

Beatitudes of Promise

Beatitudes of Promise A Worship Series for Lent

About This Series

Each service in this special 6-week Lenten series focuses on one of Jesus' renowned Beatitudes, applying them to our Lenten journey today. And every service also comes with an order of service, a homily in dialogue form (an insightful discussion between a pastor and a parishioner), a children's sermon, prayers, PowerPoint documents, notices for promotion, hymns and other hymn suggestions. Weekly promises are:

Ash Wednesday • The Promise of Heaven "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3

First Week of Lent • The Promise of Comfort "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Second Week of Lent • The Promise of an Inheritance "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

Third Week of Lent • The Promise of Righteousness "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Matthew 5:6

Fourth Week of Lent • The Promise of Mercy "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Matthew 5:7

Fifth Week of Lent • The Promise of Seeing God "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8



WEEK 1 THE PROMISE OF COMFORT

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a special series for Lent called "Beatitudes of Promise." This series focuses on the promises made by Jesus in the beloved words of blessing from his Sermon on the Mount, applying these messages to our Lenten journey. The service for Week 1 highlights the promise of comfort.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to this special series for Lent called "Beatitudes of Promise." This series focuses on the promises made by Jesus in the beloved words of blessing from his Sermon on the Mount, applying these messages to our Lenten journey. Today's service for Week 1 highlights the promise of comfort.



WEEK 1 THE PROMISE OF COMFORT

Index

Order of Service	33-38
Complete Script for Leaders	39-51

Beatitudes of Promise

A Worship Series for Lent

WEEK 1 THE PROMISE OF COMFORT

Order of Service

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4

—We Enter God's Presence—

Silent procession of the cross.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Hymn......St. Columba 87 87

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth; And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me; And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; And oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

P The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

God, my shepherd, shall provide Ev'rything I want or need.

P He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

Oh, good shepherd, be my guide; I shall follow where you lead.

P He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Where my shepherd welcomes me, There is true security.

P Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

God, my shepherd, shall provide Ev'rything I want or need.

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Oh, good shepherd, be my guide; I shall follow where you lead.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Where my shepherd welcomes me, There is true security.

Re	sponsive Reading
P	When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit,
C	For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
P	Blessed are those who mourn,
C	For they shall be comforted.
P	Blessed are the meek,
C	For they shall inherit the earth.
P	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
C	For they shall be satisfied.
P	Blessed are the merciful,
C	For they shall receive mercy.
P	Blessed are the pure in heart,
C	For they shall see God.
P	Blessed are the peacemakers,
C	For they shall be called sons of God.
P	Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
C	For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
P	Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,

CK5DD 35

© For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus,

Q You raised from the dead the only son of the grieving widow. Help us to trust in you that we might be blessed with the comforting power of the resurrection. In your name, we pray. Amen.

—We Hear God's Word—

P The Lord makes everything new.

© God's words are trustworthy and true.

Holy Gospel......Luke 7:11-17

P The words of Jesus!

C Rejoice and be glad, for he has comforted us.

Children's Sermon

Hymn Eventide 10 10 10 10

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away. Change and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and strength can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.

Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Sermon

—We Respond to God's Word in Faith—

Creedal HymnDeo Gracias LM

"Let there be light!" A voice was heard And darkness fled before God's Word. As chaos, brought to order, stood, The Lord Almighty called it good.

The Word, made flesh, a child was born, Enduring suff'ring, pain and scorn. By Pontius Pilate crucified, Christ bore our sins and for us died.

Descending to perdition's core, Christ rose from death to die no more. Now, risen and ascended high, He sends his Holy Spirit nigh,

That, Spirit-breathed and Spirit-sent And bound in Word and Sacrament, At length God's saints, their crosses borne, Shall share Christ's resurrection morn.

All praise to God the Father, Son And Holy Spirit, Three-in-One. Our voices raised in faith confess The God of love and righteousness.

Offering

Prayers

Each petition concludes with this response:

- P Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.
- **C** Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

Lord's Prayer

—We Depart With God's Blessing—

Benediction

- P Let us bless the Lord,
- **©** For those who mourn are blessed with the comforting promise of life.
- P Since you are baptized into Christ, he is with you always to the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20). Go in his promise of life, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

	A	mon	
v	A	men	_

Closing Verse......Valet Will Ich Dir Geben 76 76 D

Christ said to all the grieving, "God's comfort, now, receive."
Oh, may we, Lord, inherit, and happily believe
Your glorious resurrection, with hopeful hearts, that we
May bask in heaven's comfort with you eternally.

Silent recession of the cross.

Beatitudes of Promise

A Worship Series for Lent

WEEK 1

THE PROMISE OF COMFORT

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-generated/make-me-biblical-image-jesus-surrounded-2622998495

• 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:

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

- "We Enter God's Presence" section begins.
- The **Procession of the Cross** takes place silently at this time.
- The **Invocation** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation.
- P In name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

• The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Columba 87 87, 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 King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth; And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me; And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; And oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

- **Psalm 23 Psalmody** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gethsemane 77 77 77 interspersed with passages spoken by the pastor:
- P The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

God, my shepherd, shall provide Ev'rything I want or need.

P He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

Oh, good shepherd, be my guide; I shall follow where you lead.

P He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Where my shepherd welcomes me, There is true security.

P Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

God, my shepherd, shall provide Ev'rything I want or need.

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Oh, good shepherd, be my guide; I shall follow where you lead.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Where my shepherd welcomes me, There is true security.

- The **Responsive Reading of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)** is read responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit,
- **©** For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- P Blessed are those who mourn,
- For they shall be comforted.
- P Blessed are the meek,
- **©** For they shall inherit the earth.
- P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- **©** For they shall be satisfied.
- P Blessed are the merciful,
- **©** For they shall receive mercy.
- P Blessed are the pure in heart,
- **©** For they shall see God.
- P Blessed are the peacemakers,
- **©** For they shall be called sons of God.

- P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
- **©** For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- P Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
- **©** For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Lord Jesus,
- **©** You raised from the dead the only son of the grieving widow. Help us to trust in you that we might be blessed with the comforting power of the resurrection. In your name we pray. Amen.
- "We Hear God's Word" section begins.
- The **First Lesson**, Revelation 21:1-5, is read by the pastor:
- P Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
- This **Response** is read by the pastor and the congregation:
- P The Lord makes everything new.
- **©** God's words are trustworthy and true.
- The **Holy Gospel**, Luke 7:11-17, is read by the pastor:
- P Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not

weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

- This **Response** is read by the pastor and the congregation:
- P The words of Jesus!
- **©** Rejoice and be glad, for he has comforted us.
- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: picture of a old dog or cat

P Hi, children. How's everyone today? Do you like dogs (or cats)? I know a dog (or cat) who is very old. Here's a picture of him. (*Pass the picture.*) He's 14 years old; that's very old for a dog (or cat). Guess what's probably going to happen to him one of these days? (*Children may say*, "He's probably going to die.") Right, he's probably going to die.

That will be very sad, won't it? His family will really miss him when it happens. We're even sadder when a person we love dies. But that's one reason we're Christians. When we're sad, Jesus comforts us. His Holy Spirit reminds us of all Jesus' promises. Can you think of some of the promises Jesus makes? (Perhaps children will remember Jesus' promises of forgiveness and eternal life or a place in heaven.) Yes, Jesus promises us forgiveness and eternal life. Because Jesus died for our sins and rose again, we know we have a home in heaven. That makes us happy, even when we're sad that someone we love has died. Let's thank Jesus for his promises.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, it makes me so sad when someone I love dies. I miss them and want them back. But though they are gone, you comfort me with your promises. Thank you that, because you died and rose again, all who believe in you are forgiven and have a home with you in heaven. Help me be happy by believing this. In your name I pray. Amen.

• The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Eventide 10 10 10 10, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away. Change and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and strength can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.

Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor (P) and another reader (R) speaking the part of Mac:
- P Well, this is a surprise! What brings you here today, Macarios—I mean, Mac?
- R Pastor, do you have a few minutes? I know you're busy.
- P Mac, whoever comes through my office door is the most important person in the world. How can I help you? Something about that bankruptcy?
- I wish it were. It'd be a lot easier to handle. It's my mother. The doctor says she doesn't have much longer. First it was the diabetes. Then it was the heart disease. And now there are complications from both. They can control the pain, but that's about it.
- P I guess you're pretty close to your mother.
- R Boy, that's an understatement. She's always been there for me. Mom's the glue that's held our family together. Somehow she's managed to stay in touch with everyone, keep us all informed and make us feel close. I can't imagine life without her.
- P So you're worried about how things will be in the future, is that it?

- R Yeah, I guess I am worried. But it's more than just worry. Mom's not even gone yet, but already I'm grieving. It doesn't help that Mom seems to cry over the least little thing. I guess she's grieving as much as I am. Ever since I heard the prognosis, I've had a hard time sleeping. I've even been crying. It's just that it's so hard to see her suffer like that.
- P Mac, it's okay to grieve. Nobody can tell you the right way to do it. Sometimes tears are like warning lights on your dashboard. You need to pay attention to them. They're telling you something.
- **R** I can attest to that. One of those "check engine" lights came on in my car a while back.
- P What did you do?
- Il opened the hood, poked around a little, and listened to the motor. Everything seemed okay so I closed the hood and drove on. But that little red light was driving me crazy. It just wouldn't go out. So I disconnected it.
- P You disconnected it? Then what?
- R Well, Pastor, do you remember I said my transmission went out?
- (P) Yes, I remember.
- **R** It seems that idiot light was telling me my transmission fluid was low.
- P And you burned up the transmission!
- Right, so I know what you're saying about tears being like warning lights. Something needs attention. I'm sad. I'm upset that my mother is dying. I can figure that out. But what can I do about it? I'm not a transmission that you can just pour a little fluid in.
- P No, Mac, you're not. And, frankly, there's nothing you can do about it. But Jesus can.
- **R** You mean Jesus can heal my mother? He can cure her of diabetes and heart disease?
- P He could, and sometimes he does do such things. The Bible tells about a time when Jesus met a funeral procession. A young man had died. He was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.
- \mathbb{R} Oh, how tragic. I can't even imagine the grief she must have been feeling.
- P Jesus felt everything she was feeling. He was so moved by the hopelessness of the woman's situation and her sorrow, he stopped the funeral procession. He went up to the coffin, he touched it and said to the young man, "Get up!" The young man sat up, began talking and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

- R That's just incredible, Pastor! Do you think Jesus could heal my mother and give her back to me?
- P I don't know what God has in mind for your mother, Mac, but I know he wants you to be comforted no matter what happens. He even wants you to be filled with joy.
- R That's just not realistic, Pastor. How can I be happy and filled with joy when my mother is probably dying?
- P Believe God's promises, that's how. Mac, remember what your name means, not your nickname but your real name?
- R Macarios? "Blessed." Yeah, I remember.
- P Mac, your mom is still with us, and we pray for a miracle. But, short of a miracle, you're in mourning. Jesus has a promise just for people like you, people grieving the death of a loved one.
- R He does?
- P Yes, Mac, he does. He says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).
- R I remember that. It's one of the Beatitudes, isn't it? Well, I'm mourning and I need comfort, but when am I going to get it? I need to be blessed with comfort right now! Do I have to die, too, in order to get it?
- P No, Mac, you don't. Blessed; that's what your name means. Got any idea what "blessed" means?
- R Mmmmm, not really.
- P It means "happy." Jesus has a promise for those who mourn that will make them happy.
- **R** Okay, so what is it?
- P The promise of comfort.
- R Pastor, you're talking in circles. Jesus promises me comfort. How? By making me happy. How will he make me happy? By promising me comfort.
- P I don't mean to frustrate you, Mac, but this is important. What do you suppose the word for *comfort* is in Greek?
- R Pastor, you're making me work too hard. I'm going to go see the pastor across the street.

- P Okay, okay. I'll just tell you. The word for comfort here is *parakaleo*.
- R Para what? Now I really want to see that other pastor!
- P Bear with me, Mac. Parakaleo—that's the same word from which we get *Paraclete*.
- R Oh yeah, Paraclete! We learned about the Paraclete in Bible class not too long ago. That's the word Jesus uses for the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that when he left he would send his disciples the Paraclete, the Comforter.
- P Exactly. Originally, a paraclete was a soldier called alongside another soldier in trouble. The paraclete would defend and rescue him. Later on, the term was used in the courts for one's defense attorney or counselor. He'd stand up before the judge and argue the case on behalf of the defendant. Tell me, Mac, if you were a soldier whose friend saved you from your enemy, or a defendant whose attorney just got you acquitted, how would you feel?
- **R** I guess I'd feel pretty good about it. I'd be very happy.
- P How about "blessed" or "comforted"?
- R Yeah, that's just how I'd feel. I'd feel blessed and comforted. I get it, now. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." You're telling me that in my grief over my mother, Jesus sends me the Paraclete, the Comforter, to help me and give me happiness even in my sorrow.
- P Just ask, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit is yours.
- R Really?
- P Yes, Mac.
- R Forgive me, Pastor, but I'm still having a little trouble with this. Jesus makes me happy in my grief by sending me the Holy Spirit, right?
- P Right.
- R But I can't see or feel or even hear the Holy Spirit. So how does he comfort me? How does he turn my grief to happiness?
- P That's a good question, Mac. He uses the means of grace.
- **R** *Means of grace?*
- P Yes, the means of grace, the Word of God and the sacraments. The Holy Spirit comforts us through these as they remind us of God's promises. That's what Jesus means when he says, "the

- Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26).
- R So the Holy Spirit comforts me by reminding me of what Jesus says as I hear the Word and receive the sacraments. This is starting to make sense. I have a choice, don't I? I can ruminate over how miserable I am and how bad things will be without my mother, or I can dwell on the promises of Jesus. One leads to grief; the other leads to joy.
- P Yes, Mac, and one promise of Jesus that might help right now is in the Book of Revelation.
- R Oh, no, you don't, Pastor. You've already given me plenty to think about without confusing me with all those false prophets, bowls of wrath and headless horsemen.
- P I think you're getting your stories mixed up, Mac. Sure, some of Revelation is hard to figure out, but some of it's just pure comforting Gospel.
- R Such as?
- P Such as John's description of heaven. In heaven, God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21-:4).
- R That is comforting, Pastor. That's what my mother needs to hear. I guess I need to hear it as much as she does. Just imagine, in heaven there's no more death, no more mourning, no more pain. I want my mother to stay here with me. But she and I both know that would only mean more suffering. Knowing that she'd be in heaven, with Jesus wiping away her tears, would make her so happy and me too.
- P But she'll still be gone and you'll miss her.
- R Yes, and I'll still do some crying, but it won't be just from grief. It'll be from joy too. Sounds kind of contradictory, doesn't it, Pastor?
- P No, Mac, not really, no more contradictory than what Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn—happy are they who mourn—for they will be comforted."

- "We Respond to God's Word in Faith" section begins.
- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Deo Gracias 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:

"Let there be light!" A voice was heard And darkness fled before God's Word. As chaos, brought to order, stood, The Lord Almighty called it good.

The Word, made flesh, a child was born, Enduring suff'ring, pain and scorn. By Pontius Pilate crucified, Christ bore our sins and for us died.

Descending to perdition's core, Christ rose from death to die no more. Now, risen and ascended high, He sends his Holy Spirit nigh,

That, Spirit-breathed and Spirit-sent And bound in Word and Sacrament, At length God's saints, their crosses borne, Shall share Christ's resurrection morn.

All praise to God the Father, Son And Holy Spirit, Three-in-One. Our voices raised in faith confess The God of love and righteousness.

• 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/154795/the-good-shepherd

- The **Prayers** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P God of comfort, facing death, our own or the death of someone we love, is so hard. Even your beloved Son grieved with the widow who lost her son. But in our mourning, grant us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, that he might remind us of your promises—promises of forgiveness and joy in your presence in heaven. Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.

C Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

P Comfort your Church, God of comfort, which is empowered to do your will even in this veil of tears. We are not of this world, owing to your gracious salvation. But still we must labor in it. Strengthen your Church with sure knowledge of your salvation, that it may bring your comfort to this dying world. Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.

C Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

P The nations of the earth mourn under the weight of tyranny, economic downturn, war, disease and natural disaster. Comfort all nations, God of comfort. Mend us together in peace. Use our resources to comfort this world's many ills. Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.

C Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

P Death surrounds us, Lord. And mourning too. Not merely for the loss of life. For friendships die, and relationships die. Hope dies. Economies die out, both global and personal. Love dies. Health dies, too. Comfort, God of comfort, all who mourn these many and various deaths. Comfort those who suffer any sort of need. (Especially today we pray for _____.) You are a God of immeasurable comfort. Open your heart to your mourning earth. Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.

© Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

P Bless this parish, its pastor(s) and all its members with the comfort of your constant presence. Empower us to bring comfort to our families, our communities, our government and our world. Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.

© Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

P (Here special concerns may be offered.) Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.

C Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

P Comfort us, God of comfort, in our living and in our dying. Comfort us with the hope of heaven and the sure faith in your eternal presence. In the name of him who died to buy such comfort for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- The **Lord's Prayer** is spoken in unison at this time.
- The **Benediction** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- (P) Let us bless the Lord.
- **©** For those who mourn are blessed with the comforting promise of life.
- P Since you are baptized into Christ, he is with you always to the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20). Go in his promise of life, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

• The **Closing Verse** is sung by the congregation to the tune Valet Will Ich Dir Geben 76 76 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:

Christ said to all the grieving, "God's comfort, now, receive."
Oh, may we, Lord, inherit, and happily believe
Your glorious resurrection, with hopeful hearts, that we
May bask in heaven's comfort with you eternally.

• The **Recession of the Cross** takes place silently at this time.



WEEK 2

THE PROMISE OF AN INHERITANCE

Index

Order of Service	53-58
Complete Script for Leaders	59-72

Beatitudes of Promise A Worship Series for Lent

WEEK 2

THE PROMISE OF AN INHERITANCE

Order of Service

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5

—We Enter God's Presence—

Silent procession of the cross.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe; Who, thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe: Through thy suff'rings, death and merit I eternal life inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto thee.

Thou, ah thou, hast taken on thee bonds and stripes, a cruel rod; Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God; Thus didst thou my soul deliver from the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto thee.

Thou didst bear the smiting only that my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto thee.

Then for all that wrought our pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore,
Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, for thy bleeding and thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

P Do not fret because of the wicked. Do not be envious of the evildoers. They will soon disappear like grass that dries up; they will die like plants that wither.

God is our refuge and our strength, Our helper ever near.

P Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desire.

The Lord of hosts is on our side To shelter us from fear.

P Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your righteousness shine like the noonday sun.

In God we trust; on him we wait Until his will is known.

P Be patient and wait for the Lord to act. Do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil desires.

The Lord of hosts is on our side; He well protects his own.

P Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it only leads to evil.

God is our refuge and our strength, Our helper ever near.

P For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. The meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

The Lord of hosts is on our side

To shelter us from fear.

P When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, **©** For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [P] Blessed are those who mourn. **©** For they shall be comforted. P Blessed are the meek, **©** For they shall inherit the earth. P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, **©** For they shall be satisfied. P Blessed are the merciful, **©** For they shall receive mercy. P Blessed are the pure in heart, **©** For they shall see God. P Blessed are the peacemakers,

CK5DD 55

• For they shall be called sons of God.

P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
© For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
P Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
© For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
Prayer of the Day
P Lord Jesus,
Q You left heaven to live as a servant and die as a sinner that we might have forgiveness and eternal life. Grant us meekness of heart that gladly performs any task in your service that by your Spirit we are enabled to do. In your name we pray. Amen.
—We Hear God's Word—
First Lesson
P In God's Word is wisdom and understanding.
© May the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.
Holy GospelLuke 14:1-14
P The words of Jesus!
© Rejoice and be glad, for the meek will inherit the earth.
Children's Sermon
Hymn
Blessed assurance. Jesus is mine!

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect communion, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest.

I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Sermon

—We Respond to God's Word in Faith—

"Let there be light!" A voice was heard And darkness fled before God's Word. As chaos, brought to order, stood, The Lord Almighty called it good.

The Word, made flesh, a child was born, Enduring suff'ring, pain and scorn. By Pontius Pilate crucified, Christ bore our sins and for us died.

Descending to perdition's core, Christ rose from death to die no more. Now, risen and ascended high, He sends his Holy Spirit nigh,

That, Spirit-breathed and Spirit-sent And bound in Word and Sacrament, At length God's saints, their crosses borne, Shall share Christ's resurrection morn.

All praise to God the Father, Son And Holy Spirit, Three-in-One. Our voices raised in faith confess The God of love and righteousness.

Offering

Prayers

Each petition concludes with this response:

- P Lord, we poor sinners ask you to hear us.
- **©** Hear us from heaven, and grant your blessing.

Lord's Prayer

—We Depart With God's Blessing—

Benediction

- P Let us bless the Lord,
- **©** For he promises the meek the blessing of an eternal inheritance.
- P Since you are baptized into Christ, he is with you always to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). Go in his promise of life, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Closing Verse.......Valet Will Ich Dir Geben 76 76 D

Christ said, "The meek inherit a blest eternity."

Oh, may we, Lord, approach you with meek humility,

Accepting your great mercy, your blessing and your grace

With humble hearts and faithful, till we behold your face.

Silent recession of the cross.

Beatitudes of Promise

A Worship Series for Lent

WEEK 2

THE PROMISE OF AN INHERITANCE

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/jesus-christ-reaching-out-hand-2633239491

• 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:

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5

- "We Enter God's Presence" section begins.
- The **Procession of the Cross** takes place silently at this time.
- The **Invocation** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation.

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

C Amen.

• The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben 87 87 88 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:

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe; Who, thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe: Through thy suff'rings, death and merit I eternal life inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto thee.

Thou, ah thou, hast taken on thee bonds and stripes, a cruel rod; Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God; Thus didst thou my soul deliver from the bonds of sin forever. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto thee.

Thou didst bear the smiting only that my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto thee.

Then for all that wrought our pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore,
Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, for thy bleeding and thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

- **Psalm 39:1-9 Psalmody** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Anne CM interspersed with passages spoken by the pastor:
- P Do not fret because of the wicked. Do not be envious of the evildoers. They will soon disappear like grass that dries up; they will die like plants that wither.

God is our refuge and our strength, Our helper ever near.

P Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desire.

The Lord of hosts is on our side To shelter us from fear.

P Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your righteousness shine like the noonday sun.

In God we trust; on him we wait Until his will is known.

P Be patient and wait for the Lord to act. Do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil desires.

The Lord of hosts is on our side; He well protects his own.

P Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it only leads to evil.

God is our refuge and our strength, Our helper ever near.

P For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. The meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

The Lord of hosts is on our side
To shelter us from fear.

- The Responsive Reading of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) is read responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit,
- **©** For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- P Blessed are those who mourn,
- **©** For they shall be comforted.
- P Blessed are the meek,
- **©** For they shall inherit the earth.
- P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- **©** For they shall be satisfied.
- P Blessed are the merciful,
- **©** For they shall receive mercy.
- P Blessed are the pure in heart,
- **©** For they shall see God.

- P Blessed are the peacemakers,
- **©** For they shall be called sons of God.
- P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
- **©** For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- P Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
- For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Lord Jesus,
- **©** You left heaven to live as a servant and die as a sinner that we might have forgiveness and eternal life. Grant us meekness of heart that gladly performs any task in your service that by your Spirit we are enabled to do. In your name we pray. Amen.
- "We Hear God's Word" section begins.
- The **First Lesson**, Isaiah 11:1-9, is read by the pastor:
- P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- This **Response** is read by the pastor and the congregation:
- P In God's Word is wisdom and understanding.
- **©** May the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

- The **Holy Gospel**, Luke 14:1-14, is read by the pastor:
- P One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" And they could not reply to these things. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."
- This **Response** is read by the pastor and the congregation:
- P The words of Jesus!
- © Rejoice and be glad, for the meek will inherit the earth.
- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: a doormat

P Hello, boys and girls. I'm so glad you're here! Have you heard the word "blessed" before? It means "happy." Jesus says, "Blessed—happy—are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Who knows what it is to be "meek"? (*Let children suggest answers.*) Those are all good suggestions. To be meek is something like being humble, the opposite of being proud. A meek person is someone who truly seeks what's best for others. If you're meek, you're not mean but kind. You don't hold grudges but instead forgive.

Some people think being meek is letting yourself be a doormat for others. I brought this doormat to show you. (*Show the doormat*.) What do you do with a doormat? (*Let children answer*.) Yes, you walk on it and wipe your feet on it, like this. (*Demonstrate*.) But that's not what being meek is. It's not just letting people walk all over you and take advantage of you

because you are weak and helpless to stop them. It takes strength to be meek, to seek what's best for others rather than yourself.

I'm not always a meek person, but do you know who was truly meek and always did what was best for others? (*Children may say*, "*Jesus!*") Yes, Jesus was meek, but he wasn't weak and helpless. He was the Son of God with all the power of God. But he didn't use his power to protect himself. Instead he used it to be meek. He used it to serve others, forgive and heal. Then he meekly went to the cross to die for our sins. He could have refused to die, but he didn't. In strength he went to the cross and because of his suffering and death, we are saved.

How many of you are baptized and believe in Jesus? (*Most children will raise their hands.*) Good! Now you are God's children and connected to the strength of Jesus. That means you can be strong with the power to be meek, putting others first in love. Let's pray.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, you showed me what it means to be meek when you served others and then willingly died for my sins. Give me strength through faith and my baptism to be meek also, so other people can learn of your love through me. In your name I pray. Amen.

• The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Assurance 9 10 99 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:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect communion, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest.

I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor (P) and another reader (R) speaking the part of Mac:
- R Pastor, Pastor! Guess what! My financial worries are over! I'm gonna be rich! It says here right in the Bible!
- P Now just hold on, there, Mac. What do you mean the Bible says you're going to be rich? And since when have you taken up reading the Bible?
- R Well, the last couple of times we talked you kept setting me straight with what the Bible says, so I thought I'd just read it for myself. And boy, am I glad I did!
- P I'm really happy about your newfound interest in Holy Scripture, Mac, but what did you find in it that's gotten you so worked up?
- R It's the Beatitudes, Pastor, you know, the promises of blessing Jesus gives. It's what you keep reminding me of.
- P Just which one did you have in mind, Mac?
- R The third one, the one where Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).
- P That's what's gotten you so excited?
- R Well, sure! I'm about as meek as they come, and I could sure use my promised forty acres right about now. Lately, things haven't been going too well, what with my hours being cut back at work, and Mom being so sick. I figure I'm due for a pay off from Upstairs, if you know what I mean. This promise of Jesus is just what I need!
- P Let me see if I've got this straight, Mac. You're a humble person who's down on your luck so you think Jesus is going to give you some land.

- Right! And as soon as I get that land, I'm going to put a business on it and start making money, hand over fist. I'll be rich before you can say "Jack Robinson." No one's ever going to push me around again, and I'll never have to depend on anyone else.
- P Oh boy.
- R Pastor, you don't sound too happy for me.
- P I am happy for you, Mac, but for different reasons.
- **R** What do you mean?
- P Mac, I'm absolutely sure God is going to get you through the tough times you've been having. His Word even promises that "for those who love God all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28). Somehow the financial problems you're experiencing and even the struggle you're going through with your mother's illness will work for your benefit. You're going to come through this with flying colors and faith intact. But I don't think God is necessarily promising you some prime real estate.
- R He's not? But I heard a preacher on the television this morning saying, "Just name it and claim it." So I did. I'm meek. I could use some land. So I named it and claimed it. It's guaranteed to work; that preacher said so, especially if I send him a love offering.
- P Mac, I surely don't want to harm your faith in any way, but let's take a closer look at that promise of Jesus, "Blessed are the meek." You do remember what "blessed" means, right, Mac?
- Right, blessed is "macarios" in Greek; same as my name. It means "happy," and as of today I'm feeling pretty happy.
- P And I hope you continue to feel happy. But the key to being happy in this verse is in being meek.
- R That's me, "Mac the Meek." I've been a doormat most of my life. But now that I'll be rich, look out world!
- P I'll be blunt, Mac. "Meek" doesn't mean being a weak, cowering doormat.
- R It doesn't?
- P Not at all. I wouldn't call Jesus a weak doormat, but he's the perfect example of meekness. Meek means to be gentle, to be kind and forgiving. It means to be patient and forbearing with people. Someone who's meek places the good of others first. Do you remember Jesus' words about where to sit at a banquet?

Tune......St. Columba 87 87



• The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Columba 87 87, 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 King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth; And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me; And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; And oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Beatitudes of Promise A Worship Series for Lent

WEEK 1

THE PROMISE OF COMFORT

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.

"Promises" by Chris Rohman, Mark Graalman, Matt Hammitt, Peter Prevost

"Blest Are They" by David Haas

"All the People Said Amen" by Colin Moore, Jess Steer

"God Is in This Story" by Ethan Hulse, Jeff Pardo, Katy Nichole

"Comfort Me" by Brenton Brown

"Cast All My Cares" by Ben Fielding, Karina Savage, Reuben Morgan

"Rest" by Matt Maher, Thad Cockrell

"Be Still And Know" by Steven Curtis Chapman