

# SERVICES FOR LENT

# GUIDED to the CROSS

# WEEK 1: GUIDED TO HOPE

# **INDEX**

Order of Service	
Complete Script For Leaders	

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# WEEK 1: GUIDED TO HOPE

# ORDER OF SERVICE

He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:10

Opening Hymn......Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain (Naar Mit Öie 87 87 77)

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

Come in 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.

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.

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

### C Amen.

- P When Jesus chased the money changers and merchants from the temple, the religious leaders who opposed him asked for a sign of his authority to do such things. Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). He spoke of the temple of his body. He would be killed and raised to life again on the third day after his death. The sign would be his death and resurrection. The sign would be the cross.
- **©** In a world of confusion and temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.
- P As the time of his death drew near, Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). There he would take up his cross for the sake of our salvation. As we follow his path during this Lenten season, the cross stands before us as a marker, a signpost, to guide our steps.
- **2** As Jesus kept his focus on what lay ahead for him, we, too, look to his cross.
- P The cross signified a terrible death. Yet through faith in Jesus our Savior, for us the cross is a sign of triumph in the face of death. The cross is a sign of life and hope.
- Lord Jesus, set your cross always before us to guide us to the hope of forgiveness and life that are ours through faith in your name! Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

- P Let us confess our sins to God, and ask for his forgiveness.
- Almighty God, we have the cross of our Lord before us to guide us, but we often turn away from following in his steps. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of gladly hearing your Word. We turn from the hope we have in Jesus to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.
- P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus was nailed to the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. I announce

to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

# C Lord God, set the cross always before us, and guide us in the way of hope.

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Hymn ......Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted (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.

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.

Old Testament Reading	Jeremiah 14:21-22
Epistle Reading	
Gospel Reading	Luke 23:39-43
Sermon Hymn	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (Magdalen LM and refrain)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood; When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before his throne!
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

### Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**☑** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born

of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

### **Prayers**

*Each petition ends with the following response:* 

- P O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;
- **©** In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

Lord's Prayer

The Blessing (Romans 8:23-25; Romans 15:13)

- P We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?
- **©** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
- P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
- C Amen.

Closing Hymn...... On My Heart Imprint Thine Image (Der Am Kreuz 87 87 77 88)

On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares and pleasures
Never may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

# SERVICES FOR LENT

# GUIDED to the CROSS

# WEEK 1: GUIDED TO HOPE

# 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:

shutterstock.com/image-photo/human-hand-raises-his-palm-open-2327122965

• 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:

He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:10

• The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Naar Mit Öie 87 87 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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

Come in 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.

They that drink shall live forever;
"Tis a soul-renewing flood,
God is faithful, God will never
Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when he was glorified.

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### C Amen.

(P) When Jesus chased the money changers and merchants from the temple, the religious leaders who opposed him asked for a sign of his authority to do such things. Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). He spoke of the temple of his body. He would be killed and raised to life again on the third day after his death. The sign would be his death and resurrection. The sign would be the cross.

# **©** In a world of confusion and temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.

P As the time of his death drew near, Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). There he would take up his cross for the sake of our salvation. As we follow his path during this Lenten season, the cross stands before us as a marker, a signpost, to guide our steps.

- **2** As Jesus kept his focus on what lay ahead for him, we, too, look to his cross.
- P The cross signified a terrible death. Yet through faith in Jesus our Savior, for us the cross is a sign of triumph in the face of death. The cross is a sign of life and hope.
- Lord Jesus, set your cross always before us to guide us to the hope of forgiveness and life that are ours through faith in your name! Amen.
- The **Confession and Forgiveness** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Let us confess our sins to God, and ask for his forgiveness.
- Almighty God, we have the cross of our Lord before us to guide us, but we often turn away from following in his steps. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of gladly hearing your Word. We turn from the hope we have in Jesus to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.
- P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus was nailed to the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- **■** Lord God, set the cross always before us, and guide us in the way of hope.
- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P Lord Jesus, as we follow you on your path to the cross, guide our steps in the way of hope. By grace through faith in your holy name, we have forgiveness for our sins and the sure and certain hope of eternal life in your presence. When we are struggling with fear or loss, set your cross before us as a sign of the hope that we have. Lead us to be witnesses for you and to share the hope you bring with everyone we meet, so that they, too, in the power of the Holy Spirit, may come to believe in you and worship you as Lord. Hear our prayer, and accept our praise, dear Savior. Amen.
- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: pictures of road signs and signposts

P I have some pictures here of signs that help us as we are traveling. Do you know what each sign means? (Show road signs. Let children answer.) Why are these signs important for travelers? (Let children answer.) The signs might show us how far we have to go to get to the next town. The signs help to point us in the right direction. We may need to stay on the same street or

highway or change to a different road. Signs keep us from doing something dangerous. Signs can keep us from getting lost.

During these days of Lent, the 40 days before Easter, we remember how Jesus suffered and died on the cross to take away our sins. We remember Jesus' love for us, and we keep the cross in our hearts and in our thoughts. We can think about Jesus' cross as a guide for us, like a sign or a signpost showing us the way to go. The cross of Jesus guides us to hope.

To have hope means to look forward to something that might happen, maybe something happy or fun that you wish would happen. What kind of things might you hope for? (*Let children answer.*) You might hope for a vacation with your family or for lots of birthday presents. In Jesus, we hope for even better things. Because we believe in Jesus, we have hope in times of trouble or sadness knowing that Jesus will be with us all the time. The robber who died on a cross next to Jesus recognized Jesus as his King. He asked Jesus to remember him, and Jesus said, "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). That robber had hope because of Jesus' promise. We have the same hope. We have hope for eternal life. Because Jesus died for us and rose from the dead, we will live with him forever!

Some things we hope for might or might not happen, but in Jesus, what we hope for will happen because he always keeps his promises. The cross of Jesus guides us to hope. Our sins are forgiven, and we will live forever!

Let's pray: Jesus, you always keep your promises. Help us to share with others the hope that we have in you. Amen.

• The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Mein Jesu, Ich Muss Sterben 87 87 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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.

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.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Jeremiah 14:21-22, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.
- The **Epistle Reading**, 2 Corinthians 1:9-10, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.
- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 23:39-43, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

• The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Magdalen LM 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:

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood; When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before his throne!
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:
- P Grace, mercy and peace to you, my dear Christian friends. Welcome to the Guided to the Cross worship series for Lent. Today, we are taking a look at how we are "Guided to Hope" in this season.

What do you hope for in this season, this year, this decade, this century? It is hard to know. Are we looking for something to make us feel better? Are we searching for things that will make us happy? Are we clinging to the chance of financial stability? Are we craving companionship? Are we wishing for peace and prosperity? These are all nice things and certainly worthy of

being hoped for on some level. But the hope we grab onto most tightly this Lent is the hope of the cross of Christ. The hope we have in Jesus Christ and his cross is not like any other type of wishful thinking we have in this world. It is sure and solid and lasting. Hope of the cross is not a passing fancy but a daily tenet to live by.

The irony is that the cross does not look like an element of hope. The cross was not initially a goal to strive for or a driving force in our everyday living. It was a torture device, and one of the cruelest at that. But God chose to use the cross to win salvation for us all through the death of his sinless Son, Jesus. The cross provides us with hope when there once was none at all. We were dead in our sins and not able to save ourselves before the cross came along and Jesus was lifted up on it. Before the cross, we were lost in not understanding at all what was in store for the days to come and not able to see the big picture of God's plan for us. Then the cross and Christ's death upon it gave us a path to follow, a heaven that awaits us and a faith that would bring us to a closer understanding of God's will to gather us together with him. These are the reasons we have hope. These are the basis for our confidence in Christ and his cross that will not fade away.

So how does this hope we have in Jesus express itself? From Scripture, we learn that people can see the hope we have in Jesus in the way we live our lives. We love and care for others as Christ loved and cared for us on the cross. We approach hardship and suffering with a calm and peaceful demeanor. We are not bothered by the tragedies and disasters of this world because we know there is a world to come in which we will be safe and blessed forever.

But these are the ideals. The reality is that our hope in Jesus is not always as strong as it should be. We doubt. We question. We are afraid. That is when we need to be reminded of those who followed Jesus on the way to his cross. Even though Jesus told them again and again, the disciples did not want to believe that Jesus would suffer and die for their sins. They doubted the news. They questioned it. When it was happening, they ran away and hid. They sank into a funk of hopelessness and despair.

One of the criminals on the cross next to Jesus chided him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (Luke 23:39). This criminal was essentially saying that he had no hope in Jesus saving him by asking Jesus this question in jest. The soldiers acted similarly by mocking Jesus in the hours before he went to the cross. They put a purple robe on him; they made him hold a staff as a scepter and pushed a crown of thorns into his head and then bowed before him in faux flattery, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (John 19:3). They had no hope that this Jesus was any kind of savior.

The people at the Pavement, standing before a beaten and bloodied Jesus, presented to them by Pilate, seemed to have no hope in Jesus whatsoever either, when they cried out in loud and angry voices over and over again, "Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify him!" (Luke 23:21).

The people who walked past Calvary and saw Jesus hanging on the cross thought all hope was lost, as they shook their heads in dismay, as if to say, "What a shame. This did not turn out the way we thought it would." Hopes were dashed.

Only the criminal on the cross on the right side of Jesus showed he had hope in what was happening right before his eyes in the person of Jesus on the cross. He said to the criminal on the left of Jesus, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong" (Luke 23:40-41). This criminal knew that Jesus was not guilty of any crime, but that he was. He knew that he deserved death but that Jesus didn't. He knew that he could not save himself, that only Jesus could. So he said these hopeful words, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). The repentant criminal had confidence that there was a life beyond this one only through Jesus. Jesus' response assured the criminal of this belief when Jesus said to the man, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 24:43). Truly, salvation in Jesus was a reality that day and has been a reality every day since. There is hope in the kingdom of Christ, and that hope is never fading.

Need a little reminder of this fact? Fast-forward to the evening of Easter after Jesus had risen. Two disciples were headed from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus, at that time only knowing that Jesus had died on Good Friday. Along the way on their journey, a stranger began walking beside them. The disciples did not know the stranger was Jesus, so when Jesus asked them what had happened over the last days, the disciples talked about Jesus in the third person, about how he had been killed. You can hear their sadness: "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21). In that moment, the Emmaus disciples had no hope in Jesus. But Jesus, in his miraculous way, "interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). Jesus restored hope in their hearts. The disciples realized that their hearts were burning within them with hope when Jesus was talking to them and when they recognized Jesus when he broke bread in front of them in their home. What was the first thing the Emmaus disciples did when they had hope burning within them? They immediately ran to tell the other disciples about Jesus. That is what hope does for us too. It compels us to tell others about Jesus and to be excited about the Good News of salvation in him.

St. Peter reminds us of this drive when he says, "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). What drives you to share with others the hope you have in Christ and the cross? Maybe it is a profound spiritual moment you had in church, or perhaps it was a recovery from any illness or injury. Or perhaps it was an aha moment you had while praying or reading the Bible. Our interaction and relationship with Christ the Crucified produce amazing experiences through the Holy Spirit that empower us to live faithful and active lives for him with an abiding hopefulness that Jesus will be with us every step of the way on the road to the future, and the way to heavenly bliss forever.

Be guided to the cross this Lent. Be guided to the hope you find there. Be blessed in your moving forward in faith with confidence and assurance that the Crucified Christ will always be by your side, teaching you along the way and making your hearts burn within you for him. Amen.

- The **Apostles' Creed** is spoken in unison:
- **☑** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/118793/jesus-is-our-hope

- The **Prayers** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Lord God, we have placed our hope in you. You are faithful, and you always keep your promises. We give you praise and thanks for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for the hope that is ours through faith in his name. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;
- **©** In you we have hope, now and for eternity.
- P Lord God, in you we have hope for eternity and for our life today. You have promised to be with us and to guide us. We pray for those who are struggling today with illness, pain or grief, especially for [mention known names of those sick, injured or grieving] nd for those we name in our hearts. Fill them with hope, and comfort them with the promises found in your holy Word. Lead us to opportunities to serve and support them in their times of need. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;
- **■** In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, all of our hopes are fulfilled in Jesus, who is the "Yes!" to all of your promises. Through our Savior's suffering and death and through his triumphant resurrection, the powers of death and Satan have been crushed. By your grace, through faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

# **©** In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, the thief on the cross recognized Jesus, crowned with thorns, as his King. The thief repented of his sins and asked that his King would remember him. Jesus promised, "Today you will be with me in paradise." That is our hope too. When we fall asleep in death, in that moment, we will be at home with you. Jesus' promise is for us. We will be with him in paradise. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

# **©** In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, you have told us to be ready at all times to be witnesses for our Savior, to speak to others of the hope that we have. Fill us with your Spirit and with the eager readiness to share the good news of forgiveness and life that is ours through faith in Jesus. Set his cross always before us to guide us to hope. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

# **©** In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

### P Amen.

- The assembly may remain standing if the Lord's Supper is celebrated. The words of institution or another eucharistic prayer may be used here, then the Lord's Prayer, then the communion at the table. If the Lord's Supper is not celebrated, continue here with the Lord's Prayer.
- The Lord's Prayer is spoken in unison at this time.
- **The Blessing** (Romans 8:23-25; Romans 15:13) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

# **©** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

## C Amen.

• The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Der Am Kreuz 87 87 77 88, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares and pleasures
Never may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!