

UIM Lenten Easter Series - WEEK ONE:

“From His Passion to His Promise - Through Prayer”

Welcome, children of our Father. How good it is to be here with God in His House. Our Lenten Worship begins with Ash Wednesday. It is a time of repentance from our sins so that we may receive the forgiveness offered through Christ's crown of thorns or His passion, which has made it possible for us to receive God's promise, the crown of life in heaven. These two crowns will be at the heart of our worship every week. The crown of thorns that changes each week on our bulletin covers takes us on a journey to receive the crown of glory on Easter Morning. This journey is designed to strengthen us in faith that changes us to become more like Jesus and help change the world for Christ one person and one generation at a time.

Ash Wednesday: Our Father

Based on: The Lord's Prayer and Revelation 2:10b:
“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Sitting At the Feet of Jesus: Knowing that soon He would no longer be with His disciples physically on earth, Jesus desired to teach them about His death and resurrection to prepare them for ministry. So that we may learn from Jesus along with His disciples, each worship service in this Lenten Easter Series will begin by having us sit at the feet of Jesus to listen to Him in His Word. In Luke 9:18-22, Peter proclaimed Jesus to be the Christ and Jesus predicted His death for the first time. *18 Now it happened that as He [Jesus] was praying alone, the disciples were with Him. And He asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” 19 And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” 20 Then He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” 21 And He strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, 22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”* Having heard these words of our Lord, we ponder on His holy passion in our Opening Hymn.

Opening Lenten Hymn: To include children and keep them listening to this hymn, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it one more time along with the congregation for emphasis. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase just before it is sung to alert children to listen for it so they can repeat it, singing loudly with the congregation. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn and be blessed by the message.

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” Verses 1-3, and 6 LSB 440/ TLH 140/ LW 109

The Invocation: Can be read in a traditional style responsively. To include children and those with sight or reading challenges, ask them to repeat the responses. This kind of repetition places emphasis on each response and increases participation of all generations. Participation helps children enjoy worship and be enjoyed in worship. Words are printed for the hearing impaired, but with their permission, point to the words so they will know with what words and when they should respond to help them participate.

***Denotes words children and those with vision or reading challenges may repeat.**

Leader: We begin in the powerful name of God our Father,

Generations: Who created us to be His own dear children.*

Leader: We begin in the powerful name of God our Father's Son, Jesus Christ,

Generations: Whose forgiveness restores us with God our Father.*

Leader: We begin in the powerful name of God our Father whose Holy Spirit,

Generations: **Strengthens our faith and changes us to change the world.***

Psalm of Refuge: Adapted from Psalm 2

Verses may be read by the Worship Leader or read UIM style; ask for readers from different generations. Even invite children who cannot read to read a verse by reading it to them so they can repeat it after you. All generations repeat the response together after each verse. Remind everyone to help children respond and point to the response each time it is said for any with hearing challenges. You may practice the response several times before you begin so every age and ability can become familiar with saying it and participate in worship.

Response: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Verse 1:	Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?	Response
Verse 2:	The rulers gather together against the LORD and against His Anointed One.	Response
Verse 3:	Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.	Response
Verse 4:	Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.	Response
Verse 5:	Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.	Response

Confession: All petitions may be read by the congregation in unison or UIM Style, where each may be read by a member of a different generation or they may be read one at a time by a leader and repeated by generations (the congregation) to include those who cannot read for any reason. Remind those sitting near them to cue children to repeat petitions and point to words for those with hearing challenges to read at the correct time to keep them actively involved.

***Denotes generations may repeat each line after the leader.**

Petition 1: Forgive us each time we leave God out of our lives and fail to speak to Him.*

Petition 2: Forgive us each time we forget the power of our Father’s Name.*

Petition 3: Forgive us when we forget to confess our sins and seek Christ’s forgiveness.*

Petition 4: Forgive our sins, those we know and those we do not know or have forgotten.*

Absolution: If this absolution is being spoken by someone other than a pastor, omit the last sentence in the brackets. Pastors may omit the last sentence in this absolution.

Leader: Through the power of His Name, God our Father changes sinners to be more like Jesus and helps them bring others to Christ so He can forgive them and change them. To make it possible for all who repent to be forgiven, our Father in heaven in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again. For this reason, as a fellow servant of Christ the crucified and one redeemed through God’s love, I can declare to you that all our sins are forgiven. [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.]

Generations: Amen.

UIM Interactive Lesson FOR ALL GENERATIONS: Our Father’s Powerful Name

Based on: John 17:11 *And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are One.*

You Will Need: The bulletin cover for this week and to prepare a board on which to display all of the bulletin covers. *Option:* Collect all of the covers and show them to worshippers each week.

INSTRUCTIONS: If you have children present, invite them to come forward to help them participate in Worship, but present this Interactive Lesson even if you do not have children present. UIM Interactive Lessons are for all generations. The first part of this lesson speaks to children, while the second part leads all generations into a discussion. Each week something in the bulletin cover picture will change to lead into a discussion.

- Invite generations to look at the bulletin cover. For children who come forward, point to the names for God, Holy, Creator, Almighty, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Triune. Have them read the names or read the names to them so they can repeat them after you to hold their attention. Explain the meaning of Omnipotent (all powerful) Omniscient (all knowing) and Omnipresent (all present)
- Share that Luther's Small Catechism gives God more names like Spirit, Eternal, Unchangeable, Holy, Just, Faithful, Good, Merciful, Gracious, and Loving.
- Add: The devotions that take us through the forty days of Lent will give us even more names for God. So be sure to use the devotions and make the craft placemat that will help you remember who God our Father is long after this Worship Series is over. In this service, we are going to focus on the name "Our Father" and learn more about who our Father in heaven truly is for us and for all people.

Invite those who have come forward to return to their seats.

Conclude: Our Father's name has great power. In John 17:11 Jesus prayed for His disciples to be kept or protected in the name of the Father, **"And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are One."** As Jesus' disciples today, our Father's Name continues to protect us and make us one with Him, uniting us as His children in love and service to Him and to one another. This service will teach us about Him through God's Word and the hymns that we sing, like our next hymn that teaches us about the Father's grace.

Attach this weeks bulletin cover to a board you have prepared or simply save it to show worshipers during the next service.

Hymn of Grace: To include children and keep them listening to this hymn, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it one more time along with the congregation for emphasis. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase just before it is sung to alert children to listen for it so they can repeat it, singing loudly with the congregation. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn and be blessed by the message.

"The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace" Verses 1,2,4,6 LSB 580/TLH 297 /LW 330

Options for Readings:

- *Option 1:* Worship Leader reads all readings.
- *Option 2:* Invite different generations to read the first two readings during the service. Always have the Worship Leader read the Gospel to give it reverent significance. Remember, you can help very young readers by reading words to them that they can repeat after you.
- *Option 3:* Invite all generations to repeat the words of the first two readings a few words at a time in unison to include all generations.

Notes:

- Always remind readers to state chapter and verse after every reading to teach generations where these passages are located so they can use them in their times of need.
- The readings are made shorter intentionally so that they can be read more easily by all ages.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 63:16

For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is Your Name.

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

ASK: Whom do we come to know as we read God's Word? You may hear Jesus, but help generations understand that it is God we come to know as we read about Jesus in God's Word. In our Holy Gospel, we will hear and learn that no one can come to the Father except through Christ. Learning about Jesus is the only way we can come to know who God our Father truly is.

The Holy Gospel: Ask generations to stand out of reverence (1) for words that our Lord actually said when He walked on earth or (2) for words that were said about Him. *Option:* For deeper effect, process with a cross to the middle of the center aisle and read the Gospel.

Read John 14:6-7

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

Sermon Hymn: To include children and keep them listening to this hymn, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it one more time along with the congregation for emphasis. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase just before it is sung to alert children to listen for it so they can repeat it, singing loudly with the congregation. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn and be blessed by the message.

"God Loved the World So That He Gave" Verses 1-4 LSB 571/ TLH 245/ LW 352

Sermon Title: **"This is the Kind of Father Our God Is"**

Based on: Matthew 6:9a . - "Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven.'"

Introduction: What is most wonderful about UIM Worship is how it very intentionally welcomes every generation through participation and that it can involve all generations. Explain to generations that each time they hear the worship leader say: **"God our Father is able to do this because,"** they should respond with the words: **"That is the kind of Father our God is."** This response is also the title of the sermon to make it easy to remember. While the visually impaired will be able to listen without reminder, you will always want to specifically remind children to listen for the worship leader to say the words above and remind those around them to help children say the response to keep them involved. If the deaf and hearing impaired have printed copies of the sermon (or of this outline), ask those seated near them (or the person they bring to sign for them) to cue them to say the response for generations so they can respond right along with everyone else! If you are uncomfortable with having worshipers respond or would like to ask for a response for some sermons and not others to add variety and meet the needs of those who may like one or the other, you may omit the response; but do try to make the response part of your sermon by saying it yourself for stronger emphasis and effect.

I. There is no father like God our Father. No father on earth can compare to Him. Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Our Father in heaven" to distinguish Him from all other fathers. He is the our Father whom believers have prayed to from the beginning and will pray to until Jesus comes again. While we can only

Speak to our earthly fathers at a certain time, we can speak to God our Father any minute of any day and even all night long. We can say exactly what's on our mind. He will always listen, and He will always completely understand us.

Leader: God our Father is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

- II. God our Father speaks to us through His Word, often in a whisper. Listen to the voice of the Lord speaking to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-12: **And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.**" To hear God whisper, we must be in a quiet place, preferably in a quiet room, but more importantly a quiet place in our lives and hearts. With the hustle and bustle of life all around us, quiet rooms and hearts are hard to come by.. Earthly fathers may see the need for a quiet place and try to impart it to their children. God our Father, through His Spirit, can not only lead us to a quiet place but He will help us see the need for quiet and fill us with a desire for quiet in our hearts and lives. While there are a variety of ways God can change us, what we must remember most of all is that God is able to change us.

Leader: God our Father is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

- III. God our Father is the Creator of heaven and earth. No earthly father can claim that distinction. Earthly fathers make mistakes. God our Heavenly Father never makes mistakes. Everything He does is good and right for us and for the world. Deuteronomy 32:4 declares Him to be **"The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."** We can depend on His justice and faithfulness. We can depend on Him. He is able and will work the mistakes of those who trust in Him for good (Romans 8:28).

Leader: God our Father is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

- IV. Earthly fathers can hurt us even when they do not intend to. Earthly fathers often need to be forgiven. However, the only way we can forgive them or anyone else is through the forgiveness we receive from God our Father through His Son. The truth is, by our own strength, we may not always forgive as we have been forgiven or even forgive so that our Father in heaven can forgive us, which Jesus warns is important in Matthew 6:14-15: **For if you forgive others their trespasses, Your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.** Not being forgiven by God can frighten us until we remember God knows we cannot forgive as He commands. This is exactly why He sent His Son to forgive us each time we fail. He also sends His Spirit into our souls to help us keep trying to become more like Jesus. He stands ready at all times to forgive us and to help us forgive others. In fact, He gave up His Son whom He loved to make it possible for us to be forgiven even when we cannot forgive.

Leader: God our Father is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

- V. Earthly fathers break promises. God our Father has fulfilled every promise by sending His Son to save us as we read in 2 Corinthians 1:20: **For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.** Lent and Ash Wednesday remind us of what God our Father promised and that He kept His promise: He gave up His only Son whom He loved out of great love for us (John 3:16) while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). There is no father like God our Father and there is no god anywhere who can do what He continues to do for us every day even as we continue to

sin against Him.

Leader: God our Father is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

VI. Our earthly fathers may teach us many things, but our Heavenly Father teaches us all things, all truth through His Holy Spirit as we read His Word (John 1:13). He teaches us to stand in silence, not speaking or asking or wanting, but listening so that by His power, not our own, we will be willing to give love as we have received love from Him in a crown of thorns. John 15:13 declares, “**Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**” This is the self-sacrificing and life-giving love God has for us and has given us through Christ.

Leader: God our Father is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

VII. A most wonderful thing about our Father in Heaven is that it doesn't matter whether we have had the best father in the whole world or the worst father or even if we have never known our earthly father, we will always and forever have our God as our Father. Through Christ, He will always be with us on earth and for all eternity.

Leader: God our Father is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

VIII. As we come to know who God our Father is and see His love for us through Christ we cannot help but love Him. Through His Son and Spirit, He has paved the way for our forgiveness and salvation. He makes us His children through Baptism and strengthens us in faith to become more like Jesus through His Word and Sacraments. As people see Jesus in us, they desire to come to Him, to know Him, and become more like Him. As this happens, the world begins to be changed for Christ and for good one generation at a time.

Leader: God our Father in heaven is able to do this because

Generations: This is the kind of Father our God is.

Leader: Father, continue to change us and the world through Christ the Lamb of God, whom we praise as we sing our Sermon Response Hymn.

Sermon Response Hymn: To include children and keep them listening to this hymn, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse and/or refrain. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase just before it is sung to alert children to listen for it so they can repeat it, singing loudly with the congregation. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn and be blessed by the message.

“Lamb of God” Verses 1-3 LSB 550

Alternate: To include children, invite and encourage those sitting near them to help them sing the words “O Jesus! O Jesus! that are the same at the end of each verse.

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” Verses 1 and 3 LSB 434 /TLH 146 /LW 208

Creed: **Type the page number in the bulletin for the Creed you will be using.**

Communion Service: Nicene Creed TLH pg. 22/ LW pg. 166/ LSB Back Cover

Non Communion Service: Apostle's Creed. TLH pg.12/ LW pg 167/ LSB Back Cover

Offering: Taken according to custom. To add a stewardship or any hymn, type the number in your bulletin.

Prayers: You may use the following prayer petitions provided or your own prayers. The words to the prayer do not need to be printed in your bulletin. Do print the response if you choose to use it. Responses generate the participation of all generations. However, using responses some weeks and not other weeks can add variety and also

meet both the needs of those who like responses and those who prefer not to say responses. If possible, pass out a printed copy of your prayers for those who cannot hear well or at all. This will help to include them and help them feel this worship is reaching out to them. Remind those sitting near them to help especially children respond and to point to responses for the hearing impaired. Conclude your prayers with the Lord's Prayer unless it is part of your communion liturgy.

Prayer of the Church for Lent - Ash Wednesday - Week One

Worshippers may kneel in prayer.

Leader: Confident that through Christ, God our Father will forgive all of our sins so that we can be changed, we pray for the ability to lead others to Christ to be changed. Each time you hear “**God our Father, change us more each day, we pray.**” please respond with “**Make us more like Jesus.**”

Leader: We praise You, God our Father, for all You have done to save us and continue to do to change us through the redeeming work of Your Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: God our Father, change us more each day, we pray.

Generations: Make us more like Jesus.

Leader: Jesus, we confess all of our sins, especially the sins that keep us from knowing You and being more like You. Keep us from the neglect of Worship that strengthens us and keep us steadfast in God's Word that teaches us about You so that we can come to God our Father through You.

Leader: God our Father, change us more each day, we pray.

Generations: Make us more like Jesus.

Leader: Father in heaven, through the power of Your Spirit, bring healing grace in and through Your Son to all the sick and suffering. *(Especially do we pray for.....)* Give Your comfort and peace to all those who mourn. *(Especially do we pray for.....)* Be with and bless all those we know and mention now in our hearts according to their needs. *(Pause for a moment of silent prayer.)*

Leader: God our Father, change us more each day, we pray.

Generations: Make us more like Jesus.

Leader: Holy Spirit, give us the power and self-control to stand in silence, not speaking or asking or wanting, but listening so that we are willing to give love as we have received it from Jesus in a crown of thorns, a love that even now is working to change us so that working through us, You may change the world for Christ.

Leader: God our Father, change us more each day, we pray.

Generations: Make us more like Jesus.

Leader: All these things we lay at Your throne, trusting that You hear and will answer...
[as we boldly say: **AMEN!**]

Or if you are not celebrating Holy Communion:

[as we join together in praying the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray: “Our Father....”]

[Holy Communion may be celebrated according to custom.]

Note: You may choose a Communion Hymn and skip the hymn below/ or use the hymn below.

Benediction Go now in silence, not speaking or asking or wanting, but listening so that you will be willing to give love as you have received it in a crown of thorns; and being faithful unto death, receive the Crown of Life.

Response: Leader: Father, change us more each day, we pray.

Generations: Make us more like Jesus.

Closing Hymn: To include children and keep them listening to this hymn, alert the congregation to sing and have the organist replay the last phrase of each verse specifically so that children can sing it. Encourage those sitting near children to point to the last phrase just before it is sung to alert children to listen for it so they can repeat it, singing loudly with the congregation. Adding this repetition can also allow others with sight or learning challenges to participate. Encourage those with any challenges that keep them from singing this hymn to listen to the words and those with hearing challenges to read the words of this hymn and be blessed by the message.

"Now The Light Has Gone Away" Verses 1,2,4,5 LSB 887 /TLH 653 /LW

Option: If this Worship Service is offered during the day, sing verses 2, 4, 5

Use Lent to help lead worshipers to Easter Joy!

Each week the service will help to draw those who attend towards a deeper, more holy, and meaningful Easter celebration!

Devotions and Craft Notes:

- If you are offering the **Devotions** that come with this UIM Worship Series, hand them out or announce where they can be picked up. Then, encourage everyone to do the devotions to learn more about who God is during the forty days of Lent.
- If you are offering the Prayer and Praise Placemat **Craft**, introduce it and share where those who desire to do this craft can pick up the instructions and any of the supplies you are offering.

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