

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday July 5, 2020

5th Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

+ **Green is the color for Pentecost**

Find a scrap piece of green cloth, an old green shirt, a cloth napkin/towel, or even a piece of green paper and place it in the middle of your kitchen table or coffee table.

+ **Add a small bowl with water**

This is a reminder of our baptism.

+ **Add a small candle to light as you worship**

For households with little ones or apartments that don't allow wax candles, you could use a battery-operated candle, or a candle made from construction paper, if an open flame is not an option.

+ **Add a small cross to the space**

This could be a cross from your wall, a necklace charm, or one made from paper or scrap wood.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

+ **Everyone and anyone who lives in your household can gather together.**

Adults, children, college students, and even your pets!

SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

+ **Children/Youth could help lead different parts of your worship time.**

They can set up the altar space, read the Bible story, share their own prayers, sing, or color.

+ **You can invite grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, friends, etc. to join you for worship using your phone, or Facetime/Skype or another video chat platform.**

Feel free to email them this worship order so they can follow along, too!

+ **If you are a 1-person household** and are unable to call or video chat family or friends, perhaps you could write in a journal as a part of these worship experiences.

+ **Prepare a space that is most comfortable for you.**

You can worship at your kitchen table, coffee table, on the rug in the kids' room, or in your sunroom surrounded by green plants and windows. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, or have a bowl of apple slices or snacks on hand! Worshipping at home gives you the opportunity to sit in your favorite chair or wrap up with your favorite blanket as you read God's word.

CREATIVE PRAYER IN YOUR HOME

+ **Create a prayer wall/box/basket for your weekly prayers**

Use a dry erase board, post-it notes on a wall or fridge door, a bulletin board, or scraps of paper

+ **Text prayers** and words of encouragement to loved ones. Snail mail notes & prayers are also great!

WORSHIP

+ GATHERING +

In unity with the Triune God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

God of goodness and mercy,
help us as we open our hearts and confess
our sins.

We seek to know you, Jesus, but we find ourselves struggling
to see and understand the truth right in front of us;
There are worries, challenging situations, and constant voices
steering us in all directions, consuming our mental,
physical, and spiritual energy;
You remind us to come to you with our burdens, but our pride
and busyness tempt us to reject or overlook your
help;
You generously and selflessly carry our weariness so that we
can rest, but we often struggle to do this for others
when they need it most;

We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.
Help us to do what's right in the days to come;
Surround us and renew us with your grace.
AMEN

God is good, and loves us unconditionally, at all times and in all places.
By grace we have been saved.
In the name of Jesus our sins are forgiven.
AMEN.

+ PRAYER +

Almighty God, you lovingly seek us out with grace, mercy and rest. Help us to see and understand the truth that Jesus brings to the world, and encourage us to respond faithfully to this message through our actions and words. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

- + **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**
- + **Spark Story Bible:** Do Not Worry (Pages 276-277)
- + **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

Option 1: Click on your congregation's sermon video or live worship link

Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

Option 3: Use questions for reflection + **Coloring Sheet** (page 5)

Questions:

- + What burdens are you carrying today? What is making you feel weary?
- + Jesus invites us to share our afflictions with him – what might change when we let go and accept the help we need? What happens when we hold on to it all ourselves? What people might God be placing in our lives to help carry these burdens?



WORSHIP

+ APOSTLES' CREED +

I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.



+ PRAYERS +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + God of all nations, guide us by your Spirit to go forward in justice in freedom. Give to all your people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + We pray for all those who are anxious, lonely, grieving, ill or struggling in any way, that you might grant them peace of mind and the support and encouragement that will help them experience wholeness again. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + We give thanks and praise to you, gracious God, for the gift of summer, for the warmth of the sun, the longer days, and for all things in nature that bring us relaxation, renewal, and inspiration. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + *Add your own prayers here...*

Loving God, we give all these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy and grace. **AMEN.**

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

WORSHIP

+ LORD'S PRAYER +

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. **AMEN.**



+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, **"You are loved by God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."**
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

- + Color the scripture page for reflection and relaxation (page 5).
- + Choose a faith formation activity from the Simple Summer resource:
<http://nswi.org/worship-faith-formation-at-home/summer-ministry>
- + Take some sabbath time including: a walk or hike outdoors, reading a book, calling a beloved relative or friend, listening to music, enjoying a nap, or tending to a garden.
- + Check in on someone else this week – what support do they need? How can you be a resource or source of joy for them right now?

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"COME to ME all you

who labor & are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU

& learn from ME for I AM
gentle & humble in heart, &
you will find rest

for your souls.
For MY YOKE is easy
& MY BURDEN is light."

MATTHEW 11:28-30