

# The Easter Code

## 2023 Lent Worship Series

Inspiration from:

*The Easter Code* by O. S. Hawkins  
*Journey to the Cross* by Paul David Tripp

Collaboratively produced by:

**THE SALVATION ARMY – USA CENTRAL TERRITORY**  
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# The Easter Code

## 2023 Lent Worship Series

### FOREWORD

**The Easter Code** Lent Worship Series features weekly Code Words that unlock the blessings of God’s Word, as we begin the great adventure of walking with Christ on our own “journey to the cross.”

The seven-week series includes worship service materials for the six Sundays of Lent, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Available in English and Spanish, the series includes music options, dramas, readings, and other Christmas resources.

This series draws inspiration from **The Easter Code** by O. S. Hawkins (Countryman, 2019), and **Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional** by Paul David Tripp (Crossway, 2021).

The worship resources are available on the Music and Creative Arts website:

<https://www.samusiccentral.org/>

[Click on the RESOURCES tab, then LENT 2023]

### Weekly themes for the series are as follows:

**Week 1**—February 26, 2023: **Code Word: FASTING**

**Week 2**—March 5, 2023: **Code Word: TREASURE**

**Week 3**—March 12, 2023: **Code Word: CHOICE**

**Week 4**—March 19, 2023: **Code Word: INTENTION**

**Week 5**—March 26, 2023: **Code Word: CHANGE**

**Palm Sunday**—April 2, 2023: **Code Word: CELEBRATE**

**Good Friday**—April 7, 2023: **Code Word: SACRIFICE**

**Easter SonRise**—April 9, 2023: **Code Word: RELIEF**

**Easter**—April 9, 2023: **Code Word: GAIN**

### Services contain:

- Song Options
- Calls to Worship/Scripture/Responsive Readings
- Dramas/Children’s Moments
- “Multiply” Prayer/Action Time
- *Sample* Sermon Ideas

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a **suggestion**. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The meeting outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

### **APPRECIATION**

In producing this series, the Corps and Community Mission Department expresses its indebtedness to **Peggy Thomas** (Norridge Citadel, Illinois), **Martyn Thomas** (THQ, Music and Creative Arts Ministries), **Katie Laidlaw** (THQ, Youth Department) and **Mark Bender** (THQ, Corps and Community Mission Department) for their creativity, editing, and hard work. Special thanks to **Majors Catherine and Peter Mount** (Norridge Citadel, Illinois) and **Lieutenants Adam and Amanda Hines** (Lakewood Temple, Minnesota) for their creation of the sermon materials. Translation into Spanish has been expertly provided through **Alfredo Martinez** (THQ, Intercultural Ministries).

With grateful appreciation for the inspirational writings of:

Hawkins, O. S. *The Easter Code*. Nashville, Tennessee: Countryman, 2019.

Tripp, Paul David. *Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2021.

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## 2023 Lent Worship Series

### CONTENTS

#### **Week 1**—February 26, 2023: **Code Word: FASTING**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *I Surrender*
- Children's Moment: FASTING
- Sermon: **Code Word: FASTING** – Matthew 4:1-11

#### **Week 2**—March 5, 2023: **Code Word: TREASURE**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Safe and Secure*
- Children's Moment: TREASURE
- Sermon: **Code Word: TREASURE** – Matthew 6:19-24

#### **Week 3**—March 12, 2023: **Code Word: CHOICE**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Equipped for Battle*
- Children's Moment: CHOICE
- Sermon: **Code Word: CHOICE** – Matthew 7:24-29

#### **Week 4**—March 19, 2023: **Code Word: INTENTION**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Man of Sorrows*
- Children's Moment: INTENTION
- Sermon: **Code Word: INTENTION** – Matthew 16:21-27

#### **Week 5**—March 26, 2023: **Code Word: CHANGE**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Last Will*
- Children's Moment: CHANGE
- Sermon: **Code Word: CHANGE** – Matthew 19:16-30

#### **Palm Sunday**—April 2, 2023: **Code Word: CELEBRATE**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Beasts of Burden*
- Children's Moment: CELEBRATE

- Sermon: **Code Word: CELEBRATE** – Matthew 21:1-11

**Good Friday**—April 7, 2023: **Code Word: SACRIFICE**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *A Change of Heart*
- Devotional: **What is Your Response?** – Matthew 27:32-54

**Easter SonRise**—April 9, 2023: **Code Word: RELIEF**

- Worship Service Outline
- Sermon: **Code Word: RELIEF** – Matthew 28:1-10

**Easter**—April 9, 2023: **Code Word: GAIN**

- Worship Service Outline
- Drama: *Two Times Two Times Two, Etc.*
- Children’s Moment: GAIN
- Sermon: **Code Word: GAIN** – Matthew 28:16-20

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## 2023 Lent Worship Series

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

**This worship series has an abundance of content. Please feel free to select what you want to use, rearrange items, or add your own ideas to the services.**

#### WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. To better accommodate changes, these worship service outlines are provided on the Music and Creative Arts website:

<https://www.samusiccentral.org/>

[Click on the RESOURCES tab, then LENT 2023]

If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed.

#### VIDEO

The Music and Creative Arts and Visual Communications Departments have produced videos of supplementary worship service components, which can be used for both in-person or online worship. Please access them through the Visual Communications website:

<http://wsvr.viscomapps.com/>

#### MUSIC

Music is an essential component of any worship service. It is a signal to unite and begin. It establishes the setting for praise and meditation. It adds variety, vitality and focus to worship. It can also be a means of learning and retaining spiritual truth, as well as expressing and sharing our faith.

These worship outlines are designed with the smallest to the largest congregation in mind, allowing for live (piano, ensemble, band, etc.) and recorded (compact discs) accompaniment.

All CD accompaniment songs/choruses have been chosen from the **Hymn Tune Accompaniment (HT)** and **Hallelujah Choruses (HC)** series. Very often an optional song

or chorus is given which would fit at that point in the service in place of the original choice. You may wish to sing several of these songs as an additional worship time.

The information for each service component is listed in a grid format as in the following example:

Song# – First Line (SB) or Title (HC/SS)	Tune# – TB Title	CD Disc#-Track# (#verses on HT)
<b>SB#100/HC#280/SS#186 – Angels, from the realms of glory</b>	TB-407 – Regent Square HC-280 SS-186	HTD4-T12 (4 vs.)  HCD26-T20
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>SB#114/HC#146/SS#137 – Light of the world (Here I am to Worship)</b>	TB-444 – Here I am to worship HC-146 SS-137	No HT CD  HCD13-T16

Accompaniment abbreviations:

- SB** Salvation Army Song Book – words
- TB** Salvation Army Tune Book – tunes
- HC** Hallelujah Choruses
- SS** Songs of Salvation

*Examples:*

<b>HTD4-T12 (4 vs.)</b>	Hymn Tune Accompaniment Disc #4-Track #12 (plays 4 verses)
<b>HC-280</b>	Hallelujah Choruses #280
<b>HCD26-T20</b>	Hallelujah Choruses Disc #26-Track #20
<b>SS-186</b>	Songs of Salvation #186

Careful attention is needed when singing songs in a medley. When planning and selecting songs it is important to understand the difference between songs about God (a horizontal perspective) and songs sung to God (a vertical perspective). There is a generally held principle that these perspectives should not shift back and forth. For instance, if you were to sing “O Worship the King” (horizontal song) and “Shout to the Lord” (vertical song) consecutively, it is more conducive to worship to sing “O Worship the King” first and then “Shout to the Lord”, rather than the reverse. Once a vertical song is sung, it needs some type of resolution, whether it be a prayer or another vertical song. Worship “moments” can lose their impact if care is not taken in this area. Also, try to avoid mixing songs with radically different tempos or styles.

Vocal benediction options have been included for each service which can be an effective way to end each service.

## **CALLS TO WORSHIP and SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Services usually begin with a Call to Worship which introduces the theme of the service.

A scripture reading has been included in each service, which can be read by one person or turned into a responsive reading. Consider using this time in a variety of ways, such as a presentation each week by a different family, small group or ministry (women's ministry, men's ministry, corps cadets, etc.) in your corps.

## **DRAMAS and CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

Drama sketches and Children's Moments have been included in the series to add variety and depth to worship. The experience of *seeing* the Word portrayed, in addition to *hearing* the Word proclaimed, can provide worshipers with increased understanding and perspective. Focusing a special moment in the service for children brings all ages into worship with new perspectives (as well as some laughter!).

While it is not always necessary to memorize a script, memorization enhances any dramatic presentation when time and proficiency permit. Props are kept to a minimum. It is important to take time to read through the script before using this series to know what preparations will be needed.

## **SOURCE MATERIAL FOR SERMONS**

Source material for the sermons are provided as a guide in preparation for a total worship experience. ***Each sermon included should be viewed as a catalyst for preaching, not a verbatim reading.*** These will be most effective if they are adapted, using personalized illustrations that relate to your specific congregation. Original illustrations have been left in but should only be used as a guideline.

## **SUPPORT RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERIES**

The following support resources may be purchased through Trade Central:

<http://satradecentral.org/>

### Keyboard/Instrumental Accompaniment

*The Salvation Army Song Book* (2015) – vocal

*The Salvation Army Tune Books* (2015) – piano/band

*Hallelujah Choruses Books 1-29* (#1-310)

*Songs of Salvation* – song book for ARCs and Harbor Light Centers

### CD Accompaniment

*Hymn Tune Accompaniments* compact discs (12 total)

*Hallelujah Choruses* accompaniment compact discs 1-29



#### Sources Cited:

Hawkins, O. S. *The Easter Code*. Nashville, Tennessee: Countryman, 2019.

Tripp, Paul David. *Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2021.

#### Bible Sources:

Biblegateway. 2000. "BibleGateway.Com: A Searchable Online Bible in over 150 Versions and 50 Languages." Biblegateway.Com. BibleGateway. 2000. <https://www.biblegateway.com/>.

#### *The Holy Bible—Versions Quoted:*

(ESV) ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION®, Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved.

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(NLT) NEW LIVING TRANSLATION, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

(VOICE) THE VOICE BIBLE, copyright © 2008 by Ecclesia Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

#### Music Sources:

*Hallelujah Choruses*. 1992-2022. Vol. 1–29. Hoffman Estates, IL: The Salvation Army USA Central Territory.

*Songs of Salvation: The Salvation Army Official Song Book for Adult Rehabilitation Centers and Harbor Light Centers in The United States of America*. 2015. Des Plaines, IL: The Salvation Army USA Central Territory.

*The Song Book of The Salvation Army*. 2015. North American Edition. Alexandria, VA: The Salvation Army National Headquarters.

#### QR Codes:

Each weekly QR Code was created using: <https://www.qr-code-generator.com/>