

# SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

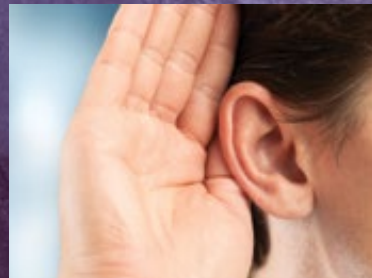
SERVICES FOR LENT



*Ash Wednesday*  
FORGIVER



*Week 1*  
HEALER



*Week 2*  
LISTENER



*Week 3*  
ENCOURAGER



*Week 4*  
PROTECTOR



*Week 5*  
COMFORTER

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SERVICES FOR LENT

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# SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR LENT

## ABOUT THE SERIES

Lent provides us with a perfect chance to explore the extraordinary attributes of our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus. It is a time to marvel at the many blessings we received when he laid down his life for us on the cross and then rose victorious from the grave. Each service in this series dwells upon a different aspect of our greatest Friend and what each characteristic means to us as his followers and friends.

For each service, the series contains: a complete order of service • sermon • children's sermon • prayers • music for the accompanist

## ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website:

[www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com).

SAVIOR  
SERVANT  
FRIEND

SERVICES FOR LENT

WEEK 1:  
HEALER

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-holding-male-hand-bless-heal-1509657761](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/jesus-holding-male-hand-bless-heal-1509657761)

- 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:

*I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

*John 15:15*

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** We gather together as friends in the healing presence of the Triune God. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Be gracious to me, O LORD,

**C** **For I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. (Psalm 6:2)**

**P** O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,

**C** **And you have healed me. (Psalm 30:2)**

**P** He sent out his word and healed them,

**C** **And delivered them from their destruction. (Psalm 107:20)**

**P** Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

**C** **For it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. (Psalm 147:1)**

**P** He heals the brokenhearted

**C** **And binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)**

- 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;  
You shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, paralyzed and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.

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 **Confession and Forgiveness** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** Be gracious to us, O Lord, hear our confession and heal our iniquity.

**C** **My thoughts have veered away from your paths of righteousness.**

**P** My ways have departed from your ways.

**C** **My seeking to gain control has made me a slave to sin.**

**P** My desires have brought disease into my heart and life.

**C** **My sin makes me waste away from within.**

**P** My heart cries out for forgiveness and healing.

**C** **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

*(Please silently reflect on the fact that Jesus heals us from the rot and disease of sin.)*

**P** Your healer, Christ Jesus, has good news for you! The healing mercy of Jesus is stronger than the disease of sin. Your Savior, Servant, Friend brings healing to you through the cross and the

empty tomb. Jesus forgives you of all your sins, and he applies a healing balm to your heart, soul and all of your life. Because of your friend Jesus, you are forgiven. Amen.

### **C What a friend we have in Jesus.**

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

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, you created us for life and flourishing, not for death and disease. Turn our hearts from all that is contrary to you, and bring us back to your healing ways. Let us seek you and the eternal healing that you alone provide. Let us desire friendship with you so that we are healed by love. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

**P** Hello, friends. We are going to play a quick little game. It’s very easy to play: I will say part of your body, and you will point to it on your own body. Let’s play! Stomach. (*Allow children to point to their stomach.*) Ear. (*Allow children to point to their ear.*) Throat. (*Allow children to point to their throat.*) Head. (*Allow children to point to their head.*) Nose. (*Allow children to point to their nose.*)

Good job! You all did well with that. Now, let me ask you a question: how often do you think about those body parts during the day? (*Allow children to respond.*) Right, not very often. You probably only think about your stomach when it is empty and you are hungry. Or you may think about your stomach when you have a tummy ache or an upset stomach. The same is true for those other parts of the body—you think about your ear, throat or nose only when you have a cold and are not feeling well. You think about your head only when you have a headache or when you bump your head. Do you see a pattern here? When these parts of the body start hurting, that is when we start to think about them.

I am going to say one more part of the body and you point to it: Heart. (*Allow children to point to their heart.*) Just like other parts of our body, we do not often think about our hearts. But we do think about them when we do something wrong. When we say or do something mean toward someone else, we can feel it in our heart. When we go against what God wants for us, our heart may hurt within us. When we sin, our heart aches, and we want to be healed and feel better.

The Bible tells us some very good news. In 1 Peter 2:24, we hear this: “By his wounds you have been healed.” Jesus came to heal our hurts. Jesus came to heal our hearts. Jesus came to take away our sins and bring healing for his friends. Wherever it hurts—stomach, ear, throat, head, nose, heart or anywhere else in your life—we can bring it to Jesus. He is our Savior, Servant and Friend. He has the power to heal the hurt of sin.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Malachi 4:1-3, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Peter 2:23-25, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 8:14-17, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Ville Du Havre 11 8 11 9 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:

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
 Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control:  
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.  
 It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.



My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

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

Ⓟ Warsan Shire is a contemporary poet. Her life has intersected with several different continents and many different places. She was born in Kenya to parents from Somalia. She was raised in Britain but now lives in the United States. Shire has seen—and lived in—many different parts of the world.

This global influence is apparent in her poetry. One of her poems is titled, “What They Did Yesterday Afternoon.” In this poem, Warsan describes holding an atlas in her lap. As she looks at all the different places and parts of the world, the continents and countries, she runs her fingers across the whole world. As she places a hand on the atlas, she asks, “Where does it hurt?” Like a parent asking a young child to point to the place of pain, she asks the world where it hurts. And it answered her: “Everywhere. Everywhere. Everywhere.”

Where does it hurt? Everywhere. This whole world is hurting. I don’t need to convince you of this—you already know this. This is a sin-sick, hurting world. We see it all over the news and all over the world: war, famine, disease, displacement and hate. Yet, not only does the world hurt because of sin, but we hurt because of sin. You and I, we have all felt the hurt of sin. We each have regrets and guilt. We have shame that we want to hide. We have hurts that we have inflicted on others, and we have hurts that others have inflicted on us. Where does it hurt in our own lives? Everywhere.

Where does it hurt? Jesus did not avoid this question. In response to the question, “Where does it hurt?” Jesus answered, “I will go to where it hurts.” This is the essence of the ministry of Jesus. Jesus is God going to where it hurts. In Matthew 8, we hear about Jesus going to where it hurts: “And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him” (Matthew 8:14-15).

We hear that Peter’s mother-in-law is hurting with a high fever. In a time before antibiotics and fever-reducing medication, this woman’s fever could have been life threatening. The hurt of a fever could have easily become the hurt of death. In the midst of this, we hear that Jesus, like a physician making a house call, visits the home of Peter’s mother-in-law. Jesus touches her hand and heals this woman. She gets up immediately and begins making lunch. The healing

that Jesus brought to her was so thorough and so complete that she is at 100% right away. No lingering cough or fatigue. Just back at it!

Notice how Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law: "He touched her hand" (Matthew 8:15). The mere touch of Jesus—with his hands—brings healing. In the hands of Jesus, we find a healing power. What a healer we find in Jesus and his hands! Throughout the Gospels we hear about Jesus placing his hands on people and healing them:

- "...he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them" (Mark 6:5).
- "Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly" (Mark 8:25).
- "Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them" (Luke 4:40).

Healing is found in the hands of Jesus. Through faith in Jesus, he puts his healing hands on you. The healing hands of Jesus are placed on you through faith in him. When your life is in the hands of Jesus, you find healing peace, comfort, promise and hope. 1 Peter 2 tells us, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). The wounded hands of Jesus are the healing hands of Jesus. What a healer we have in Jesus!

And, yet, God has a peculiar plan for healing. The hands of Jesus that bring healing are wounded hands. Though we find healing in the hands of Jesus, that healing is hidden amid hurts. God brings healing by drawing near to our hurts. Through the prophet Isaiah, God told us to expect this from Jesus. Isaiah 53:3 tells us that God's suffering servant—Jesus—would go to where it hurts: "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief..." (Isaiah 53:3).

Friends, God is acquainted with grief in Christ Jesus. God knows hurt and sorrow in Christ Jesus. God knows war and exile, hunger and thirst in Christ Jesus. He is God of the poor, the hurting, the war-torn, the oppressed and the humiliated. God has hurt in Jesus. This is a profoundly beautiful truth about God revealed in Christ Jesus.

Jesus has brought salvation to this hurting world by going to the source of the problem and the root of the issue. The only way to properly fix something is to address the source of the problem, make it right and then put things back together. When a wound is festering, you must take off the bandage, clean the wound, apply the antibiotic and then healing can happen. When rust is eating away at metal, you must cut out the rust and weld in new metal. When

there is rotting wood, you must tear out the rot and replace it with new wood. In accounting, you must go back to the very first error in the calculations, fix it and then proceed on with your work. In the very same way, Jesus has dealt with sin and hurt by going to the very source of the problem. Jesus did not try to fix hurting from afar. Jesus did not come to speak some saccharine platitudes to hurting people. Jesus came to hurt with hurting people, to heal our hurts by hurting for us on the cross.

Where does it hurt? If we are being honest, then the answer is everywhere. There are hurts in this world. There are hurts in our body and soul. There are hurts in our homes, in our neighborhoods and in our relationships. Yet, what a healer we have in Jesus! His wounded hands bring healing into our lives. Through faith in Jesus, we put our life in the hands of Jesus and his healing hands touch us right where it hurts the most.

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

[worshiphousemedia.com/worship-tracks/22849/healing-rain](http://worshiphousemedia.com/worship-tracks/22849/healing-rain)

- The **Prayers** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
  - Ⓟ There are hurts everywhere. This world hurts. And we hurt. And so we pray that the healing hands of Jesus would be placed upon us and all our hurts. Jesus, in your great love, place your healing hands on us. You know where it hurts—come and bring healing, Jesus.
  - Ⓒ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
  - Ⓟ Heal the hurts festering in our hearts and souls so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
  - Ⓒ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
  - Ⓟ Heal the hurts of this world as you bring peace to war-torn places, protection to innocent lives and integrity to leaders and rulers.
  - Ⓒ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
  - Ⓟ Heal the hurts of failing bodies and aching bones, work through the hands and feet of medical practitioners and draw near to all in their times of illness and physical hurt.
  - Ⓒ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
  - Ⓟ Heal the pain of loneliness and despair, anxiety and fear.
  - Ⓒ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Ⓟ Heal any strife that threatens to break apart your church, and replace it with friendship and unity.

Ⓒ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Ⓟ Heal us from all ungodly apathy or indifference so that we can be passionate for your kingdom work.

Ⓒ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Ⓟ Jesus, heal us by means of your body and blood.

Ⓒ **Jesus, place your healing hands on all our hurts. 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 **Benediction** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

Ⓟ Go now into this world of hurts knowing what a healer you have in Jesus! May the healing power of Jesus bless you and keep you; may the healings hands of Jesus be placed upon you in faith and give you peace. Amen.

Ⓒ **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

- 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:

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

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

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

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me  
By your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
When I'm faint, your cross revives me,  
Granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, your comfort renders sweet  
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
For your all-atoning passion  
Has procured my soul's salvation.