

# HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday July 19, 2020

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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## CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

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+ **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.

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## WHO IS THIS FOR?

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

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

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## SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

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+ **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.

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## CREATIVE PRAYER IN YOUR HOME

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+ **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 God, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

## + CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

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

We don't often recognize the evil in the world and in our lives;  
It lives and grows among us - steeped into our words, our  
posts, our beliefs, our conversations, and our actions,  
until we are tempted to lose sight of the good things  
that you created;

We forget how capable we are of loving and caring for our  
neighbors;

When placed side by side with others who may disagree with us,  
we are tempted to ignore our responsibility to listen and  
understand, instead of remembering the gift of  
reconciliation that was embodied in Jesus Christ;

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 +

Steadfast God, in the chaos of the world, we are grateful for your constant presence and grace. Please continue to teach us and grant us deeply rooted faith that will help sustain us and strengthen us in the days and weeks to come. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## + SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** The Sower (Pages 292-293)

+ **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:

- + In what way do we embody the good stalks of wheat? In what way are we the weeds?
- + What actions do you take to remain deeply rooted in Jesus' words?
- + How does Jesus ask us to respond to the "enemies" in our lives?



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## WORSHIP

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### + 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.

- + For all health care professionals, that they might continue to be supported and cared for, that they confidently lean on their experience and wisdom to assist patients, and that they are given the time needed to rest and be with their families when needed. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For our congregations and church leaders, that they continue to find meaningful and creative ways to collaborate, worship, and serve. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of grace, grant peace and comfort to all those who are ill, grieving, lonely, hungry, facing addiction, or suffering in any way. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For your global church, God of creation, we pray...for healing, for sustainability, for food, water and personal security, and for the strengthening of ongoing partnerships.
- + *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.

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## WORSHIP

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### + 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 fearfully and wonderfully made."**  
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

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## OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

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- + 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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Teach me your way,

o Lord, that I may

walk in your

**TRUTH.**



Give me an

undivided

heart to

revere your name.

Psalm 86:11

