

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday August 9, 2020

10th Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 14:22-33

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 the name of the triune God - Creator, Savior, Spirit.
AMEN

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

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

We are overwhelmed right now by things that bring us fear
and anxiety, and have doubt in your presence and
movement in the world;

We want to walk with Jesus, but our lack of faith starts to swallow us whole;

Often times we are consumed with our own needs instead of trusting where Jesus is calling us to be and
what he is calling us to do;

When faced with a storm, we forget that God is ever-present, comforting us and giving us the peace that
can only come through 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 +

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people
from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 14:22-33**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Walking on Water (Pages 294-297)

+ **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:

+ Jesus' invitation to Peter to walk with him exposes the limitations we often put on our own faith;
what limitations do you feel right now? What is Jesus' message to us when we feel
restricted in our faith?

+ What is the greatest storm you are facing right now? How are you coping with that storm?

+ We feel vulnerable and helpless in some situations; What are the advantages of vulnerability?



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.

- + In the storms, rescuing God, you guide us to safety and replace our doubt with surprise, hope, and compassion – for those things we praise your name. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + We pray for congregations and church leaders, that they can rely on patience and understanding when making decisions for the next year of ministry, and that the Spirit move them to explore new and creative ways to share your good news with others. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For those who are suffering in mind, body, and spirit, compassionate God, that they might experience your healing touch and find wholeness again. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + We thank you, Lord, for the ways your Son, Jesus Christ, challenges our faith, encourages our vulnerability, insists on honesty of heart, and shows us grace unconditional. 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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