

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday August 23, 2020

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 16:13-20

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 Father, the Messiah - Son of the living God - and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

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

Lord, we question your presence, your love for us, and sometimes your identity, simply because we struggle to understand how you can be all these things;
We lack trust, even though you have been steadfast and merciful toward us;
Your word has been given to us, story after story of your faithfulness, forgiveness, and grace, yet we often lack the same commitment to you and our neighbors;
In our fears, inadequacies, and frustrations, we struggle to see all the ways you actively inspire us to work in and toward your kingdom.

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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

- + **Matthew 16:13-20**
- + **Spark Story Bible:** Peter's Faith (Pages 322-323)
- + **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 is Jesus like a rock in your life? Who else is a rock of support to you during difficult times?
- + When Jesus is called the Messiah, Son of the living God, what does that mean to you? How does it feel that "God is with us."
- + Recall a time from this week that you saw or felt the presence of God – what was that like?

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 lift up the students and school staff in our lives, congregations and communities, loving God, that you will watch over them, grant them safety and health, and continue to guide their work, that they may continue to make decisions with strength, wisdom, and compassion. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For those who are unemployed, struggling to make ends meet, facing eviction or homelessness; those who are hungry or who lack medical care; and for those are suffering in any way in mind, body, or spirit – that you might be present with them, merciful God, and support them with the resources they need. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God our Creator, give us the insight and wisdom to understand the impact our choices have on the environment. Whether shopping, building, planting, or disposing, help us made decisions that will show respect and consideration for this planet you have provided for us and entrusted us to care for. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For the peace that can only come through Jesus Christ, that it might be woven into the fabric of our communities, shared openly with one another, and practiced daily in our households so that we may live together, wholly as the body of Christ. 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?

+ Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S +

Everyone who HEARS
these WORDS



mine
+ DOES
them

Will be like a wise
man who
built his house
on the

ROCK.

MATTHEW 7:24

[esv]

md