

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday September 13, 2020

15th Sunday After Pentecost

RCL: Matthew 18:21-35

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 +

Together with God the creator, Jesus our Savior, and the Spirit our encourager. **AMEN**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

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

We struggle daily to practice forgiveness – to forgive ourselves, to forgive others, and to ask forgiveness when we have done harm to others;

Sometimes it feels easier to remain angry or seek revenge on others when we are hurting, instead of leaning on forgiveness and allowing ourselves to be freed of that burden.

Like the disciples, we ignore Jesus' teaching about ongoing forgiveness, and we forget about the life-giving power of his death and resurrection that forgives our sins daily.

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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 18:21-35**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** The Red Sea (Pages 84-89)

+ **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:

- + How would you define forgiveness? What does forgiveness look like to you? Perhaps share a story with someone about a time you were forgiven or forgave someone else...what was that experience like?
- + What is the purpose and process of forgiveness, according to this text?
- + Why is forgiveness so important?



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.

- + Gracious God we pray for ongoing reconciliation in our families, communities, within this country and throughout the world, that we might be willing to listen in order to understand one another, offer empathy, and work together to find long-term, meaningful solutions. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of hope, for the continued work of your church – we pray that you will sustain leaders, inspire creativity in worship and ministry, use current circumstances to reach new people with the gospel, and reignite relationships and connections among people of faith, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For the ongoing work of scientists, medical professionals, caregivers, and volunteers - that they be encouraged and strengthened so that their efforts can bring healing to the sick and provide preventative care for the vulnerable. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Creator God, we thank you for all the ways continue to provide for us – help us to remember to care for this earth, to be mindful of our consumption, and conscious of our waste. 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).
- + Have middle schoolers or want a simple refresher about our Lutheran Theology?:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/Simple_Faith_Curriculum.pdf
- + Illustrated Ministry coloring pages: <https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/coloring-sheets-posters/Coloring-Pages>
- + Illustrated Ministry family devotionals: <https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/family-resources/Devotionals>
- + Milestones Ministry Taking Faith Home inserts: <https://milestonesministry.org/taking-faith-home/>

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If we

CONFESS

our SINS,
HE is

faithful &
just to

FORGIVE

us our sins &

Cleanse us from
all UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

1 JOHN 1:9 