

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday August 16, 2020

11th Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

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 God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

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

We come to you in need of healing and wholeness;
Sometimes we are quick to judge, and slow to listen;
Like the disciples, we are tempted to ignore and dismiss the
voices that are struggling to be heard, those who are
marginalized, oppressed, and abused;
And, we forget that God has promised to reach out, bless and
heal the least of these, and that we are called to do
the same.

We seek your mercy.
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 +

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

- + **Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28, Genesis 45:1-15**
- + **Spark Story Bible:** Joseph Helps His Brothers (Pages 60-65)
- + **Jesus Storybook Bible:** A Little Girl and a Poor Frail Lady (pages 214-221)
- + **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:

- + The woman in this gospel story asked Jesus for mercy, indicating that she knew his power; what do you believe Jesus has the power to do in your life right now?
- + What or who in your life needs healing and wholeness? What support do you have to fulfill this?
- + In what way have you ignored someone this week? In what way have you felt ignored?



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.

- + We pray for unity, God of reconciliation; we hope for an end to divisiveness, anger, war, and all our human actions that fuel hatred of any kind. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For the gift of science, for the dedication of experts who help us understand the intricacies of this world better, so that we can make logical and informed decisions that work to sustain and enrich one another and your creation. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of healing, we pray for all people who are hungry, sick, dying, grieving, facing addiction, those whose faith feels absent, victims of abuse, those who face oppression, and anyone who is struggling in any way, that you might transform their hearts and minds to know they are loved unconditionally. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Almighty God, bless all elected officials - local, state and national – that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity and justice. Help them use their authority so serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Lord in your mercy, **AMEN.**
- + *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 a beloved child of God."**
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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the
LORD
is good, his
MERCY
endures
FOREVER

