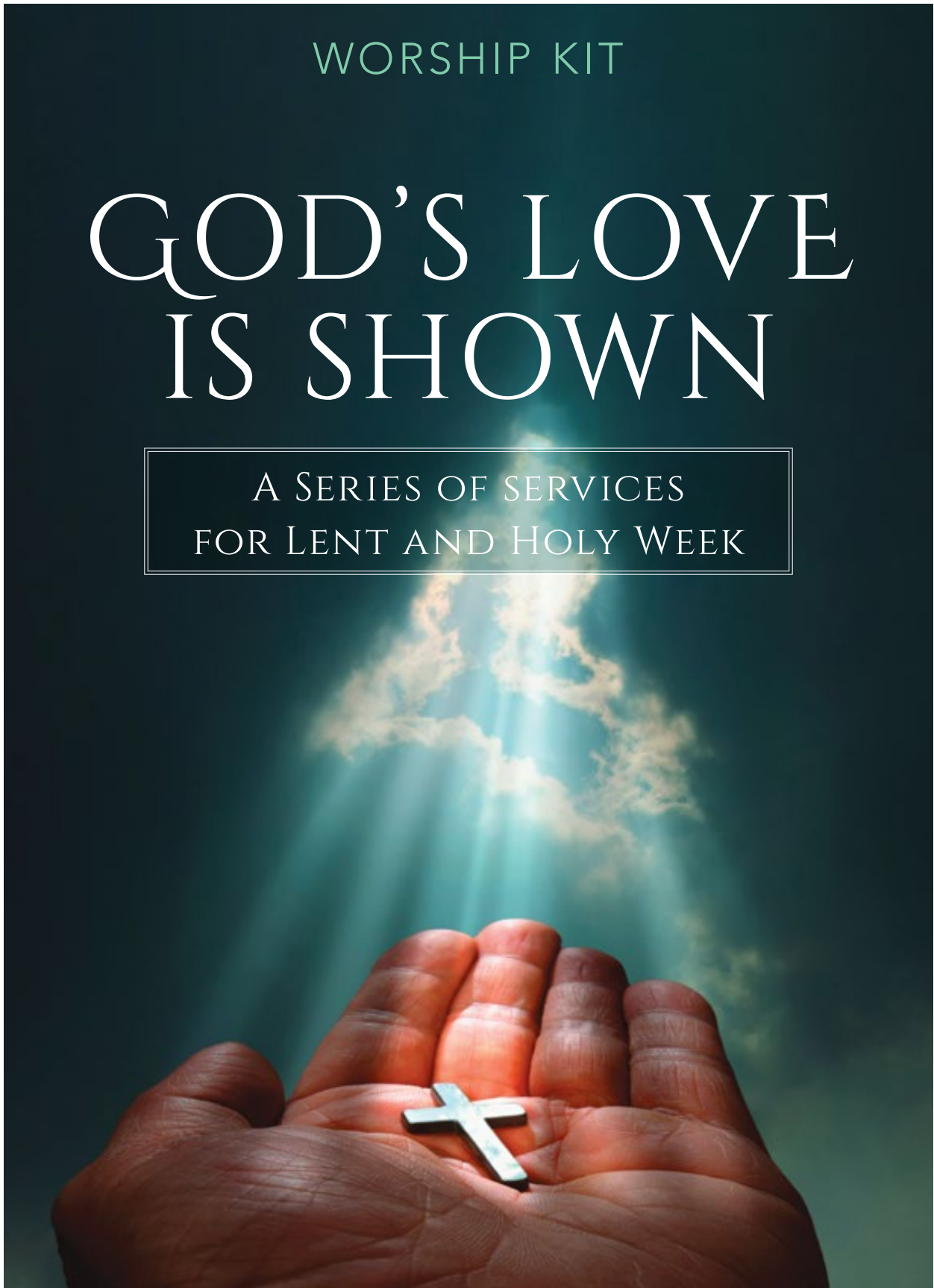


WORSHIP KIT

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK



# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

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FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## Index

About the Series .....	5
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices .....	6-15
Ash Wednesday .....	16-44
Week 1 .....	45-70
Week 2 .....	71-96
Week 3 .....	97-122
Week 4 .....	123-148
Week 5 .....	149-175
Palm Sunday .....	176-203
Maundy Thursday .....	204-231
Good Friday .....	232-259
Easter Sunday .....	260-285
Music Guide .....	286-428

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# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## About the Series

This worship series for the six weeks of Lent and Holy Week delves into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love for us shown most clearly in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each service focuses specifically on a meaningful descriptor of God's love and applies that description to the words and actions of our Lord who is God's love incarnate come down to save us.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

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## Ash Wednesday: Redemptive Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Lent, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday we will look at the redemptive nature of the love our Lord has for us. He redeems us from sin, death and hell that we might be in own forever.

### Bulletin Notice

On Ash Wednesday we look at the redemptive nature of the love our Lord has for us. He redeems us from sin, death and hell that we might be in own forever. In this, God's love is shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## Week 1: Compassionate Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Lent, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Week 1 we will look at the compassionate nature of the love our Lord has for us. He feels for us in our need and takes measures to help us out of our despair.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Week 1 we look at the compassionate nature of the love our Lord has for us. He feels for us in our need and takes measures to help us out of our despair. In this, God's love is shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## Week 2: Steadfast Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Lent, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Week 2 we will look at the steadfast nature of the love our Lord has for us. He keeps on caring for us through thick and thin and never stops holding us close.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Week 2 we will look at the steadfast nature of the love our Lord has for us. He keeps on caring for us through thick and thin and never stops holding us close. In this, God's love is shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
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## Week 3: Enriching Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Lent, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Week 3 we will look at the enriching nature of the love our Lord has for us. His love fills us with good things and helps us to grow and develop into the people he wants us to be.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Week 3 we will look at the enriching nature of the love our Lord has for us. His love fills us with good things and helps us to grow and develop into the people he wants us to be.

In this, God's love is shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
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## Week 4: Living Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Lent, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Week 4 we will look at the living nature of the love our Lord has for us. His love enlivens us to carry out his will with energy and share his love wholeheartedly.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Week 4 we look at the living nature of the love our Lord has for us. His love enlivens us to carry out his will with energy and share his love wholeheartedly. In this, God's love is shown.



# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## Week 5: Holy Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Lent, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Week 5 we will look at the holy nature of the love our Lord has for us. His love is set apart to divinely inspire his people to love beyond all human love.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Week 5 we look at the holy nature of the love our Lord has for us. His love is set apart to divinely inspire his people to love beyond all human love. In this, God's love is shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

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## Palm Sunday: Saving Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Holy Week, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Palm Sunday we will remember that Hosanna means "save us." Little did the people who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem that day know just how he would save them—by going to the cross. There his love would be truly shown.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Palm Sunday we remember that Hosanna means "save us." Little did the people who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem know just how he would save them—by going to the cross. There his love would be truly shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

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## Maundy Thursday: Selfless Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Holy Week, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Maundy Thursday we will remember that Jesus gave his great mandate on this day to love one another and he showed that love by selflessly washing his disciples' feet and giving of himself in bread and wine.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Maundy Thursday we remember that Jesus gave his great mandate on this day to love one another and he showed that love by selflessly washing his disciples' feet and giving of himself in bread and wine.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

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## Good Friday: Sacrificial Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Holy Week, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Good Friday we will remember the sacrificial nature of God's love displayed for us on cross, when the Son of God became the Lamb of God, whose blood was shed out of love for us.

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Good Friday we will remember the sacrificial nature of God's love displayed for us on cross, when the Son of God became the Lamb of God, whose blood was shed out of love for us. In this, God's love is shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

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## Easter Sunday: Joyous Love

### Newsletter Notice

In our worship series this Holy Week, entitled God's Love Is Shown, we will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord's love shown in his life, suffering, death and resurrection. In our service for Easter Sunday we will remember the joyous nature of God's love, revealed to us in the good news the angel spoke at the empty tomb, "He is not here. He is risen, just as he said."

### Bulletin Notice

In our service for Easter Sunday we will remember the joyous nature of God's love, revealed to us in the good news the angel spoke at the empty tomb, "He is not here. He is risen, just as he said." In this, God's love is shown.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## Ash Wednesday: Redemptive Love

### Index

Order of Service .....	17-23
Complete Script for Worship Leaders .....	24-35
Scripture Readings .....	36-37
Children's Message .....	38-39
Sermon .....	40-42
Prayers .....	43-44

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

A SERIES OF SERVICES  
FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

## Ash Wednesday: Redemptive Love

### Order of Service

*Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Romans 7:24-25*

Opening Hymn..... Wem In Leidenstagen 65 65

Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;  
Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,  
angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood,  
Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

#### Invocation and Litany

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

**C** **Who created us out of love;**

**P** and of the Son,

**C** **Who redeemed us out of love;**

**P** and of the Holy Spirit,

**C** **Who keeps us by His love. Amen! Amen! Amen!**

#### Confession

**P** As we begin this Lenten journey of love, and reflect on the redemptive love of our heavenly Father, we ponder our sinfulness and our need for His loving redemption.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)*

**C** **Heavenly Father, I am truly an undeserving, wretched sinner. I have done nothing to deserve your love. In fact, I have done much to deserve your wrath and punishment. I am guilty beyond measure. I come before you broken and beat down by my own faults and failures. I am mortal. I am a sinner in need of your redemptive love. Forgive me and create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.**

#### Imposition of Ashes

Savior, when in dust to thee low we bow the adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all thy pains and woe suffered once for us below,  
Bending from thy throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

By thy helpless infant years, by thy life of want and tears,  
By thy days of deep distress in the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour of the insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; hear our penitential cry!



By thine hour of dire despair, by thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh; hear our penitential cry!

By thy deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored, mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Bending from thy throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

Absolution

**P** Out of love for you, and because of His mercy and grace alone, our Lord Jesus has paid the price! He has redeemed your life from the pit and filled you with love and compassion! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen! Amen! Amen!**

Hymn .....Nun Danket Alle Gott 67 67 66 66

The Lord, my God, be praised, my light, my life from heaven;  
My maker, who to me has soul and body given;  
My Father, who will shield and keep me day by day  
And make each moment yield new blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, my trust, my life from heaven,  
The Father's own dear Son, whose life for me was given,  
Who for my sin atoned with his most precious blood  
And gives to me by faith the highest heav'nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, my hope, my life from heaven,  
The Spirit, whom the Son in love to me has given.  
His grace revives my heart and gives my spirit pow'r,  
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow's gloomy hour.

The Lord, my God, be praised, my God, the ever-living,  
To whom the heav'nly host their laud and praise are giving.  
The Lord, my God, be praised, in whose great name I boast,  
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Hymn .....Gott Ist Die Liebe 55 54 and refrain

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working to make me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;  
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Old Testament Reading ..... Daniel 9:3-12

Epistle Reading ..... Romans 7:15-25

Gospel Reading ..... John 3:14-18

Sermon Hymn ..... Wondrous Love 12 9 66 12 9

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down;  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on!

#### Sermon

Hymn of Response ..... Caithness CM

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for own sin, and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves, since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

#### Offering

## Prayers

**P** Heavenly Father, out of love you sent your Son to redeem me and all creation. We thank you for your mercy and grace shown to us in this way. During these forty days of Lent, humble me and show me your power and glory, more and more, that I may witness your love to those around me. In your redemptive love,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord, you gave up your holy body and blood to buy us back from sin, death, the devil, and hell. Make us ever thankful that you paid the price we could not pay, so that our thankfulness and praise will resound to the ends of the earth. In your redemptive love,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Holy Spirit, as we begin this Lenten season, turn our hearts toward you and your mercy and grace. Humble us, by your mighty power, that we may cling to Jesus alone for life. In your redemptive love,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Lord God, you are the physician of body and soul. We humbly ask that you would heal those who are dealing with illness and injury according to your will. As they wait upon your healing, work through their struggle to reveal your mighty power and love in their lives. In your redemptive love,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Jesus, grant that balm and healing in your holy wounds I find,  
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning keep me from its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation fascinate my sinful mind,  
Draw me to your cross and passion, and new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard, let me then be on my guard,  
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," that the tempter flee confounded.

If the world my heart entices with the broad and easy road,  
With seductive, sinful vices, let me weigh the awful load  
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure  
And to master each temptation, calm in prayer and meditation.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
When I'm faint, your cross revives me, granting new life to my soul.

Yes, your comfort renders sweet ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
For your all-atoning passion has procured my soul's salvation.

O my God, my rock and tower, grant that in your death I trust,  
Knowing death has lost its power since you crushed it in the dust.

Savior, let your agony ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection, light and life and resurrection.

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN

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## Ash Wednesday: Redemptive Love

### 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:

[www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/adult-child-hands-holding-red-hearthealth-682897339](http://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/adult-child-hands-holding-red-hearthealth-682897339)

- 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:

*Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Romans 7:24-25*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Wem In Leidenstagen 65 65*, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;  
Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,  
angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood,  
Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

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

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

**C** **Who created us out of love;**

**P** and of the Son,

**C** **Who redeemed us out of love;**

**P** and of the Holy Spirit,

**C** **Who keeps us by His love. Amen! Amen! Amen!**

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

**P** As we begin this Lenten journey of love, and reflect on the redemptive love of our heavenly Father, we ponder our sinfulness and our need for His loving redemption.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)*

**C** Heavenly Father, I am truly an undeserving, wretched sinner. I have done nothing to deserve your love. In fact, I have done much to deserve your wrath and punishment. I am guilty beyond measure. I come before you broken and beat down by my own faults and failures. I am mortal. I am a sinner in need of your redemptive love. Forgive me and create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.

- The **Imposition of Ashes** takes place at this time, according to local custom, while following hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune Aberystwth 77 77 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:

Savior, when in dust to thee low we bow the adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all thy pains and woe suffered once for us below,  
Bending from thy throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

By thy helpless infant years, by thy life of want and tears,  
By thy days of deep distress in the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour of the insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; hear our penitential cry!

By thine hour of dire despair, by thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh; hear our penitential cry!

By thy deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored, mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Bending from thy throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

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

**P** Out of love for you, and because of His mercy and grace alone, our Lord Jesus has paid the price! He has redeemed your life from the pit and filled you with love and compassion! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen! Amen! Amen!



- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Nun Danket Alle Gott 67 67 66 66, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The Lord, my God, be praised, my light, my life from heaven;  
 My maker, who to me has soul and body given;  
 My Father, who will shield and keep me day by day  
 And make each moment yield new blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, my trust, my life from heaven,  
 The Father's own dear Son, whose life for me was given,  
 Who for my sin atoned with His most precious blood  
 And gives to me by faith the highest heav'nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, my hope, my life from heaven,  
 The Spirit, whom the Son in love to me has given.  
 His grace revives my heart and gives my spirit pow'r,  
 Help, comfort, and support In sorrow's gloomy hour.

The Lord, my God, be praised, my God, the ever-living,  
 To whom the heav'nly host their laud and praise are giving.  
 The Lord, my God, be praised, in whose great name I boast,  
 God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

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

☐ Lord God, heavenly Father, if it wasn't for your redeeming love, we would be lost and condemned forever. Grant us joy and peace as we begin this Lenten journey of love, that we may be witnesses of that love to the whole world. Amen.

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

*(Needed: a stethoscope, or a picture of one; a small dish of ashes)*

☐ When I was a boy, I had a bunch of toys called Tonka Toys. I had a fire engine, and a dump truck, and a bunch of other cool trucks and tractors. When I got older I quit playing with them, and they went in a box. Because they were older toys and the company didn't make them anymore, they became very valuable, very expensive. One day, my mom, not knowing how valuable they were, decided she was going to sell them in a garage sale. Toys that would have sold for hundreds of dollars went for just a few dollars each. If I want them back now, I'll have to pay hundreds of dollars to get them. The price is too high for me.

Think about all the toys you have right now. Which one is your favorite? Do you have one that you play with more than others? Do you have a favorite game you play? How about a favorite stuffed animal? (*Ask the kids for answers.*) Now imagine that your mom takes that favorite toy and sells it to another mom to have for one of her kids. What kinds of things do you think you would do to get that favorite toy back? Would you sell all of your other toys to get enough money to buy it back?

When we do, think, or say the wrong things, we call that sin. When we sin, even just a little bit, it is like we are selling ourselves to the devil. Jesus doesn't want that. He loves you too much. That is why he came to earth, lived a perfect life, suffered, and died for you and me. His life was the price it took to buy you back.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Gott Ist Die Liebe* 55 54 and refrain, 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 loves me dearly, grants me salvation;  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working to make me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;  
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Daniel 9:3-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who

love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Romans 7:15-25, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 3:14-18, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

- A **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Wondrous Love 12 9 66 12 9, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
 What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
 To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
 To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
 When I was sinking down, sinking down;  
 When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
 To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,  
 While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
 While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
 And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
 And through eternity I'll sing on!

- 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:

<https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/15571/redemption--poetry-version>

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

**P** Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tonight we begin another season of Lent with this day we call Ash Wednesday. It is a day to remember that we are dust and to dust we will return. Our mortality is a certainty, but so is Christ's love. Throughout these forty days we will be using different descriptions of God's love and tonight we are going to take a look at his redeeming love. We are going to talk about how God bought us back from the devil, death, and hell; and the price was his precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

Speaking of love, I love to pay bills. You might think that you misheard that. I said, I like to pay bills. Let me explain. I don't like the fact that I have bills to pay. I don't like to have to pay them, but in a strange way, it gives me a feeling of accomplishment when I take all of the bills out of that special place in the house where I keep them all, and one by one pay them. It used to be that I would have to write a check, put it in the envelope, put a stamp on the envelope and send it. Now I can either pay it online or over the phone and it's done.

Besides the feeling of accomplishment, I also feel a bit of pride, because I am being a responsible adult and paying what I owe. I feel good about myself, knowing that I am keeping up my end of the bargain and doing what I'm supposed to do. I'm being a moral and responsible adult.

It feels good to be able to say that you are a responsible adult, doesn't it? I feel proud of myself when I pay my taxes, and give my offerings, and get all the bills paid on time. It feels good, that is, until I don't.

We miss a payment, because the bill got thrown in the trash. We get the hospital bill from our surgery, and it is way more than we will ever be able to afford. We get that emergency fund built up to where it should be only to find that the emergency was way worse, and way more expensive than we ever thought it could be.

Tonight we begin the season of Lent. Lent is a season to deal with your sin. At the end of it you want to feel a sense of accomplishment. Maybe that's why we give up something for Lent, to feel like we've done something, or that when it's all done, we can be proud of ourselves for accomplishing something.

As you go through these forty days, you will probably notice that there is no end to your sin. You could stay in the kneeling position in confession to God until you can no longer feel your knees all forty days straight. You could write down a list of your sins a mile long and still not even scratch the surface of your sinfulness. When it comes to your sin and my sin, there is no end on this side of heaven. There is no sense of accomplishment at the end of Lent. There is no paying off your sin debt. It keeps going on and on.

The Apostle Paul speaks directly to this seemingly never-ending drama. His complaint is the complaint of every honest Christian out there. We all want to do good. We all want to serve God. We love doing the right thing, and we hate doing the wrong thing.

Think about it. How many good intentions have you had that have soon been forgotten? How many times have you promised that you would read the whole Bible, but then you got bogged down in Leviticus? How many times have you promised yourself that you would start eating right and exercising but you wake up, go to the kitchen, and there's that beautiful glazed donut right there on the counter?

Earlier in our worship service, we had a time of silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination. When we have that time, I always find it to be a bit too short. As I call to mind the sins of the day that is past, I find myself getting lost and tangled in a huge web of sins of which I can't seem to find my way out. As a pastor, I have found my mind wandering a time or two to the point that I almost forget that I am supposed to be leading the service and moving people along through the words of confession.

It is so easy to get caught up in our sins and to get overburdened with guilt because of them. At the same time, we want to do something about it all. We want to work to overcome it. We want to be able to get to the end of it all on our own. We wish we could just write a big check and pay it all of already. Isn't that what Lent is for? Aren't we supposed to take these forty days to deal with our sin so we can overcome them and move on with a clean slate? The short answer is NO!

If that were the case, Romans 7 wouldn't say what it says. Paul would give you simple instructions on how to overcome your own sinfulness. He wouldn't belabor his troubles, but he would tell you about his success in defeating his troubles, and give you the answers and the pep talk to go along with it.

Brothers and sisters, the season of Lent is not for you to deal with your sin on your own and pay for it. I am not going to give you five easy steps to overcome your sin and be all that you can be. Lent isn't a time to figure out how to get that bill paid so it is done. The season of Lent is so that you can realize the magnitude and impossibility of redeeming yourself, so that you can also remember how massive and complete the redemptive love of Christ is for you!

The price for your eternal life has already been paid. The death of Christ on the cross is the full atonement made for you! Don't spend these forty days of Lent trying to pay for your sins by giving something up or by making a list of all your sins. You can't give up enough and you'll never get done with that list. Instead, use these forty days to realize more confidently and surely that you have been redeemed, that the precious love of Christ is full and complete for you. His redeeming love is all that satisfies and all you will ever need! Amen.

- A **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Caithness CM, 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 Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for own sin, and free us from our past..

You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves, since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

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

<https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/64545/lent-reflection-and-repentance>

- The **Prayers** are offered:

**P** Heavenly Father, out of love you sent your Son to redeem me and all creation. We thank you for your mercy and grace shown to us in this way. During these forty days of Lent, humble me and show me your power and glory, more and more, that I may witness your love to those around me. In your redemptive love,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord, you gave up your holy body and blood to buy us back from sin, death, the devil, and hell. Make us ever thankful that you paid the price we could not pay, so that our thankfulness and praise will resound to the ends of the earth. In your redemptive love,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Holy Spirit, as we begin this Lenten season, turn our hearts toward you and your mercy and grace. Humble us, by your mighty power, that we may cling to Jesus alone for life. In your redemptive love,

**C** Hear our prayer.