

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kelowna – “Worship at Home”
Order of Service**

Choose a comfortable place in your home, on your deck or balcony, or in the garden. The following is the general outline for your worship, and the respective comments, readings and prayers for each specific Sunday are on the following pages.

Introduction

Confession and Forgiveness or Thanksgiving for Baptism (optional)

Prayer of the Day

Readings and Psalm

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Sermon/Reflection— choose one of the texts for today...read it over...notice your reaction...read it a second time...ask yourself, “How is God speaking to me today?” “Where is God leading me?”

Apostles' Creed (optional)

Prayers – We offer prayers for the world, for creation, for those in leadership and authority, for community and faith, for those who are ill and troubled in any way, for those we name before God either silently or aloud.

The Lord's Prayer - pray either one

Offering Prayer - God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

Blessing – Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace. Amen.

Dismissal - Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.
Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams – the Okanagan, the
Similkameen, Mission and Mill Creeks, bless you.**

All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.

**Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.
Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.

Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.
Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through ☧ Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

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.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, June 28, 2020 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost Year A

Introduction

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Prayer of the Day - O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 28:5-9 - *The test of a true prophet*

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 - Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

Romans 6:12-23 - *No longer under law but under grace*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia.* You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a | holy nation,* in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his | marvelous light. *Alleluia.* (1 Peter 2:9)

Gospel - Matthew 10:40-42 - *Welcome Christ in those he sends*

Sunday, July 5, 2020 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost Year A

Introduction - The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Zechariah 9:9-12 - *The king will come in humility and peace*

Psalm 145:8-14 - The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

Romans 7:15-25a - *The struggle within the self*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia.* Blessed are you, Lord of | heav'n and earth;* you have revealed these | things to infants. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 11:25)

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 - *The yoke of discipleship*

Sunday, July 12, 2020 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost Year A

Introduction - God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's Table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Prayer of the Day - Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 55:10-13 - *The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose*

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 - Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

Romans 8:1-11 - *Live according to the Spirit*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The word is very | near to you;* it is in your mouth and | in your heart. **Alleluia.** (Deut. 30:14)

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 - *The parable of the sower and the seed*

Sermon/Reflection – choose one of the texts for today...read it over...notice your

Sunday, July 19, 2020 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's Table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Thanksgiving for Baptism or Confession and Forgiveness – (Optional)

Prayer of the Day - Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 44:6-8 - *There is no other God than the Lord*

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 - *God's sovereignty: both righteous and forbearing*

Psalm 86:11-17 - Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

Romans 8:12-25 - *The revealing of the children of God*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. My word shall accomplish that | which I purpose,* and succeed in the thing for | which I sent it. **Alleluia.** (Isa. 55:11)

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 - The parable of the weeds

Sunday, July 26, 2020 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Prayer of the Day - Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

1 Kings 3:5-12 - *Solomon's prayer for wisdom*

Psalm 119:129-136 - When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.

Romans 8:26-39 - *Nothing can separate us from God's love*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia.* Many will come from | east and west* and will eat in the king- | dom of heaven. *Alleluia.* (*Matt. 8:11*)

Gospel - **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52** - *Parables of the reign of heaven*

Sermon/Reflection – choose one of the texts for today...read it over...notice your reaction...read it a second time...ask yourself, "How is God speaking to me today?" "Where is God leading me?"

Prayers – We offer prayers for the world, for creation, for those in leadership and authority, for community and faith, for those who are ill and troubled in any way, for those we name before God either silently or aloud.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven...

Offering Prayer - God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

Blessing - Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

Dismissal - Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God!**