

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday September 6, 2020

14th Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 18:15-20

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 triune 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.

Some days we get overwhelmed by the nagging worry of this pandemic, and we find ourselves giving our

attention and energy to fear instead of remembering the assurance of your presence and promise;

We contribute to conversations and situations that are fueled by hatred and division, instead of truly listening to one another with empathy and understanding;

And, we fail to realize how much harm can be done with both our action and our inaction.

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, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 18:15-20**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Love Your Enemies (Pages 274-275)

+ **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:

- + What do you do when faced with conflict? Do you tend to avoid or problem solve? Do you prefer to resolve things quickly, or do you appreciate taking time to think and then resolve?
- + Where is there conflict in the world right now? How can these things be discussed and resolved?
- + Matthew 18 speaks about getting others involved in situations of conflict – why might this be beneficial? How does good listening assist these situations?



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.

- + For teachers, school staff, students and parents, we pray for a safe and caring environment and a positive academic experience; loving God, be present with them, guide them with wisdom and patience, and give them moments of joy as they begin this school year. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + We pray for reconciliation and resolution for those who are experiencing conflict, for those who are working to mediate those situations, and for understanding and peace to be the ultimate goal. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of creation, we are thankful for your nurture and care, and for the ways you provide for us; help us to be conscientious of the land, water and air, as well as all living creatures. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Merciful God, please be present with all those who are suffering in any way with grief, illness, addiction, fear, hunger, abuse, oppression, or other injustices; give them courage, support, advocates, and love as they find ways to heal. 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 +

